

Oxford County Leaders and Partners Celebrate Future Workforce and Student Achievement

DATE: JUNE 17, 2026 | TIME: 11:00AM

LOCATION: COLLEGE AVENUE SECONDARY SCHOOL (CASS), WOODSTOCK, ON.

The partners behind the Oxford County Career Expo are proud to recognize students from the College Avenue Secondary School (CASS) Culinary Arts Program for their outstanding contribution to the Career Expo over the past two years. Through professionalism, teamwork, and culinary excellence, these students have played an integral role in the success of the event, preparing and serving luncheon meals for more than 300 employers, volunteers, and community partners while demonstrating the strength and value of experiential learning in preparing Oxford County's future workforce.

Mayor Jerry Acchione of the City of Woodstock, Mayor Brian Petrie of the Town of Ingersoll, and Jeff Surridge, Chief Executive Officer of Community Employment Services (CES), will present Certificates of Appreciation to the CASS Culinary Arts students in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the Oxford County Career Expo over the past two years. The certificates acknowledge the professionalism, teamwork, and culinary excellence demonstrated by the students in support of the event. Their dedication and efforts significantly enhanced the experience for more than 300 employers, volunteers, and community partners, while serving as a powerful example of how experiential learning prepares young people for future success.

"Our youth are not simply the workforce of tomorrow; they are making meaningful contributions today. The commitment, professionalism, and skills demonstrated by the CASS Culinary students showcase the incredible talent that exists within our schools and throughout Oxford County. It is important that we recognize and celebrate these contributions." Jeff Surridge, CEO of Community Employment Services

"The CASS Culinary Arts students have shown exactly what makes Woodstock proud, talent, teamwork, and a commitment to excellence. Their contribution to the Career Expo didn't just feed hundreds of guests; it showcased the power of hands-on learning and the bright future being built right here in Oxford County. Our community is stronger because of young people like them." Mayor Jerry Acchione, City of Woodstock

"Welcoming and feeding over 300 professionals is no small feat, but these students knocked it out of the park. Our municipalities thrive when we support the next generation, and seeing this level of passion and teamwork makes me incredibly optimistic for our region's future." Mayor Brian Petrie, Town of Ingersoll

The Oxford County Career Expo was established to connect students with local employers, career pathways, and opportunities available throughout the region. The event's continued success is made possible through strong partnerships between municipalities, employers, educators, community organizations, and workforce development leaders who share a common commitment to building a strong and sustainable local economy.

The recognition of the CASS Culinary Arts students reflects a broader commitment among community leaders and partners to celebrate the achievements of young people and acknowledge the important role they play in Oxford County's future.

"The future success and economic sustainability of Oxford County depends on our ability to support, develop, and recognize the talent of our youth," said the Career Expo partners collectively. "When employers, municipalities, educators, and community organizations work together to create meaningful opportunities for students, we strengthen not only individual career pathways but the future workforce of our entire community. These students have demonstrated the skills, dedication, and potential that will help drive Oxford County forward for years to come."

The participation of the CASS Culinary Arts Program is a powerful example of how experiential learning bridges education and workforce development. By applying their skills in a real-world environment, students gain valuable experience while making a meaningful contribution to a major community event.

The Oxford County Career Expo continues to demonstrate the value of collaboration between the private sector, school boards, municipalities, and community partners. Together, these partnerships help create opportunities for young people to explore careers, develop workplace skills, and build confidence in their future.

As Oxford County continues to address workforce challenges and opportunities, recognizing student achievement remains an important part of fostering a strong talent pipeline and ensuring the long-term prosperity of the region.

About the Oxford County Career Expo:

The Oxford County Career Expo brings together 3000+ students, 150+ employers, educators, municipalities, and community partners to explore career opportunities, workforce trends, and pathways to employment. Through hands-on engagement and collaboration, the Expo showcases local industries, promotes workforce development, and supports the growth of a skilled and sustainable workforce throughout Oxford County.

