

## **Learning to Earning | Higher Education and the Changing Job Market Session Summary**

**Civic Ballroom  
Sheraton Centre Toronto  
123 Queen Street West, Toronto, M5H 2M9**

*Thanks to Ian Hartlen and Adrian Philp, recent graduates from the Master of Public Policy Program at the University of Toronto, for their work in summarizing the conference.*

### **Day Two | Friday, November 2, 2012**

#### **Session 7B | The importance of the Arts and Humanities**

***Facilitator: Emily Greenleaf, University of Toronto***

***Laura Wood, OCAD University***

#### ***Employment Outcomes of Art and Design Grads***

SNAAP is an annual online survey of arts alumni from participating institutions. The survey asks alumni about their experience during their time at the institution as well as post-graduation, with a focus on employment outcomes. In 2011, over 36,000 alumni participated.

OCAD University invited 3,000 of their alumni to participate in the survey; about 950 responded. The focus of this study is on 342 (of that 950) who graduated with a bachelor's degree between 2005-2010.

The researchers found that 95% of those surveyed expressed the desire to find employment as an artist, and that 72% are either currently or recently employed as one.

About 86% are employed, the top three career sectors being: "graphic designer," "other designer" and "other art occupation."

However, a huge number of these graduates are creating their own jobs, as 84% said that they have been self-employed at some point in their career history.

Perhaps most importantly, 83% said that their arts training at OCAD University was relevant to their current work.

When looking at earnings, average income increased with every year out of school, and of all career satisfaction variables used in the study, current income was the lowest, although 74% of graduates expressed overall satisfaction with where they find themselves currently.

***Kristin Lucas, Nipissing University***  
***Shakespeare After School***

Presentation of a project run in cooperation with the North Bay public library for children ages 7-13. It is a 6-week drama program run after school, where kids read and perform truncated (but not simplified) Shakespeare plays.

It is run by student volunteers from Nipissing University who begin with the script and work to make it accessible for children. Feedback received from those involved has been very positive. Students see the program as a venue in which they can apply what they have learned, while at the same time renewing their passion for the discipline itself.

Arts and Humanities build capacities for many careers, but students only tend to discover this after they have left their programs, if at all. Initiatives like Shakespeare After School allow students to (re)discover what they know and translate humanities skills into marketable skills.

***Wayne Lewrey, Algonquin College***  
***The Value of Arts and Humanities in Colleges of Applied Arts and Tech***

In colleges, there are very few majors in the humanities, but there are still ways to connect applied arts to the humanities.

The presentation followed a personal anecdote of the speaker in which he detailed his experience as a trained respiratory technician. He emphasized how the analytical and professional skills he learned in this training were essential for his job, but did not offer any insight on how to deal with people who are often close to death (an area he feels might be informed through the humanities).

He closed by drawing a distinction between having a market economy and a market society. We need to be careful that we do not slip too drastically into the latter, wherein we commoditize all things and effectively undervalue skills that are perhaps less tangible but equally vital.