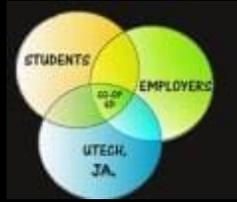




University of Technology, Jamaica



CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION
AT UTECH, JA.
Newsletter

Volume 12 Issue 2 May 2023

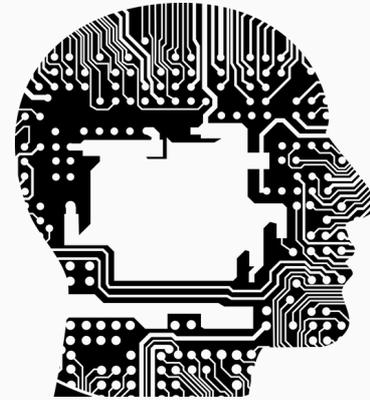


Gen Z and the Evolving Workspace
Preparing Work-Ready Leaders

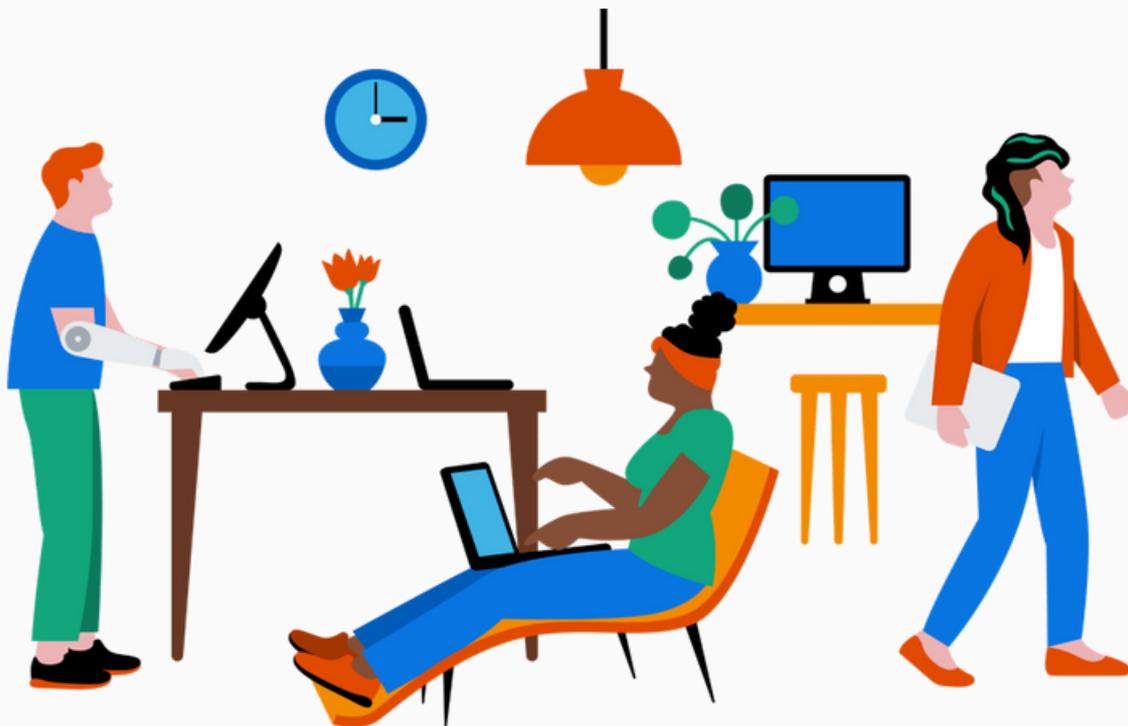
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The Evolving Workspace



When Dr. Hermann Schneider came up with the concept of Co-operative Education, his vision was to see to it that students got the best of both worlds in combining classroom learning with on-the-job training. The 4th Annual Co-operative Education (Internship) Fair was designed to do just that. There was active student participation in the face-to-face and online environments seeking to secure internship opportunities.

The theme of the event was “Gen Z and the Evolving Workspace: Making Your Mark,” and a few memorable marks were left.

