

# RECEIVING A SECOND CHANCE

## GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE OFFERING ASSISTANT COOK EXTENDED TRAINING COURSE

Is an addiction or mental health problem holding you back from a career in the food service industry?

The GBC Assistant Cook Extended Training Course (ACET) is a free program that combines classroom study and work experience while providing recovery support to students. The program is a part of the School of Work and College Preparation at George Brown, and partners with the Centre for Hospitality and Tourism to deliver the training.

The goal of the program is to help people recovering

from addiction and mental health problems take the first steps towards a job in Toronto's food service industry. This program is free for participants, with costs covered by the Ontario government.

The Assistant Cook Extended Training

### PROGRAM DETAILS

The program includes class and kitchen lab time at approximately 15 to 20 hours per week with 150 hours of work placement in addition to support and tutoring.

Successful participants will be qualified for entry-level food preparation jobs within the following areas: Commercial food service; cafeterias; fast food outlets; restaurants; and catering operations.

program is one of two Augmented Education programs currently offered at George Brown College. Augmented Education is a new training and employment support model developed by George Brown and the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

Chef Ryan Burpee is an instructor in the ACET course

talks about the success of the program. "It's all about the willingness to learn. If the student is coming in and willing to learn and accepting the constructive criticism that they're getting, and they develop that into skills, that's what it's all about."

Some individuals with a history of mental health issues or addiction may consider work to be part of their recovery process.

"We're trying to give them a break, give them a step up, a little helping hand back up, to be able to stand on their

own and maybe move forward in a positive kind of way," says Tony Priolo, Augmented Education program manager.

The course provides the same standards used in George Brown's mainstream chefs' school. "When they cook recipes for us, they're the same recipes that the mainstream students cook, but we only do two dishes in one lab session, that's how we modify the program," says Priolo.



GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE PHOTO

A photograph of a man in a patterned cardigan over a white t-shirt, holding a laptop. He is standing in front of a light blue background with a grid pattern. The text "one year to a great career" is overlaid on the image in large, bold, blue letters.

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