

Centennial College Meets Tokyo!

Story Arts Centre's Broadcasting Students Invited to Document 2020 Olympics

"Busy, busy," said Chris Terry, Broadcasting – Radio, Television, Film & Digital Media program coordinator at Centennial College, after kindly squeezing me into his hectic schedule to interview him just after CBC's visit to host a careers presentation for his broadcasting students.

When students first start thinking about which postsecondary institute to pursue, it comes as second nature to believe that college is much easier, slower-paced and provides limited career opportunities compared to university. However, at Centennial College's Story Arts Centre, the broadcasting program believes in integrating itself with other programs to expand their students' knowledge and experiences, providing valuable extra-curricular experiences and relationships that last a lifetime.

"The Broadcasting program often works with students from other departments on special projects that present themselves as really good opportunities to harness the student talent that is in the Story Arts Centre, and to give people the opportunity to collaborate together," says Terry.

The program utilizes a ton of facilities and services that are available to them at the Story Arts Centre – home of the School of Communications, Media, Arts and Design, which is just a short walk from the Danforth area near the heart of Toronto – for all the requests they receive for their students to work on outside projects, as well. "I was just speaking to our Sport Journalism program coordinator, who, their special project in the upcoming year is to send their students to Tokyo to work on the Olympics, and he wants to bring along a broadcasting documentary team to document the work they're doing – a typical example of a large project led by one department at the Story Arts Centre, but integrated with other programs, too – so we're always trying to work in different ways with other programs," continues Terry.

Most recently, broadcasting alumni were invited to collaborate with both current broadcasting students and students from other Story Arts Centre programs to launch a fully-scripted drama called 2035, engaging them in the key positions on the production.

“The great thing about it was that it was conducted as a full feature-film style project in terms of the scope of the filming, the large crew, it was all in all about 100 people worked on it. It involved people from multiple programs, so students from our program, from Arts and Design and Music Industry Arts and Performance, at every stage it was a process that we’d love to be able to do more of,” admits Terry. The broadcasting program engages students with assistance to filter down learning through all the different layers from the mentors, to the graduate students, and so on.

The broadcasting program is one of Centennial’s many programs that provide resources to ensure its community succeeds both before and after graduation. One of the cool things that the college does is called a “long tail.” Centennial College students sign up to an eternal bond with the College, where even after graduation, there are still opportunities to converge with the college in some way. Terry takes advantage of the program’s alumni list, which runs on a daily basis, to give his students an opportunity to participate in projects that would better their career prospects and get high-end experience, years after graduation.

When it comes to successfully achieving employment opportunities and gaining valuable experience beyond post-secondary education, students should certainly consider college, especially in Toronto’s current trying economic climate.

If you’re ready to dedicate a few years to take on a challenging course load and to commit to multiple extracurricular activities in the broadcasting field, The Story Arts Centre’s resources and connections will undoubtedly take your portfolio to the next level and prepare you to succeed in the workforce – just don’t underestimate the workload.