Dr. Janet Campbell-Shelly, speaking on behalf of the Acting Deputy President Haldane Johnson, reiterated the importance of Co-operative Education and how it would benefit our current and future leaders. “Students who participate in the programme benefit in several ways, mainly experiencing the real-world application in theory and enhancing the use of relevant technologies. The current generation of future employers and future employees need to understand the environment in which they are heading.”



**Dr. Campbell-Shelly,
Associate Vice President of
Quality Assurance.**



Highlights from the 2023 Co-operative Education Fair



Student displaying a \$100 bill during the guest speaker's presentation.



Nicolette Wilson, KPMG representative (l), awarding Kadeen Mitchell with her prize.



**La-Cresha Gordon-Brydson,
University's Co-operative Education
Coordinator, listening keenly to the
presentation of guest speaker,
Ricardo Allen.**

Dr. Campbell-Shelly also spoke about the obstacles faced by students and the University over the past three years and commended the resilience of the programme and the University at large in how they've navigated the period. “So this is the 4th staging of the Co-operative-Education Fair and it is a commendable feat given the immense challenges and changes brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. At this university we observed, we pivoted, and we moved full speed ahead as we sought to maintain our relevance and competitiveness as an institution by, among other things, ensuring that our students can adapt readily to the changing workspaces.”

This staging of the Co-operative Education Fair was the first face-to-face staging since the Covid-19 pandemic hit the island in 2020.



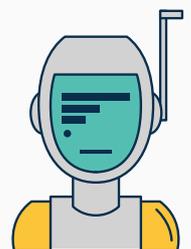
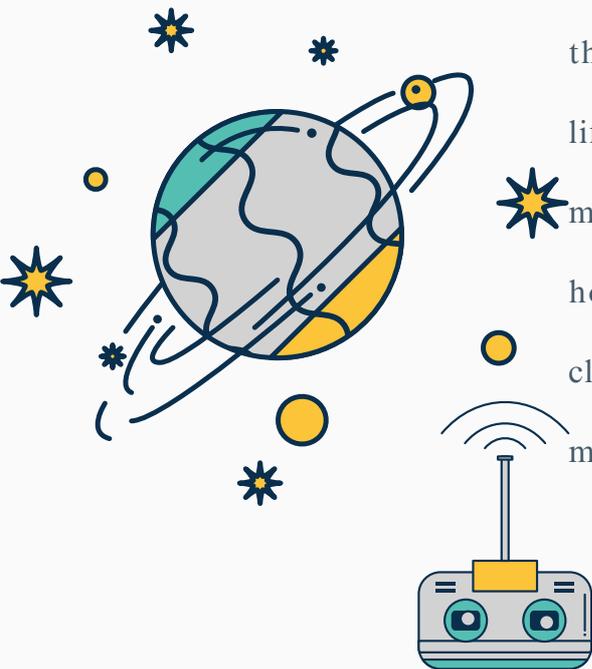
AMBASSADOR'S FEATURE: ***Cooperation for Co-operative Education***

The title ambassador is one which is held in high regard by anyone who is afforded the accolade and this is exactly how Dacia Little, a 4th-year Pharmacy student in the College of Health Science (COHS) feels about being an ambassador of the Co-operative Education Programme. “Being an ambassador means that I truly embody the Unit's identity and carry with me the importance of integrating on-the-job experience with classroom learning/theory. I educate students on what Co-operative Education is and its importance.”

