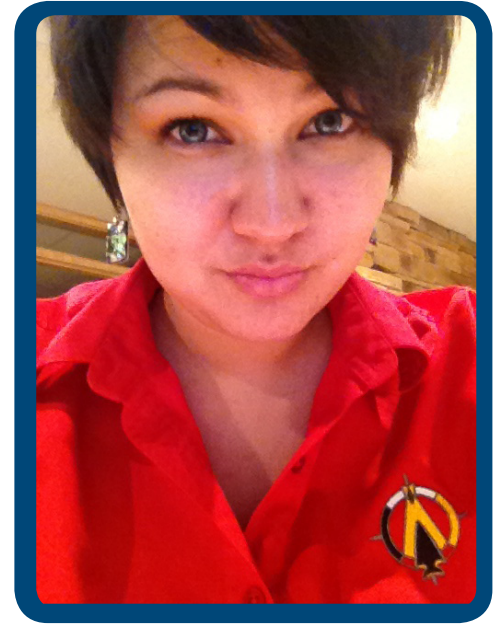


ABORIGINAL CULTURAL AMBASSADOR GRADUATE

"My life has changed a lot since the training. I have moved back home and have started full time employment. This wouldn't have been possible without all the help that I received from Aboriginal Experiences. They went over and above all my expectations for the program."



Emily McGraw

When looking for a new job, not having enough experience or education are common obstacles to overcome. In spite of best efforts, getting that first opportunity to break into a new industry can be hard to find. This is the position Emily McGraw found herself in when she was seeking work in her hometown on Manitoulin Island.

That's when Emily heard about Aboriginal Experiences, Arts and Culture (AEAC)'s Aboriginal Cultural Ambassador (ACA) Training Program. A partnership between many organizations, ACA was developed with support and guidance from OTEC as a national program based on *emerit* National Occupational Standards. It also incorporates Aboriginal elder teachings and opportunities to learn about cultural heritage through a variety of activities.

Once Emily was admitted to the program, she not only received valuable tourism occupational training, but she also learned important skills such as responsibility, how to follow instructions, how to work under pressure, time management and honesty that built her confidence and helped her overcome employment barriers.

When it came time for Emily's 8 week field placement to begin, the timing was perfect – the new Manitoulin Island Hotel and Conference Centre had just opened and she was able to be placed right in her hometown. At the completion of the program, Emily was offered full time employment at the hotel and is now a Guest Service Representative.

For more information about Aboriginal Experiences, Arts and Culture, contact Trina Mather-Simard, Executive Director at trina@aboriginalexperiences.com or at 613-564-9494 ext. 101

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