



MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Niagara College students off to Dubai for Co-op opportunity ***Dubai Fairmont selects students from college degree program***

Three local Niagara College students are headed to Dubai later this week to work with one of the world's top hoteliers, at the Fairmont Dubai. The trio will work the traditional 48-hour week throughout the resort and its restaurants for six months.

Jason Bianchi, 25, of Burlington, Curtis Dracz, 21, of Fonthill and Jacob Turner, 22, of St. Catharines leave Thursday, May 8 for a co-op educational experience at the five-diamond hotel and resort in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The students are in the third year of a four-year Bachelor of Applied Business degree program in Hospitality Management (BABH). Bianchi is also a graduate of the College's Culinary Management and Bakers Apprenticeship programs.

"We'll be working at a world class hotel in one of the most progressive cities in the world. This is the opportunity of a lifetime," said Dracz.

Located on the Persian Gulf coast, Dubai is one of the fastest-growing tourism-based cities in the world. It is the site of some of the world's most unique and elaborate buildings and facilities, including an indoor ski resort, the world's first luxurious underwater hotel, the world's only seven-star hotel and the world's tallest building.

"International work and study opportunities are a key part of the degree programs offered by our college and add tremendous value to our students' educational experience," said Martha Casson, Niagara College's Vice President International. "With the sensational growth and development of the tourism industry of Dubai, we couldn't have asked for a better educational partner to work with our students."

With 6,400 full-time students, Niagara College offers more than 90 certificate, diploma, post-graduate and degree programs at campuses in Welland, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Niagara Falls and St. Catharines. Areas of specialization include hospitality and tourism, viticulture, technology, community safety, and media studies. The College is home to the globally recognized Niagara Culinary Institute and to Canada's first commercial teaching winery. Niagara College has recently been voted #1 in student satisfaction for the fourth year in a row.

-30 -

Note to Editors: Students are available for interviews prior to their May 8 departure.

For more information, please contact:

David Veres,
Dean, Hospitality & Tourism
905-641-2252, ext. 4600
dveres@niagaracollege.ca

Martha Casson
Vice President, International
905-735-2211 ext 7855
mcasson@niagaracollege.ca

Enriching lives and fulfilling dreams by preparing students to pursue and achieve career success.

Telephone: (905) 735-2211 • 641-2252 • 374-7454 • 563-3254 Fax: (905) 736-6020 Web Site: www.niagaracollege.ca