

Student Award Winners 2019 / Prix pour étudiants 2019

*When the students were informed of their award, we asked them to say a few words...
Quand nous avons informé les étudiants de leur prix, nous leur avons demandé de nous écrire quelques mots...*

Nicolas Daigle, Algonquin College

Nicolas is currently completing his last semester in the Computer Engineering Technology - Computing Science program at Algonquin College. Upon completing High School with little direction on where he wanted to go next, he spent the next few years gaining knowledge in multiple forms of work, among them, serving in the Canadian Armed Forces as a reservist in the infantry. Completing multiple courses, building character and gaining a valuable skillset along the way. Combining his skillset, love and passion for many fields of science, made taking the first step into furthering his knowledge and choosing Computer Science as his field of study an experience he would not regret.

Although his time at Algonquin College is coming to an end. His inquisitive personality and desire to learn his studies, has just begun. There are always new technologies on the rise making it imperative to stay connected and up to date. With focus on pursuing a career in the IT Industry, Nicolas also plans to continue his education and improve his credentials.

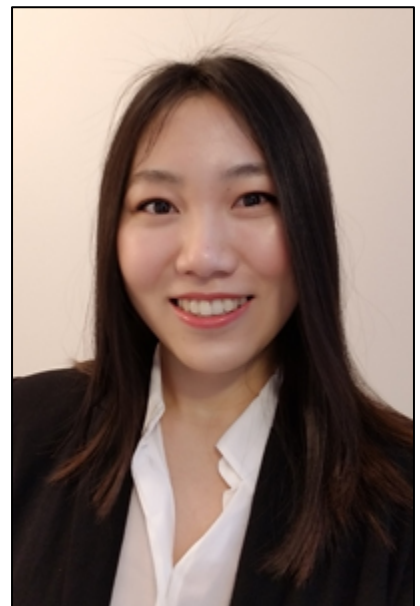


Xingyi Wu, Algonquin College

Xingyi is currently completing her third and final year in Computer Engineering Technology – Computer Science at Algonquin College. After graduating from SUST with bachelor's degree in Linguistics, she got an opportunity to work in Information System Security at IBM China. During the time at IBM, she was the team lead for Identity & Access Management team and a Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA). She was also involved in the automation project (IBM Tivoli Identity Manager) for processing constraints, data configuration and testing.

Last year she completed her first co-op work term in the summer at IBM Canada as a Cloud Security Specialist. She helped the team create a new function for an application that would send notifications to the group chat on high priority patching tickets. She was also responsible for reorganizing and revising technical documentations.

Problem solving and using critical thinking to develop solutions has kept her motivated in the field of Information Technology. During her last year, she is working with a group to develop a machine learning algorithm to determine the adoptability of pets, given a data set of images and descriptions of the pets. After graduation, her career goal is to pursue other areas relating to data science, artificial intelligence and IoT.



Peter Kostylev, Carleton University

I always had a passion for technology and especially for creating and programming. In high school, my goal was to learn how to create video games which pushed me to study Computer Science. I was accepted for a degree of Computer Science at the age of 16 in Bar Ilan University. However, after a few semesters I paused the degree to serve in the IDF, where most of my programming experience came from. When I finished serving in the IDF, I moved to Canada with a goal to finish my degree and study business.

I was happy to be able to continue my degree at Carleton, and this is the final year of my undergraduate studies, majoring in Computer Science and minoring in Business. In my free time I enjoy solving challenging puzzles, it keeps my mind challenged all the time and provides the mindset of solving unique problems in different areas in my life.

After graduation, I plan on expanding my knowledge learning new languages and technologies to be able to open a business in the future.



Madeline Hood, Carleton University

Madeline is currently completing her final year of her Bachelor of Computer Science degree at Carleton University. She has always been interested in designing and creating things and always known she has wanted a life that lets her explore these interests. During high school she explored going into a career that leaned more towards the artistic side but ultimately decided against it and instead applied for a computer science program at the last minute. She walked into the university knowing next to nothing about programming but picked it up very quickly and excelled in all her computer programming courses. She loves all her coursework and knows she could not have made a better choice in what to do with her life and could not see herself doing anything else as a career.

Ever since she was young Madeline has dabbled in a number of creative hobbies, with her largest interests being in drawing and stories. By combining her programming knowledge with her other interests, she has found a new medium to explore and express her ideas in. When she has more time after university she plans to dedicate some time to projects that let her experiment with intertwining her more artistic interests with programming.

