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# Welcome to Career Options – High School Edition Fall 2009!

If this is your last year of high school, you're probably in the middle of making some tough decisions: whether to attend college or university, or to complete an apprenticeship; which institution to attend, in which province or city; and what you'd like to study. And by now you're probably sick and tired of people asking, "What are you going to do next year?", "What's your major?", and the ever-popular "What do you want to be?" Many of you have attended university/college fairs, visited the campuses of schools on your top 5 list, and identified sources of income to pay for school. Congratulations on managing this part of your transition into post-secondary education.

Career Options – High School Edition is produced by the Canadian Association of Career Educators and Employers to offer high school students like you advice, guidance and information to make that transition easier—and hopefully even enjoyable! In addition to the print edition you're reading right now, you can access the magazine content as well as a host of cool interactive features at our all-new website, [www.careeroptionsmagazine.com](http://www.careeroptionsmagazine.com).

In this issue, Nicole Wray, a student at Wilfrid Laurier University in Ontario, discusses how post-secondary education should be more than books; Dr. Deb Bartlett, Director of the Career Centre at the University of the Fraser Valley in BC, provides career coaching advice for parents; and Jean-Marc Hachey, our expert on living and working abroad, suggests ways for you to gain international skills on campus.

On a more practical level, "Advice from the Experts" includes tips and advice for students from career services professionals working in colleges and universities across the country. One of the top tips that I hear over and over again is: take advantage of every opportunity possible to gain experience outside, and in addition to, your degree or diploma studies. Post-secondary education will enhance your employability upon graduation, but a degree or diploma alone doesn't guarantee you a job. Wherever you go to school, get involved on campus and in the community. Consider volunteering and co-op placements. Take advantage of opportunities to demonstrate leadership, gain new skills and learn more about yourself.

Good luck and best wishes as you move into this challenging, exhilarating next phase of your life. The people you meet, the things you learn, and the experiences you gain will in many ways shape your future—and today's youth, in turn, will shape the future of Canada.

## ANNE MARKEY

Editor

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