Working with the community: OAC’s Liaison Strategy

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Objectives
OAC and its partners work together to raise awareness of opportunities to support educators and youth in the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs. Our initiatives enable us to:

- Establish stronger links with the secondary school community and prospective students.
- Increase applications and enrolment in all OAC programs. OAC graduates are highly qualified to meet future career opportunities in food, agriculture, environment and communities.

Collaborative Efforts on Multiple Levels
- The Grand River Agricultural Society, OAC Class of 1953, Monsanto, and the Agri-Food and Rural Link KTT program provide resources to support the delivery of educational opportunities.
- OAC works with its six academic units and regional campuses at Ridgetown, Kemptville and Alfred to facilitate outreach events and promote awareness of our degree and diploma programs.
- Community organizations (Career Educational Council, Ontario Agri-Food Education), student groups (SFOAC, ESSE), OAC alumni and the University’s Alumni Affairs and Development participate in educational events to support SHSM programs.

Core Elements of OAC’s Liaison Strategy
1. Articulation Agreements: offer students the chance to qualify for advanced standing.
2. Scholarships: preference given to students successfully completing their SHSM programs.
3. Reach Ahead Days: Conferences cater to students’ SHSM needs and highlight educational and career opportunities related to food, agriculture, environment and communities.
4. Professional Development Workshops: Encourage dialogue and sharing of innovative research, teaching initiatives and community resources to assist SHSM educators.
5. On-line Instructional Resources: Website in development to offer instructional resources aligned with Ontario secondary school curriculum and appropriate for classroom use.

Past Participants’ Comments
- “I am impressed OAC has taken the lead in working closely with high schools to provide students with support into post secondary education. It makes their learning relevant and meaningful”.
- “Its great that Guelph is getting involved and being supportive to the SHSM program”.
- “OAC is very proactive in embracing and working with growing the population of SHSM programs and students”.

For more information about OAC liaison:
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