After graduating, Madeline hopes to find a rewarding position that will allow her to continue to grow and explore the realm of computer science. She wishes to spend her career putting her skills to good use by creating new and inventive solutions to problems she comes across as well as acquire further knowledge and skills to perfect her programming techniques.



Francis Vermette-David, Cégep de l'Outaouais

Depuis que je suis enfant j'ai toujours été intéressé par l'informatique, dès l'âge de quatre ans j'avais déjà mon propre ordinateur. Pendant mes années d'école primaire, je me suis intéressé aux jeux vidéo, d'abord sur console, mais par la suite préférablement sur PC. J'ai développé un intérêt marqué pour les ordinateurs, leur fonctionnement et surtout comment les programmes fonctionnaient derrière. Plus les années passaient, plus j'étais certain de vouloir travailler dans le domaine de l'informatique plus spécifiquement à la conception de jeux vidéo.

Pour mes études secondaires je me suis inscrit dans 2 concentrations, celles l'informatique et des sciences mathématiques. J'ai été accepté dans les deux programmes, mais j'ai choisi l'informatique à la Polyvalente de l'érablière, où j'ai pu approfondir mes connaissances en matériel informatique, fonctionnement des systèmes informatiques, exploitation d'une station de travail, apprendre l'architecture des systèmes, le traitement de l'image et également un peu de programmation web.

J'ai ensuite poursuivi mes études collégiales en informatique de gestion. À l'été 2018, j'ai travaillé à Parcs Canada dans le cadre du programme fédéral d'expérience de travail étudiant, où mon travail consistait à améliorer leur site intranet. J'en suis à ma troisième année de collège. Je suis actuellement en stage à Services publics et approvisionnement Canada afin de travailler au développement d'une application web en PHP.

En plus d'obtenir mon diplôme d'études collégiales ce printemps, je demeure motivé et souhaite poursuivre mes études dès l'automne prochain à l'Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, plus précisément au baccalauréat en informatique avec majeure en conception de jeux vidéo. Plus j'avance et plus je sais que je suis exactement où je dois être, c'est-à-dire au bon endroit afin de m'épanouir le plus possible en tant que personne et à faire ce qui me passionne le plus, c'est-à-dire étudier et travailler en informatique.



Stéphanie Gélinas-St-Aubin, Cégep de l'Outaouais

Stéphanie termine actuellement son dernier semestre au Cégep de l'Outaouais dans la technique en informatique de gestion, spécialisation en programmation. C'est une élève studieuse et déterminée qui montre continuellement un intérêt marqué pour les technologies, la linguistique et par-dessus tout, le défi que pose le mariage de ces deux passions.

Dès un jeune âge, Stéphanie s'adonnait à l'apprentissage de langues étrangères ainsi que d'instruments de musique tels que le violon, le piano, la flûte et la guitare acoustique. Par ailleurs, celle-ci se passionnait des systèmes ordonnés en cherchant incessamment à comprendre jusqu'à leurs plus menus détails. Ces champs d'intérêt l'ont amenée, d'une part, à poursuivre des études en micro-informatique au secondaire, d'autre part, à décrocher un diplôme au Cégep de l'Outaouais dans le programme d'arts et lettres, option en langues. À l'Université du Québec en Outaouais, celle-ci a continué son cheminement scolaire dans le baccalauréat en traduction et en rédaction. De cette passion accentuée pour le langage humain est née une curiosité pour le langage informatique et, de fil en aiguille, celle-ci a fait la découverte de sa future profession.



De retour sur les bancs collégiaux, Stéphanie a mis le cap sur la technique en informatique de gestion, spécialisation en programmation du Cégep de l'Outaouais. Armée de son enthousiasme et de ses nombreuses ambitions, celle-ci s'est livrée corps et âme dans l'apprentissage de la programmation logicielle. Ses efforts soutenus ainsi que ses résultats scolaires lui ont valu la bourse d'excellence de la Fondation Desjardins. Durant ses études en informatique, celle-ci a occupé plusieurs emplois en gestion des technologies de l'information ainsi qu'en développement logiciel, et ce, au sein de l'Agence du revenu du Canada tout comme du Sénat du Canada. Aujourd'hui, celle-ci effectue son stage de fin d'études auprès de ce dernier établissement.