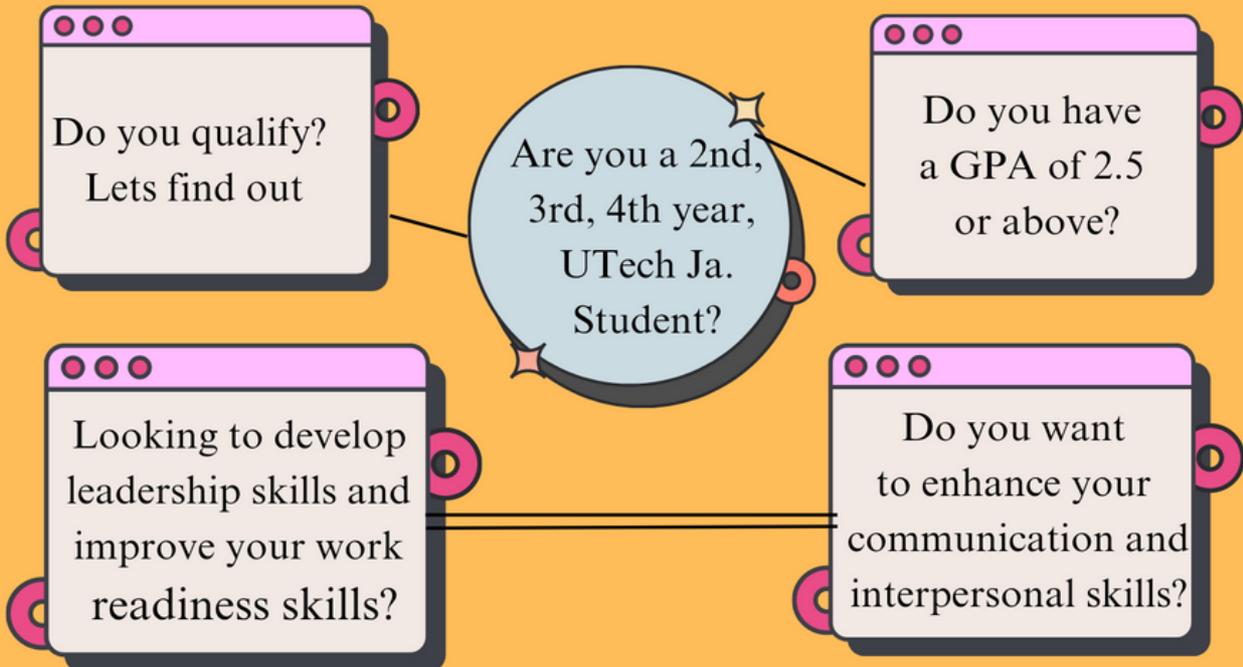


Dacia Little, 4th-year student & proud Co-operative Education Ambassador.

Little who has been a Co-operative Education ambassador for 2 years is not new to representation, as she is currently the faculty representative for COHS, which helps her to see the importance of the task she was handed. “As an ambassador, I help to promote various initiatives geared towards making students work-ready like our résumé writing workshop, and Internship Fair. Co-operative Education is very important in every degree/programme to integrate on-the-job learning. It helps prepare students for various life scenarios and sharpens their soft skills. Personally, my programme ensures that all students complete 500 hours of on-the-job training. I find that this helps in the classroom as well, and I am able to think on my feet and make better connections with theory topics.”



JOIN THE UNIVERSITY'S CO-OP ED AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME TODAY!



Roles of a Student Ambassador

- Help to spread an awareness about the Co-op Ed programme.
- Assist in the planning & hosting of Co-op Ed events.
- Advise students on tips on how to improve work readiness & enhance their employability skills.

NB: You will be trained to execute the various functions

How to apply:

Send an email to sjunor@utech.edu.jm indicating your interest in being a part of the programme.

Alternatively, you may collect a hardcopy form by visiting the Co-op Ed Unit, Office of Teaching & Learning (located on St. Kitts Close.)

Programme commences September 2023



The RECAP: Nothing to Fear: One-on-One CEO encourages future leaders to embrace Artificial Intelligence

It is human nature to despise or fear things that threaten us and there is no difference when it comes to technology, and more precisely, artificial intelligence (AI).

At the Co-operative Education Fair on February 23, guest speaker, founder & CEO of One-on-One Educational Services Limited, Ricardo Allen, encouraged students to embrace artificial intelligence and instead of fearing the new normal, encouraged them to learn and grow as the technology improves around them. “AI is transforming the workplace in many ways presenting both challenges and opportunities and while some jobs may become redundant, new and exciting roles will emerge. Furthermore, as university students, it is important to prepare yourselves, by developing skills and competencies that will be in demand in the AI-driven workplace in the future.”

Allen also stressed the need for adaptability and urged students to place more emphasis on soft skills, that is, skills they will need in order to separate themselves from AI. “It is also important to be adaptable and willing to learn new skills as technology advances. It is understandable to feel concerned about the impact of AI on job security, but it is also important to recognise that the rise in AI will not be all about job loss. While some jobs may be automated, new roles will emerge that will require skills that machines can’t replicate, such as creativity, emotional intelligence, and problem-solving.”

