

NORTHWESTERN POLYTECHNIC

Huge Opportunities at Northwestern Polytechnic

For women seeking stable and rewarding careers, the world of trades offers endless possibilities. One of the most appealing ways to earn a head start is through Northwestern Polytechnic's ThinkBIG Service Technician Diploma program. It was the opportunity to work with industry leaders in an accelerated stream that led recent ThinkBig graduate Jade Maddison to apply – and she's never looked back.

"You learn so much from the best mechanics in the trade," says Maddison. "It's a very fast way to finish all your schooling and exams, get your ticket, and go straight to work, all in 20 months."

Leveraging Industry Partnerships

Northwestern Polytechnic (NWP) is the only school in Canada to offer the accelerated training initiative, designed as a partnership between Caterpillar and Finning.

Through this collaboration, students are paid to work on the most advanced heavy equipment in the world while their tuition is fully covered. The 80-week program is divided into equal parts class and lab time on the Fairview campus and paid practicums at licensed Finning locations across western Canada.

"It's really hard to get in with Finning as a regular apprentice. This program is a great way to get in the door," says Peter Scheidegger, a heavy equipment technician instructor at NWP.

"The career prospects are rock-solid. Graduates come out with 1800 hours of work experience, which is attractive to workplaces that don't have to train them."

Hands-On Learning

The program's immersive, hands-on approach ensures graduates emerge well-prepared to overcome real-world challenges and succeed in their chosen trade. "You really build up confidence in your abilities. It's an incredible feeling to complete jobs on these giant machines and be able to say, 'I did that,'" says Maddison.

Supportive Community

Students get access to a network of mentors, instructors, and industry professionals who offer guidance and support throughout the program. "The instructors are some of the most supportive people I have ever dealt with," says Maddison. "They're always willing to stay late and put in extra time to help. You can tell they really want you to succeed."

Second-year student Kimberly Regin says her experiences in the program make her excited and hopeful for generations to come. "I'm so glad more space is being made for women to follow their aspirations and get into careers and institutions that nurture their growth and allow them to do what they're passionate about," she says. "It helps further break down the stigma that women aren't as capable as men in these roles."

Job Security

Graduates are equipped to secure stable employment with attractive starting salaries. "As a second-year tech with Finning I'll make between \$75,000 to \$90,000 annually. Once I become a Red Seal journeyman, the salary goes up to \$100,000 to \$130,000," says Regin. "That's not including overtime and any extra premiums based on where you work."

Join us at Northwestern Polytechnic

NWP offers a variety of programs in skilled trades and other in-demand careers. Our students get a competitive edge with hands-on training, quality instruction and unmatched industry connections.

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PROGRAMS THAT WORK.

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