

Zhanna Wasylchenko decided to apply for the Prep. Set. Serve. Program because she was interested in gaining the experience needed to work as a line cook. She had plenty of experience working with food as a nanny and volunteering at soup kitchens, but had no formal training. While working with a social worker to find employment Zhanna learned about the Prep. Set. Serve. Program. Designed by OTEC and delivered in partnership with Niagara College, the Prep. Set.Serve. Program prepares unemployed youth between the ages of 15 to 29, for a career in the Food Services and Culinary sectors through a combination of 11-weeks of in-class and work-place training. Zhanna was accepted into the program in May 2015, where she gained on-the-job line cook training and certifications in WHMIS, Food Safety, *emerit* Workplace Essentials and Service Excellence. The program also helped improve her confidence in seeking employment, ability to communicate with others and work in a team. A successful graduate of the program, Zhanna secured employment working as a line cook at Kelsey's Niagara Falls in August 2015.

"The Prep. Set. Serve. Program has helped me start on the track of working in the kitchen and has helped me overcome personal challenges in talking to people and working as a team."

For more information on the Prep. Set. Serve. Program contact Brett Stevens, Niagara College Project Officer at: 905-735-2211 ext. 7481