Looking forward to the future, Allen acknowledged the need for new learning and implored students to learn three skills specifically and focus on developing three character traits. “As university students, it is important to recognise that the rise of AI will require us to develop new skills and competencies for example, you will need to have a good understanding of data analyses, programming, and becoming digitally literate. You should also thrive to develop long-term learning, which focuses on always learning something new. You should also develop your soft skills which include communication, leadership, and teamwork, and pursue specialized training which will help you stay ahead of the curve and be prepared for future job roles.”



Mr. Ricardo Allen
CEO of One-on-One Educational Services Limited

Co-op Ed Feature:

Father of Co-operative Education



**Herman Schneider, American Engineer
& Founder of Co-operative Education**

Co-operative Education was developed at the University of Cincinnati (UC) in 1906 by American Engineer Herman Schneider, a young, dynamic dean. Students involved in Co-operative Education typically participate in school work rotations that may span across three academic years while pursuing their undergraduate studies. Schneider first proposed his method a few years before as a professor at Lehigh University but his ideas were not aligned with the university's goal. However, Cincinnati with its large German population had a large number of successful machine tool companies that were gearing up their production to meet the demands of the emerging automotive industry. Thus, there was a high demand for quality engineers at an increasingly high rate and Schneider found this to be fertile ground for his Co-operative Education.

Schneider capitalized on the presence of a strong manufacturing industry, a well-established engineering school, and the intrinsic appreciation that the German culture held for apprenticeships. According to campus tradition, the skeptical University of Cincinnati Board of Trustees gave Schneider the right to "try this cooperative idea of education for one year only, for the failure of which they would not be held responsible." He took that challenge and started with just 27 students for that one year. The following year he had more than eight hundred students applying to participate in the programme. In 1909, Northeastern University announced its Co-operative Education programme. This was followed by the University of Pittsburgh in 1910, the University of Detroit in 1911, the Georgia Institute of Technology, and the Rochester Institute of Technology in 1912. Drexel University would join the ranks in 1919.

The programme grew tremendously and universities including Harvard and Massachusetts Institute of Technology also adopted the programme. To date, multiple universities worldwide have adopted the Co-operative Education method and it has greatly impacted the lives of undergraduate students and employers.

Sources:

[https://go.gale.com/ps/i.do?](https://go.gale.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA245740018&sid=googleScholar&v=2.1&it=r&linkaccess=abs&issn=15411389&p=AONE&sw=w&userGroup)

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<https://prabook.com/web/mobile/#!profile/3762211>

Vox Pop Feature:

Popping the question



As we reflect on the recently concluded Co-operative Education (Internship) held on February 23, it is the belief that a lot more students would now have a better understanding of what Co-operative Education is. Many students turned out on the day and took full advantage of the opportunity to convince the various recruiters of their work-readiness in order to gain valuable internship opportunities with these companies. That said, we went around the campus of the University of Technology, Jamaica, and conducted a vox-pop to see what students now know about Co-operative Education.



**Leon Parkinson, 4th-year student
School of Engineering**

“I know it involves an internship which I haven’t done as yet since my program which is Chemical Engineering, allows you to do your internship at the end of your final year of study, which will be in the summer for me.”

When asked if he thinks the internship would best be done during the school semester, Parkinson was hesitant in his response but thought that this wasn’t necessarily a one size fits all situation.

“Honestly, I think it’s a case of preference and ability. Once you are able to manage then do it, but personally, as a chemical engineering student and doing multiple assessments in a short period of time, I don’t think I would be able to manage something like that, especially during my final year.”

“Co-operative Education to me is combining what you’ve learned at school with on-the-job training. I haven’t been an active participant in any of the Co-operative Education events, nor have I done an internship as yet, but I do have experience working in my field of study.”

Bailey was referring to her experience garnered while working in a finance department. She values the experiences she’s had so far and admits that she would definitely make use of any Co-operative Education opportunity that should arise in the future. “Yes it would definitely interest me. It would be very beneficial because in order to get a good job, you will need previous work experience. However, I would prefer to do that on a holiday break as I would have more time to focus on the job at hand.”



