



MARITIME PROVINCES HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION – Do universities meet students' expectations for education?

March 27, 2017

Fredericton (NB) — The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) released today an infographic comparing the expectations of university-bound grade 12 students with the experiences of university graduates. The information comes from the Commission's 2014 survey of Maritime grade 12 students and its two-year-out survey of Class of 2012 university graduates.

Nine-in-ten grade 12 students said they expected that their planned university education would develop their knowledge, prepare them for further studies, help them find a path for their life and grow as a person. Similar proportions of university graduates said their education had delivered on these aspects at least to some extent. "For these important components of a university education, institutions in our region are largely delivering on students' expectations", said Jean-François Richard, Commission Chair.

Approximately two-thirds of university graduates think that their degree developed job skills and prepared them for the workforce at least to some extent. Among university-bound grade 12 students, even higher numbers (88 per cent or more) said they expected their future degree to provide these advantages. 92 per cent of grade 12 students expected to get a chance to earn a good income with their degree, compared to 61 per cent of university graduates who agreed their education provided this to at least some extent.

"As we've seen in our earlier studies, within two years after graduation, the majority of graduates are still very much in the midst of their transition to the workforce. Many have moved on to further studies, for example to a graduate or professional degree," said Richard. "Once these graduates have made their transition to the labour market, then their experiences may align more closely with the workforce-related expectations of high school students." Richard concluded.

The infographic can be found on the Commission's website: www.mphec.ca

The MPHEC was established in 1974. The MPHEC is an arm's length organization accountable to the ministers responsible for postsecondary education in the Maritimes. The Commission comprises 20 members representing universities, the public-at-large (including students), and the three Maritime governments. The Commission's primary orientation in carrying out its duties is to give first consideration to improving and maintaining the best possible service to students as lifelong learners.

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