

**“BE CAREER READY IN 3-12 MONTHS!”**

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## Do you want a Career that will take you places?

**I** absolutely love to travel and have seen and experienced things that I believe everyone should have the chance to do.” These are the words spoken by Angeline Patenaude, a recent graduate of the Travel Counsellor Program at Robertson College. If you are interested in a career that will take you places, a career as a Travel Counsellor may be right for you.

Angeline is currently employed with River East Travel & Cruise Center as a Travel Counsellor, a position she accepted shortly after completion of her program. Owner of River East Travel & Cruise Center, Phil Houde, who is also the Regional Chairperson for the Association of Canadian Travel Agencies commented, “There is a recognized shortage of qualified and skilled agents coming into our industry not just in Manitoba but right across Canada.” Phil added, “Not only do we need new entrants but we also need these individuals to have the right skills and aptitude for our industry. This will make them successful in the long term and want to stay within the industry.”

With all the travel experience that Angeline had, she needed to find a career that fit her passion. “I chose the Travel Counsellor position as my career to help others obtain their goals and live their dreams of seeing the world.” With her career goals in mind, she had to find the right program for her. Angeline first graduated from another institution a few years back with a diploma in tourism and traveled the world for first hand experience. It was one day that Angeline fluked into the next step of her career training. “I was helping my sister look into University/College options and was looking up Administrative Assistant programs when Robertson College popped up on my screen. I saw the “Travel Counselor Program” and came [to the college] the next day.”



One of the components of the Travel Counsellor program that Robertson College offers is a one-week Familiarization (FAM) trip. For many students this trip is one of the highlights, however for Angeline it was fine-tuning the skills that she had acquired from her previous studies.

Beginning her new career as a Travel Counsellor, Angeline practices the skills that she learned in her nine months at Robertson College. Some of the skills she uses daily are conducting online research, contacting tour operators, attending Trade Shows and Seminars, as well continuous learning. Angeline commented that continuous learning is her favorite part of the job, but that will soon

change as she starts to take on clients.

When asked if she would recommend people to a career as a Travel Counsellor, Angeline responded, “I would definitely recommend this career to others but would equally recommend a bit of travel beforehand, besides it is fun to do so! As for characteristics sales skills, customer service, research skills, ATTENTION TO DETAIL and adaptability are essential to any Travel Counsellor.”

The next Travel Counsellor program at Robertson College begins November 17, 2008. To learn more about this exciting career please call (204) 943-5661, email [Info@RobertsonCollege.com](mailto:Info@RobertsonCollege.com) or visit [www.RobertsonCollege.com](http://www.RobertsonCollege.com)

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