**Samantha Bailey, 4th-year student
School of Business Administration**



**Micael Ndalla, 4th-year student
School of Humanities & Social Sciences**

“When someone mentions Co-operative Education, to me that means being able to work in the field to which I'm pursuing a degree and combining both theory and experience to better understand the craft.” Unlike his fellow Knights, Ndalla has tons of experience in his field of study. “I've worked at Sportsmax and various other media outlets, where I learned about the switchboards and how to properly set up for a live event. This experience has enabled me to understand the mechanics of it all and network with individuals in the field, some of whom are even helping me with my final-year media project as we speak. ”

However, like Parkinson and Bailey, Ndalla believes internship should be done over the holidays. “The most ideal time for me is the summer when school closes. In that way, I can fully place myself in the work environment. School on its own has a lot of distractions including classes and assessments and naturally your mind will be focused on completing those assessments because after all, we all want to graduate .”

“One thing that comes to mind when I hear about Co-operative Education is an internship. I've never done an internship though, seeing that I'm a first-year student.”

Douglas however, has a different view from her peers when it comes to internships, as she believes that it would be highly beneficial if the internship was done during the semester. “I would like to do an internship in my 3rd year, I think that would be ideal given my programme, and I believe that it is best for the internship to be done in school time because it helps you to remain active and to be on your P's and Q's. So even though you're both working and you're studying, I believe that it will allow you to be alert and acute which are things that you will need for the work world.”



**Ashanna Douglas, 1st year student
School of Engineering**

Even though the four students have contrasting experiences and views as it relates to Co-operative Education as a whole, one thing that is certain is that all four now have a better idea of what Co-operative Education is, which can only be beneficial for them and the university in the future.

Opinion Piece:

Working Smarter, not Harder; Has technology made Gen Z Lazy?

By David Fuller



“ There is a lot of admiration for individuals belonging to the group known as Generation Z or Zoomers as we are seen as creators and innovators of varying levels of technology. Conversely, there is also a lot of scrutiny as many believe that these technologies have made us a tad bit lazy. “Working smarter, not harder” is a popular phrase used by our generation to describe the act of doing something that once took a lot of time, in an exponentially shorter time period by employing shortcuts. What is interesting is that this phrase was coined almost a century ago by industrial engineer Allen F. Morgenstern, who created a programme aimed at producing more in less time. So has technology made us lazy?

Mr. Ricardo Allen, guest speaker at the 4th Annual Co-operative Education Fair said it best, we must embrace technology and if technology allows us to complete tasks in a shorter timeframe then we should not be afraid to use it. He also pointed to his love for technology and said that if cars could drive themselves he was in full support, and if they placed a chip in him to make him more efficient he was also in agreement with that, so I ask the question is Mr. Allen lazy? No one who runs a company that provides services to over 3 million customers in Latin America and the Caribbean could ever be accused of being lazy. So to answer the question I will say no, but what I can say from experience is that access to technology has made us somewhat complacent. Since technology makes work easier and quicker, we are often guilty of waiting until the last minute to complete a task. We might also refuse to do something because it doesn't go along with the new norm. For example, I recently heard my supervisor complain about my generation's lack of interest in reading. Personally, I have no issue with reading but the invention of audiobooks has made consuming content a lot more interesting, so traditional methods have become almost obsolete. As a journalism student, I can attest to the point that many of my contemporaries are not drawn to traditional media, and as such it might be a dying art, even though it's very much still alive. So with all that being said, I believe that technology hasn't made us Gen Zs lazy, but it has made us a little complacent.

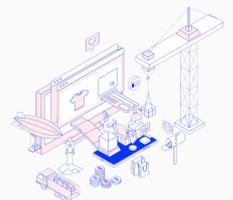
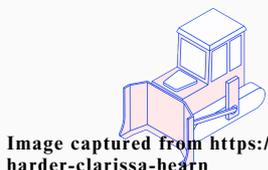


Image captured from <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/9-tips-working-smarter-harder-clarissa-hearn>

Sponsor's Feature:

Ushering in future leaders; KPMG firmly committed to Co-operative Education

The 2023 Co-operative Education (Internship) Fair was a huge success, thanks to several factors including the enormous contribution from the main sponsor KPMG. KPMG is a global organization of independent professional services firms providing audit, tax, and advisory services. The company operates in 143 countries and territories with more than 265,000 partners and employees working in member firms worldwide. Their presence in Jamaica spans over 100 years. KPMG in Jamaica is a member of The KPMG Island Groups, a regional governance entity, comprising KPMG member firms in the Caribbean and other jurisdictions.

