

Executive Summary (Project Number: 2015-19)

Technological Education Pathway Development Project:

A Multilateral Articulation Agreement between Brock University and Ontario's Colleges

Executive Summary

The Technological Education Pathway Development (TEPD) Project was a collaborative initiative funded by the Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer (ONCAT). Participants included: Fanshawe College, Niagara College, Conestoga College, Mohawk College, Fleming College, Canadore College, Collège Boréal and Brock University, and the Ontario Council for Technology Education (OCTE).

TEPD originated as a college to university transfer initiative with the intention to provide skilled tradespeople with an incentive to pursue a credential in Technological Education, and to address existing structural inequities affecting Technological Educators' professional and educational trajectories. Technological Education teachers have been underserved with limited access to professional development and/or career advancement opportunities within the K-12 education system. Supported by research, best practice, and consultations with sector leaders, TEPD explored the development of a multilateral pathway to provide degree completion opportunities for Technological Education teachers and teacher candidates (see Pathway Model, p. 19).

The originally proposed pathway was developed to allow candidates with a diploma the opportunity to earn a Bachelor of Education upon successful completion of the revised four semester Technological Teacher Education program at Brock University. After stakeholder consultation, and due to different constraints, the focus of the project shifted to explore out-of-province degree completion opportunities with the Institute of Technology Sligo and Thompson Rivers University (TRU) (see Appendix 1, Spec Sheet, p. 23). Ultimately, because of insurmountable obstacles beyond TEPD's control the project discontinued its ONCAT funding as the change in scope fell outside ONCAT's mandate to support Ontario pathway development.

Due to substantial learning, the project team plans to seek alternate funding to:

- facilitate degree completion opportunities for Technological Educators through IT Sligo and TRU.
- develop and deliver Additional Qualification (AQ) Schedule F courses amongst the participating Colleges and Additional Basic Qualification (ABQ) courses in collaboration with Brock University and the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT).
- support a longitudinal research study on the degree completion pathway candidates.
- build relationships between college and high-school educators in the technological education fields.

This project provides smoother pathways for Technological Education teachers toward leadership opportunities. The TEPD team feels that having leaders in Ontario's secondary system who understand and have a background in technological education will strengthen ties between secondary and post-secondary technological and vocational programming options. Not only will this benefit Technological Education teachers, the colleges, and the students who pursue college studies, but TEPD believes it would ultimately benefit the forecast of the trades in Ontario and assist in enhancing equity and collegiality across all levels of education in Ontario. TEPD believes that we in Ontario can learn from our out-of-province and international colleagues and continue advocating for a more efficient and articulated system of higher education.