Tout au long de sa carrière, Stéphanie espère mettre ses habiletés dans les domaines des lettres et des sciences ordonnées au service de toutes œuvres informatiques touchant l'une, l'autre ou l'ensemble de ses spécialités contrastées.

Patrick Boyer, Heritage College

Patrick is working to complete his degree in Computer Science at CEGEP Heritage College. He is currently in the final year of the program. His interest in the technological field began quite early on when he received his first gaming console at the age of 6. Seeing the wondrous entertainment technology could provide drove him to keep in touch with the ever growing field. He'd go on to take interest in the inner workings of technology by building his own PC and learning how to program with his father in his early teen years. While these programs were very basic, these experiences would boost his creativity and help him grow his strong problem solving skills.



Patrick has completed two co-op work terms over the course of his time at CEGEP Heritage College. One at Employment and Social Development Canada, where he worked as an onsite technician, and one with Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada/Indigenous Services Canada, working as an Application Developer. With his experience at both of these terms, he grew in his knowledge of the industry but also grew his soft skills while working with his clients and team members.

For the future, Patrick hopes to keep having opportunities to grow his knowledge of the Computer Science industry and be able to express his creativity by getting the chance to work on various development projects. He hopes to be able to keep doing what he loves and keep growing with this vast industry. Perhaps one day, even being able to create an application or game of his own, just like the ones that sparked his interest in his young age.

Sylvia Lachance, Heritage College

Sylvia is currently completing her last semester in the Computer Science program at CEGEP Heritage College. She has completed two co-op placements during her time at Heritage, one at Versaterm in a technical support position, and the other at Employment and Social Development Canada as a Developer, where she now works part-time.

She has been very passionate about technology from a young age where she worked together with her father to build her first desktop. Since then, she has always been interested in pursuing an education in information technology. Upon joining the Computer Science program, she immediately knew she had found her place and has consistently been an advocate for the program during showcases, program lunches, and high school visits. She has demonstrated leadership, commitment, and determination throughout the program and is excited for the opportunity to utilize these skills in the field.

Sylvia is extremely thrilled to be graduating but never wants to stop learning. She hopes to improve her current development skills in her work and continue broadening her knowledge of development and information technology. In the future, she hopes to someday pursue a career as a Business Analyst.



Aurèle Lauriano ASSOGBA, La Cité Collégiale

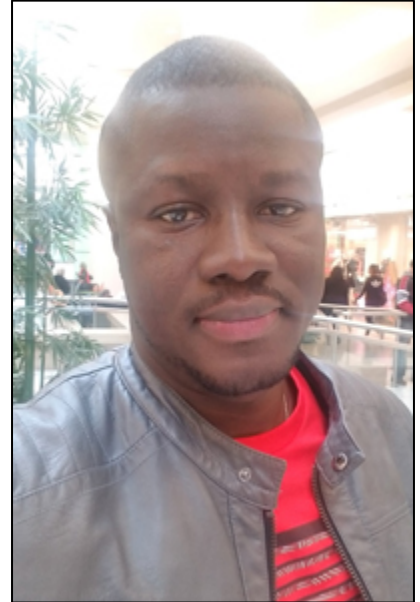
L'informatique joue un rôle important dans la vie socio-économique dans le monde entier. Sans être exhaustif, on peut citer les domaines comme l'enseignement, la médecine, le transport, la communication.

En ce qui me concerne, depuis mon enfance j'avais la passion pour les jouets électroniques ou je trouvais du plaisir à les démonter et remonter pour voir leur composition et les technologies utilisées pour les réaliser. Cette curiosité m'a poussé à faire un Baccalauréat en génie mécanique au cours duquel j'ai eu beaucoup d'intérêt pour l'automatisme et l'informatique dans laquelle j'ai appris le langage C.

Ces matières m'ont tellement émerveillé au point où j'ai voulu en apprendre davantage dans la programmation informatique. Dès mon premier emploi, j'ai eu à réaliser un logiciel de gestion de garage en Microsoft Access pour aider l'entreprise dans laquelle je travaillais à mieux gérer son parc automobile. Pris de passion pour la programmation, je me suis fait inscrire au collège La Cité où j'ai eu de fabuleux enseignants qui de par leur enseignement m'ont fait découvrir ce monde fabuleux....

