

DHRUV PATEL



Dhruv Patel has had a passion for technology for as long as he can remember. In grade 9, he was part of a team that represented Fort McMurray at the Robotics World Championships. Soon after that, he joined the high school robotics club.

"During that time, I always wondered – what would it be like in a workplace environment? I understood the tech industry from a project and high school competition standpoint, but is that really what the tech industry was like outside?"

There was really no way for Dhruv to find answers to these questions until he discovered the CAREERS ICT Academy, funded by the Rebuilding Fort McMurray program.

"I immediately decided I wanted to do this – learn more programming for two weeks followed by a 100-hour internship at an actual company that was applying technology. How could I say no?"

During the Academy, Dhruv learned new skills in web development. His internship at Aluma Systems, gave him hands-on experience in data science, one of the top emerging fields in the world.

"To think, a 17-year old got to do production level data science is a mind boggling concept in the tech industry today."

The CAREERS ICT Academy gave Dhruv the experience and mentorship he needed to know he was pursuing the right path. In grade 12, he built the first version of the Fort McMurray real-time bus tracking app, a driver fatigue detection system and an enhanced athletic arm sleeve to reduce injury. He also started his own not-for-profit organization to teach technology to other students.

"Before CAREERS, I wouldn't have been able to do any of this. After that summer, I had the most amazing senior year, winning at the national science fair, having a true impact on my community, and getting my entire undergraduate education funded."

In 2018, Dhruv was awarded the prestigious Loran Scholarship - \$100,000.00 to attend any Canadian University. He is currently studying mechatronics engineering at the University of Waterloo. Alongside school, he is building a business to help teachers collect real-time feedback on student cognitive load.

"The role CAREERS played in my life has been truly defining. There are experiences we think are cool in the moment, and then there are those experiences you remember for the rest of your life because they're so incredibly impactful. For me, CAREERS was the latter."

