Pre-Apprenticeship Horticultural Technician Program Overview

The Vanier Centre for Women, a medium and maximum correctional facility for female offenders located in Milton, ON, has partnered with Humber College, Elizabeth Fry Society of Peel-Halton and Landscape Ontario to deliver a Pre-Apprenticeship Horticultural Technician program on site at the institution. Our goal is to deliver the full Level 1 trade curriculum to 16 women currently incarcerated at the jail. Upon completion of their training all women will be eligible to participate in a 10 week work placement, either paid or unpaid. Those women remaining incarcerated well beyond program completion will be supervised by the grounds staff at the Vanier Centre, and will have their hours of work and tasks performed logged and submitted to the Administrative Coordinator at Humber College for cataloguing and forwarding to the Ministry upon request. This will help the women begin to earn the 5,400 hours needed to complete their apprenticeship training. Those women being released prior to full completion of the program, or soon thereafter, will be given the opportunity to participate in a paid placement with an employer, in the hopes of securing an apprenticeship. The funding for this program has been provided by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities and includes wage subsidies for employers who may be interested in hiring the women participating in this program.

To ensure the success of this program a number of agencies/institutions have come together to provide the training and required wrap around supports needed to ensure the long-term success of the women involved in this program. Humber College will be responsible for the delivery of the Level 1 training for Horticultural Technician, as well as the administration coordination of the work placements with the assistance of Elizabeth Fry and Landscape Ontario. Elizabeth Fry Society of Peel –Halton is providing wrap around supports to ensure the success of these women, including counselling, transitional supports and input into the discharge planning of each woman involved in the program. They will also meet with the women post release and help them with interview skills and shopping for any needed attire for the job, as well as facilitating connections with other E. Fry locations throughout Ontario who may and should be connected with the women. Landscape Ontario has connections to employers throughout Ontario and will be able to help us identify employers in the women’s area of release who are interested and committed to providing placements for the students in this program. It is our hope that with the number of partners involved in this program that we will be able to maintain contact and provide support to these women until the end of 2016, helping them to complete as many credits as possible and acquiring paid positions that lead to apprenticeships.

Should you like any additional details or information in regards to this program, please contact Lynn VanLieshout, Administrative Program Coordinator, Humber College at 416-675-6622, ext. 5129.