

November 14, 2014

## RVH recognized for helping students succeed

Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) has been recognized with a 2014 Provincial Partnership Council Employer Champion Award for helping local students participate in learning opportunities aligned with their future careers. The award was presented to RVH's Volunteer Resources department at the recent Ontario Cooperative Education Association conference in Collingwood. Only two organizations in the province were honoured with the quarterly award – RVH and the Delta Sault Ste. Marie Waterfront Hotel and Conference Centre.

"We are thrilled to be recognized across the province for this honour," says Valerie Bennett, director, Volunteer Resources, RVH. "Our Volunteer Resources team works very hard to ensure we are enriching the education of local high school students through co-operative education. In addition to classroom education, valuable lessons can be learned through real-world experience. We strive to provide opportunities that shape students' career goals and educational ambitions."

RVH was nominated for this honour by members of the Simcoe County District School Board and the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board. The award acknowledges RVH's commitment to providing experiential learning opportunities to Ontario high school students which include approximately 40 co-operative education placements each year.

"For the majority of students, having a placement with us not only confirms their career choice, but engages them to pursue a postsecondary career," says Helen Sarris, volunteer resources advisor, RVH. "If local students are interested in a career in healthcare, RVH is often an organization that first comes to mind as a possible future employer. If we can provide a positive experience in which they can learn about careers in healthcare, it could solidify their interest and they could possibly return here to work in the future. In fact, once their placement has ended, many students return to volunteer and help support the health centre."

RVH has also received the Ministry of Education's Passport to Prosperity Ontario Employer designation for the past three years. Organizations apply for this designation, presented by the Provincial Partnership Council, which recognizes a commitment to developing and delivering meaningful career-related learning opportunities for Ontario students. The criteria includes providing at least 50 opportunities for students each year – whether they be co-operative education placement or outreach activities.

The Provincial Partnership Council is a volunteer advisory committee comprised of leaders from the private, public and voluntary sectors. The mission of the group is to ensure that every Ontario student has the opportunity to participate in relevant experiences that support their academic achievement, career development and future success.

Cutline: Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre's (RVH) Volunteer Resources team (from left) - DoDee Walsh (coordinator), Valerie Bennett (director), Helen Sarris (advisor) and Tanya Laarakers (Volunteer Resources assistant) - celebrate winning a 2014 Provincial Partnership Council Employer Champion Award for the health centre's commitment to providing experiential learning opportunities to Ontario high school students. RVH is one of only two organizations to receive this quarterly award across the province.

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**About RVH:**

RVH is a regional health centre in Barrie, Ontario, located 80 kilometres north of Toronto. As the largest hospital in the region of Simcoe Muskoka, RVH's team of over 350 physicians, 2,500 employees and 850 volunteers provides exceptional care and specialty services to almost half a million residents, including cancer care, stroke services, orthopaedics, intensive care, mental health and interventional radiology. RVH is focused on delivering high-quality, safe care that puts patients and their families first. For more information visit [www.rvh.on.ca](http://www.rvh.on.ca)