

Happy Holidays from everyone at WIL

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the entire staff at WIL Employment Connections, we would like to wish you and your families a very happy holiday season and a healthy and prosperous New Year. As we look forward to another exciting year ahead, we would like to share a few success stories. Every year, our staff has the enriching benefit of meeting and working with hundreds of individuals willing to share their talent, experience and knowledge with local employers. Some are newcomers to Canada looking for their first job in a foreign country, while others are Canadian-born job seekers looking for a new start as a result of the economic downturn. We count ourselves very lucky to meet them all and to have shared in their own personal journeys in reaching their career and employment goals. We hope you will enjoy the personal stories of achievement in this update.

Fortune Minerals and Rena Zhu: A Winning Combination



Meet Xiaoqin (Rena) Zhu. Rena is an Internationally Trained Individual from China. After completing her degree in Business Administration and Japanese, she worked in progressive administrative and operations positions in China. In 2007, her husband came to UWO to complete his PhD studies and 7 months later Rena joined him here in London.

Soon after arriving in Canada, Rena came to WIL for guidance on her job search. She enrolled in the Workplace Connections Program where she received training on topics ranging from Effective Job Search Techniques to understanding Canadian Business Culture. After graduation from the program, Rena was eligible to take part in an 8 Week Volunteer Placement at a local business.

Fortune Minerals Limited interviewed Rena and offered her a placement which gave her the opportunity to gain Canadian work experience in an administrative/accounting role. As this volunteer placement was coming to a close she was offered a permanent position because they recognized the unique skills and abilities that Rena brought to the company.

It was a 'win-win' situation for everyone. Rena secured meaningful employment in her field and Fortune Minerals had a dedicated employee who could provide them with a competitive advantage. Fortune was also looking at a new business opportunity in the Asian market and Rena was able to provide them with a global perspective because she possessed Chinese and Japanese language skills in addition to her expertise in Asian business etiquette.

Rena continues to thrive in an accounting role at Fortune Minerals. Congratulations Rena, we are very proud of you and your achievements! WIL would also like to thank Fortune Minerals for its tremendous support of WIL's programs and services, and above all...the clients we serve.

Holiday Hours

Normal office hours until Friday, December 23rd at 4:00 p.m.
Closed Monday, Dec.26th through Friday, Dec.30th, 2011.
The office will re-open on Monday, January 2nd at 8:30 a.m.

Dear WIL:

I just wanted to thank you for the advice and direction you gave me back in the summer of 2009 when I came to WIL for the 4-day workshop. I had just lost my job at Sterling Trucks in March of that year when they closed. I had recently been accepted into the 2nd career program and had no idea what direction to go in. During the workshop you had mentioned that I should consider underwriting among other options that fit my profile.

Shortly after, I started doing some research into the underwriter profession and the career opportunities that it had to offer. I contacted the Co-ordinator of the Business Insurance program at Fanshawe College and talked to her about the insurance industry. Once I realized that the job market was in need of underwriters and that Second Career would support the Insurance program at Fanshawe College, I decided to enrol and make this vision a reality.

Although the transition back into college life was extremely overwhelming and challenging, I persevered. I took my studies seriously as if school was my new job for the next 2 years. Before I knew it I was starting to get A's and A+'s. I felt good about my new success and wanted it to continue. During that time it was suggested to me that I should try to get my CIP's as well, while at Fanshawe. CIP's are the Chartered Insurance Professional designation and consist of 10 credits of which each exam is 3 hours in length offered by the Insurance Institute of Canada. I decided to do both, get my college diploma and try to gather as many of the CIP's as possible.

This was extremely difficult to do, however when it was finished it was worth it. I Graduated Fanshawe College in April 2011 on the Presidents Honour Role, with a GPA of 4.15 out of a possible 4.2 finishing with 18 A+'s and 6 A's. I also received 9 out of 10 CIP's credits from the Insurance Institute. (9 is all you can take while in school, you can't write the 10th until you are working in the insurance industry.) Once school was over I had an interview 3 weeks later with Aviva Insurance Inc here in London and received an offer of employment the following week for an Assistant Commercial Auto Underwriter. (Aviva is the 2nd largest property and casualty insurer in Canada). It is a very demanding profession and I am enjoying the challenge. I have a great support staff and a friendly professional atmosphere to work in. I plan on completing my CIP and if all goes well, I will be a Chartered Insurance Professional by next June.

All this would not be possible without your help and support and I just wanted to thank you and your staff once again. Without programs like the one that WIL provides, I may not have been in this new career that I am in now.

Sincerely,
J. Collver

Trojan Technologies and Anjani Udagedara:

Hard work plus perseverance equals success

My name is Anjani Udagedara and I immigrated to Canada from Sri Lanka in October 2010. With a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering, I hoped to continue working in this field once in Canada. Upon arriving, I started tutoring first year Engineering undergraduates part time while seeking a job in my field. I started the process of assessing my credentials by World Education Service Canada as per the advice provided by WIL. Having 3 months tutoring experience in Canada I applied for tutoring positions at private tutoring companies in London. I was not contacted for any interviews, but I was not discouraged. After one month I had a phone interview with a private tutoring company. I was so nervous that I did not perform well in the interview. I quickly realized that I needed to improve my interview skills and registered with WIL's workshop. After completion, my interview skills improved dramatically. WIL helped me to identify my weaknesses and showed me the correct way to improve my performance.

I was called for another interview from another tutoring company called Lunan Learning in January 2011. I made sure I was well prepared for the interview. I performed well and was hired as a part time high school math tutor. I am very grateful to the Director of Lunan Learning for having faith in me and my teaching. I was very successful as a tutor and had tremendous feedbacks from both the students and parents. At one point I was balancing 5 part time tutoring jobs and traveling by bus up to 5 hours per day.

I registered in the Mentorship for Newcomer Success program through WIL and was matched with a mentor in June 2011. My mentor Adam Blain was very helpful. He always had time to meet with me whenever I needed his assistance. After several months of hard work I obtained a full time job as an Information System Application Developer at Trojan UV Technologies. I can't describe how wonderful I felt that day, and how good it feels to have all the support as a newcomer to Canada.

I was very fortunate to get a job related to my field within 10 months after arriving in Canada. I was able to make it because of all the guidance and support given by WIL. I am very grateful to WIL for everything they did for me. I am very thankful that there was this program and that I was a part of it. I hope to inspire others who want to immigrate to Canada. I have no doubt that WIL helped me get where I am today. I take this opportunity to thank everybody who hired me as a part time employee and gave me excellent references.

I thoroughly believe that if you work hard, you will get compensated for the work you do. Many new immigrants come to this country who are equally talented and are looking for jobs. Jobs are not served on a silver platter. We have to work hard for them. There are lots of opportunities here in Canada. You can be successful if you follow the right guidance.

Best regards,
Anjani Udagedara