



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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One of a Kind Opportunity for DSBN High School Students What's Your Major?

The District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) offers high school students a unique opportunity to learn first-hand about working in the construction industry. The program called "Specialist High Skills Major: Construction" allows students to "customize their high school experience to suit their interests and talents and to prepare for a successful transition to post secondary opportunities in apprenticeship, college, university or the workforce while meeting the requirements of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma" says Kevin Graham, Technology Consultant for the DSBN.

This Construction Major, only offered in Niagara at the DSBN, provides students with the opportunity to explore, identify and refine career goals while gaining valuable work experience. DSBN technology students also gain sector recognized certification in WHMIS, First Aid, Fall Protection, Electrical Hazards, Scaffold and Ladder Safety and Construction Health and Safety Basic training. The DSBN is also working on getting Energy Star Certification delivered to each student who participates – a first in Ontario. All DSBN Technology students will have the opportunity to sign their Apprenticeship Registration and begin their post secondary education in the skilled trades.

In partnership with Phelps Homes, during the first semester, the DSBN enabled students to work alongside construction and skills trained professionals to build a home in Beamsville. Students gained confidence in their abilities, refined their skills and work habits and many students signed up for an apprenticeship. The participants experienced clear connections between their studies and the real world.

During the second semester, a new group of students will begin working on a similar project in Fort Erie in partnership with Habitat for Humanity Niagara. This build will mark the third house that the DSBN Technology students have built for Habitat for Humanity, which has now evolved into a pilot project for the Ministry of Education in the Specialist High Skills Major: Construction.

"This is one of the best programs I have been involved with in my twenty years of technological education" says Graham. "It has excited our students and offered them clear and promising opportunities for their future goals in construction."

For more information regarding this program please log on to www.dsbn.edu.on.ca/teched or contact Ardeth Staz (Superintendent of Student Learning) and Kevin Graham (Technology Consultant).

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