Tout au long de mon parcours scolaire et professionnel, mon rêve est de mettre mes connaissances, mon savoir-faire au profit des projets innovants pouvant contribuer à un meilleur bien-être de la communauté.

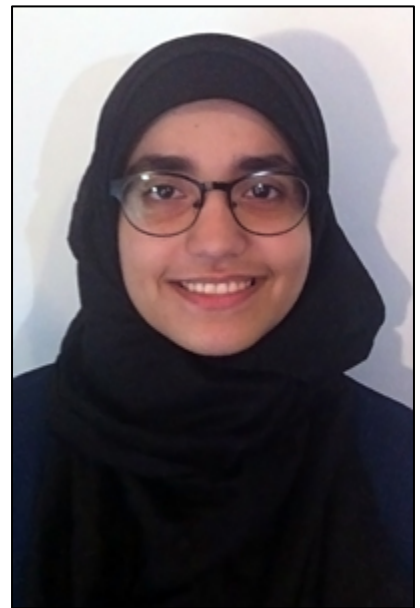
Ainsi, mon ultime objectif est de travailler pour toute entreprise œuvrant dans le développement logiciel et qui facilitent le quotidien des personnes de par leur créativité.



Sara Al Showely, La Cité Collégiale

J'ai développé ma passion pour l'informatique par mon intérêt à la robotique ainsi que la technologie d'interfaces neuronales directes, ce qui m'a poussé à entreprendre des études en TGI à la Cité Collégiale. J'ai pu explorer différents domaines tels que la sécurité informatique et les systèmes embarqués qui ont également élargi mes champs d'intérêts. Durant mes années au collège, j'ai eu l'occasion d'accomplir un stage où j'ai contribué au développement d'un prototype de produit pour NuWhirl.

Mes aspirations pour ma carrière seraient de continuer mes études au niveau universitaire, puis d'entrer dans le domaine de la recherche de développement de nouvelles technologies.



Diane Vu, University of Ottawa

Diane recently completed her fourth and final year in computer science at the University of Ottawa. She had a cumulative GPA of 8.73 and made the Dean's Honour List in both 2017 and 2018. After two years in psychology, she realized that the career path she wanted to pursue was not in research, but in something more hands-on. Recalling how her coding classes during high school were fun and challenging, she decided to make the switch into a career she had never imagined herself in, the male-dominated field of computer science. After five years of improved grades and four CO-OP placements, she is grateful that she has been able to find the program that was right for her.

The four CO-OP placements Diane matched with gave her experience with a broad-range of work. In her first position, as a software developer for Global Affairs Canada, she learned to tackle issues in products that people relied on. Her second position was with IBM, where she was tasked with solving endless client problems as a technical support analyst. In her third position, as a junior software test engineer for Solace, she produced work that internal teams continued to use following her departure. Her final position was with ProntoForms, where she implemented web designs as a front-end developer.

All her work experiences have led her to discover that she really enjoys front-end software development. She has always been an artist at heart and front-end development is the perfect blend of her two biggest interests, design and coding. She is currently job hunting and looking forward to beginning her career in a development position!



Wendy Gaultier, University of Ottawa

Wendy Gaultier recently finished her last term in software engineering at the University of Ottawa. When she was younger, she didn't know exactly what she wanted to do. Since she had always loved mathematics and problem solving, she decided to try out computer science at the Cégep de l'Outaouais. She really liked it, but the final project gave her an interest in project management. She loved being part of a team, from finding the client to creating and proposing customized solutions. She had found something she could do long term, but she wanted more. So, after graduating, she decided to continue her studies at the University of Ottawa. Her experience was highly rewarding, especially with the CO-OP program, which offers students hands-on experience while they pursue their studies. Through CO-OP, she gained much experience in both the private and public sector, even being fortunate enough to complete her last CO-OP term in Montreal. Her placements allowed her to develop a wide range of skills and an even wider variety of experience, work-related and otherwise.

Wendy has always pushed herself to give her best and perfect her skills, and this has allowed her to enjoy the rewards of her work. It's something she's always done, trying to analyze what went wrong but also what was good. Through her work, she went from fixing bugs during her first internship to being in charge of the design, development and deployment of a standalone application during her last one.

Wendy will start working in the public sector soon, and looks forward to rising to a position where she can lead and make project management decisions using her skills — perseverance, teamwork, ingenuity and devotion — and all the new experiences she has!

