



# Step Up and Succeed In the Skilled Trades

## Working With Apprentices? We're Here to Support You!

**Welcome Back to the latest edition of *Step Up and Succeed In the Skilled Trades*!**

In this edition, we

- Feature insights from an interview with Courtney Davis of the YWCA of St. Thomas-Aylmer Skills Training and Upgrading program
- Share the great experience we had at Cannexus26
- Interview Melanie Winter, executive director of Support Ontario Youth (SOY), and take a deep dive into how SOY is transforming apprenticeship in Ontario
- Highlight the "Where to Find Mentors Outside Your Business" resource

We are excited to share these stories with you and hope you enjoy reading them.

**If you know of a skilled trades business, apprentice, or LBS success story that you think deserves to be featured in an upcoming issue, contact us at [literacylink@llsc.on.ca](mailto:literacylink@llsc.on.ca).**

## Courtney Davis: Get SET is a Key Entry Point to Apprenticeship



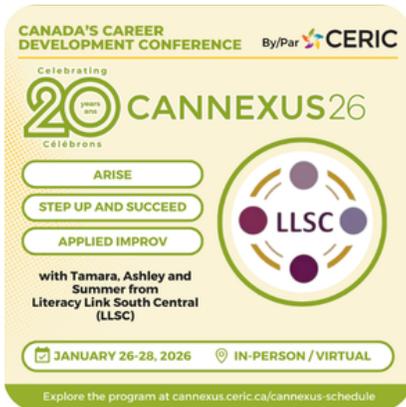
**For many adult learners, the path towards becoming an apprentice is often gradual rather than immediate.**

When learners enter Get SET classrooms, they are often thinking of work and how to find a job. But this does not include the career pathway of an apprenticeship. This isn't because apprenticeship isn't a terrific option; it's because many learners cannot yet see themselves as apprentices. There are many reasons for this.

Apprenticeship is not only about employment; it means becoming a skilled trades professional. For someone with limited schooling or little professional experience, it can be challenging to see themselves on this path.

**[Read the full article.](#)**

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## What We've Been Up To Cannexus26: Canada's Career Development Conference

We were thrilled to showcase LLSC's ARISE and Step Up and Succeed projects at Cannexus - Canada's largest bilingual conference focused on career and workforce development.

[READ MORE](#)



## Building Pathways, Partnerships, and Possibilities

### Melanie Winter Tells How Support Ontario Youth Is Transforming Apprenticeship in Ontario

In a market hungry for skilled workers, Support Ontario Youth (SOY) is modernizing and supporting Ontario's apprenticeship pathway. **Led by Executive Director Melanie Winter, SOY is redefining what it means to guide young people and adults into the skilled trades.**

[READ MORE](#)



## Upcoming Events

### Skills Ontario presents its International Women's Day Celebration and Networking Event

#### COMING SOON:

March 5th,  
at the Frank Hasenfratz Centre for Excellence in Manufacturing.

[READ MORE](#)

## Recommended Resource: Where to Find Mentors Outside of Your Business

This document outlines the benefits of mentorship (with skill development, overcoming challenges, networking opportunities, and increasing motivation) and the importance of mentorship in retaining apprentices and supporting their career development.

[More info and full resource here.](#)

### Where to Find Mentors Outside of Your Business

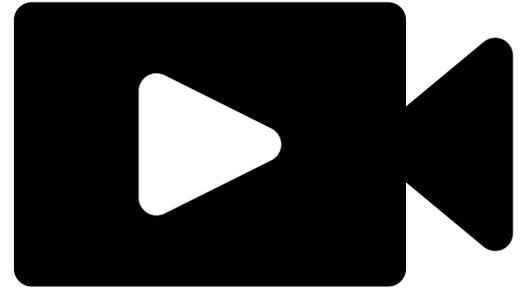
- ✓ Mentorship can help you retain your apprentices.
- ✓ 92% said they learned something from their mentor they wouldn't have been able to learn otherwise <sup>1</sup>
- ✓ 83% of apprentices report that they would leave a job if their employer didn't provide a mentor to support their learning. <sup>2</sup>

# Step Up and Succeed in the Skilled Trades

## Video Spotlight

Join us for our video series designed to help your employees Step Up and Succeed in the skilled trades! This month we feature our Employer training video: "Retaining Your Talent"

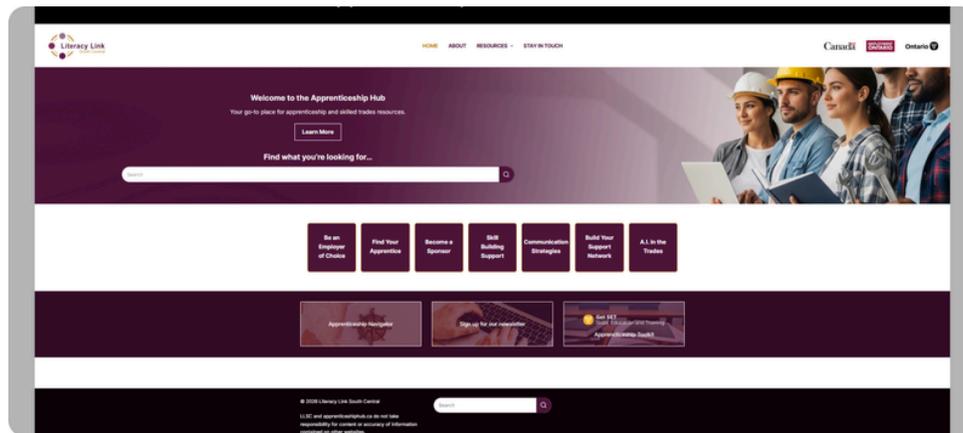
[Click here to view the video](#)



## More Resources to Help You Get Ahead with ApprenticeshipHub.ca!

Want to dig even deeper into the tools and strategies the apprenticeship hub has to offer? Access ApprenticeshipHub.ca today! Get the tools designed to help you stay productive, train and retain your workforce, and become an employer of choice!

[Browse now](#)



**We hope you enjoyed this issue of the Step Up and Succeed in the Skilled Trades Newsletter!  
We look forward to seeing you again with the next issue coming out in March 2026!**

Do you know somebody who you think would benefit from receiving our newsletter?  
**Have them visit our [signup form](#) to register today!**

**Tell us your story! We would love to hear from you. What resource did you use or find most helpful?  
Email us at [literacylink@llsc.on.ca](mailto:literacylink@llsc.on.ca)  
Your quote may be featured in a future issue!**