What is KPMG's relationship with the University of Technology, Ja?

KPMG has been an active partner with the University of Technology, Jamaica's Co-operative Education Unit since 2014, with the first cohort comprising 18 students. To date, they have hosted over 200 interns, most of whom have transitioned into full-time employment with the firm. One of those who have benefitted personally from KPMG's internship programme is final School of Computer and Information Technology student Daejavaughn Lewis.



Daejavaughn Lewis
4th-year student
School of Computing
& Information Technology



"Working at KPMG during the summer period last year was a fantastic experience. I began working during a period where remote work was the primary modality but made the effort to go into the office as often as possible. The employees were very warm and welcoming and could be easily approached with any concern. Regardless of the level of tasks assigned to me as an Intern in IT Audit, there was always someone to rely on to provide some guidance, which contributed to the level of comfort I felt being there. My greatest growth was the development of my interpersonal skills. With my involvement in meetings, I learned how to approach these events as a professional, and the appropriate manner in which to conduct myself in varying situations. Furthermore, due to the nature of the tasks, and their intensities, my organizational skills primarily time management and task prioritization saw rapid improvements as well. With the firm's emphasis on its employees' personal growth, it had the necessary tools in place to help with our career progression such as access to online courses, further adding to the benefits KPMG has had on my growth."

We asked the Human Resource Department at KPMG a few questions to find out more about their relationship with UTech, Jamaica's Co-operative Education Programme, and their impact on our future leaders.

Q&A

Interviewer:

Why did you sponsor the Co-operative Education Fair?

KPMG:

Sponsoring the Cooperative Education (Internship) Fair is an active demonstration of KPMG's commitment to providing a platform for brilliant young minds to transition into the world of work. Our on-the-spot job interviews and engagements present an opportunity to not only expose students to various career opportunities but also provide them with a real shot at securing an internship that could potentially see them transitioning into full-time employment at one of the leading firms globally.

Interviewer:

Looking through the lens of a sponsor what is the biggest takeaway from the Fair?

KPMG:

"With the COVID-19 pandemic leading to the proliferation of remote learning, there is a need to reimagine face-to-face career fairs, as was evident in the sharp decline in in-person attendance. A comprehensive assessment is required to explore how to engage students best creatively and effectively in order to maximize the benefits that career fairs have traditionally offered, but this time in a virtual environment."

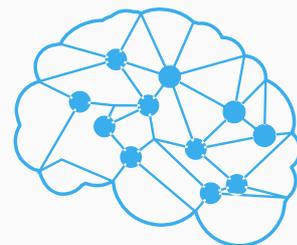
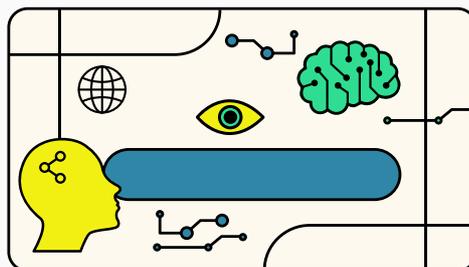
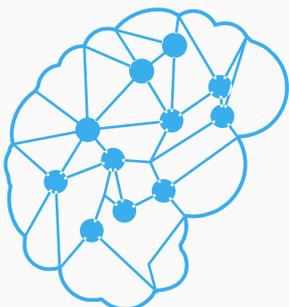
Interviewer:

What does KPMG look for in interns?



KPMG:

"Enthusiastic, driven young future leaders with a passion for the field of accounting. We facilitate and sponsor studies for professional qualifications such as; ACCA, CPA, CFA, and ICOSA while students actively progress within the firm. We are additionally, providing year-round internal training for professional and personal development."



Meet the editors



David Fuller, 4th-year student
School of Humanities & Social
Sciences

David Fuller is a fourth-year student in the Faculty of Education & Liberal Studies (FELS). He is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Arts and Technology (BACAT), majoring in Journalism. He is a hardworking and dedicated individual who prides himself on learning as much as he can in the world of general knowledge and current affairs. Speaking of current events, David believes that the world is evolving and in keeping with the theme of the just concluded

Co-operative Education Fair, he asserts that the world is growing. "We must learn and adapt to the changing work environment and learn as much as we can about where the workplace is and where it is going. Technology, especially artificial intelligence will be a big part of our future and we should be ready to make the most of the opportunities. In the words of Mr. Ricardo Allen, technology should not be feared but embraced, and so as a future leader I am looking forward to the challenge ahead."

