**The University of Guelph Kemptville Campus and Equine Guelph** have collaborated in the development of a new “Horse Groom Apprenticeship” program scheduled to launch in the fall of 2012.

 *“As an owner/investor and active leader in the racing industry I see the value of the Horse Groom Apprenticeship program offered by the University of Guelph Kemptville Campus and Equine Guelph. Grooms play an integral role in the health and maintenance of our horses. The training and applied work experience gained from the Apprenticeship Program will raise standards of care and provide the industry with a higher caliber of Grooms. This will accelerate growth in knowledge and competency throughout their industry career, which translates to better horse care and facility management across the equine industry.”* Gordon McDonald, President of National Capital Region Harness Horse Association

**Horse Groom Apprenticeship Program**

* Starts Fall 2012
* The Horse Groom Apprenticeship Program is divided into four separate components.
	+ Level 1: Applied in-school Practical and Theory;
		- 5 weeks at Kemptville Campus
	+ On-line Theory;
		- 42 hours of online classes over 12 weeks with Equine Guelph
	+ Level 2: Applied in-school Practical and Theory;
		- 7 weeks at Kemptville Campus
	+ Applied Theory in the Workplace;
		- 3,600 hours

**Benefits to Employers of Apprentices:**

* Apprenticeship training allows your business to benefit from the government-funded in-class training portion of the program, and supports your workforce needs;
* Participating in an apprenticeship program ensures you will have an employee that is not only trained to provincial industry standards, but also understands your unique workplace conditions;
* Recruiting potential apprentices through the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) can be a cost-effective solution to training and retaining young workers - as OYAP students make the school to work transition with direct entry into apprenticeship training, while completing the requirements for their Ontario Secondary School Diploma;
* A recent survey found that apprentices develop increased loyalty to the companies who hired them, and results in a more stable workforce;

**Benefits to the Apprentice:**

* Registered apprentices are eligible for MTCU funding that covers the majority of tuition costs (students pay only $670 for all in-school training)
* Eligible apprentices can apply for Employment Insurance benefits while enrolled in the in-school portion of the program

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