Favourite Proverb: In the country of the blind, the one-eyed man is king. Why?

"This reminds us that no matter our situation, there is always someone who is worse off than us, so we should be grateful. After all, you could be the one-eyed man in a country of blind people, so be thankful for the ability to see."

Vennissa is a 4th-year Communication specialist who is completing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Arts and Technology with a focus on Journalism and Public Relations. She firmly embraces the idea of an evolving workspace and believes that AI is becoming advanced with time and that eventually, it will be utilized at all levels. As such, we should learn to adapt and evolve with AI.

Favorite quote: "With hard work, dedication, and determination, all things are possible."

Why?

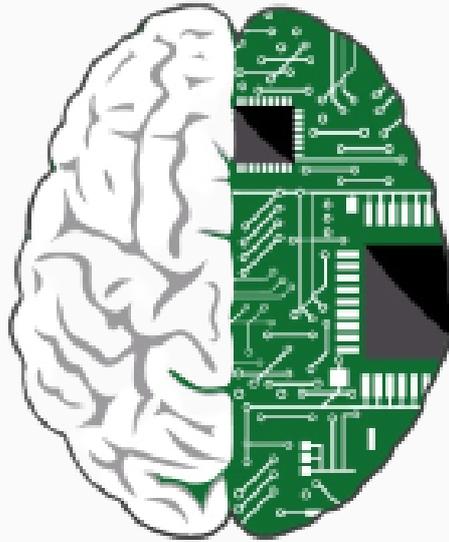
"It's important to know your goals and press on to achieve them. Knowing that you can achieve all your goals when you put in the work and staying true to your goals no matter what will ultimately make you successful."



Vennissa Burke, 4th-year
student
School of Humanities & Social
Sciences

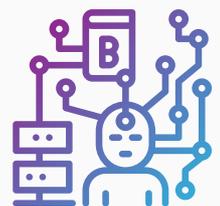


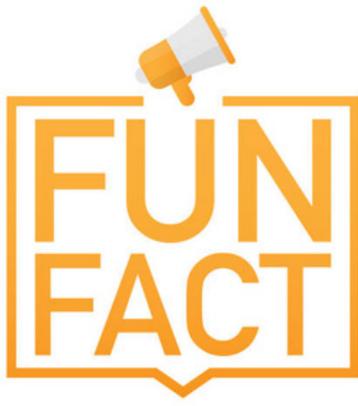
Artificial Intelligence Word Cross Puzzle



John McCarthy
Intelligence
Allan Turing
Development
Artificial
Statistics
Stockfish
Factories
Inferring
AlphaZero
Computer
Machines
Checkers
DeepMind
Perform
Program
Theory
Humans
Future
robots
LCzero
Sophia
Logic
Chess
Alexa
Cosmo
Game
Siri
AI

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Creativity is intelligence
having fun.

ALBERT EINSTEIN



Business leaders trust AI's power in driving growth. 84% of C-level executives believe that they need to adopt and leverage Artificial Intelligence to drive growth objectives.



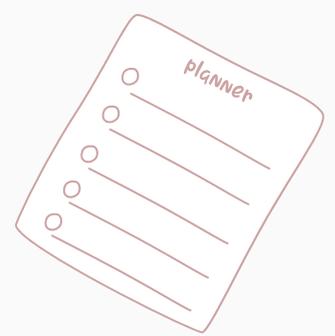
By 2045, AI is expected to completely surpass human intelligence. At that time, AI will start to fully automate various industries. However, at the same time, AI will generate around 2 million new job positions.



Source:<https://www.simplilearn.com/artificial-intelligence-stats-article>



Important Dates to Remember



May 15 to August 11, 2023

Summer Placement Period

September 11, 2023

Co-operative Education Ambassador Programme

September 28, 2023

Co-operative Education Annual Awards Ceremony & Professional Development Seminar, LT 50, Shared Facilities, Papine Campus

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