

Alysha Westwood, Aircraft Maintenance Engineer, Skyservice Business Aviation Services



When Alysha Westwood graduated from Mayfield Secondary School in June 2008, she wasn't sure what she wanted to do with her life. As she scanned the internet in search of skilled trade opportunities, aircraft maintenance engineer caught her attention. "I've always loved planes and I'm a hands-on person; this seemed like a perfect fit."

Alysha decided to return to Mayfield as a co-op student in September, and was able to land a co-operative education placement with Skyservice Business Aviation Services at Pearson International Airport in Toronto.

From the beginning, Alysha found the work servicing private corporate jets much to her liking. Tasks ranging from servicing special nickel-cadmium batteries to observing challenging repair work and troubleshooting to completing routine service orders have all been completed with interest and enthusiasm.

Al Nault, the Aviation Supervisor at Skyservice, has been delighted with Alysha's work. "She's a hard worker and she's very reliable," he said, "Her drive and her positive attitude have helped her learn quickly and fit in well with our service team here. Our company is happy to have her."

Alysha has registered as an apprentice with the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities under the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP). She plans to continue the apprenticeship after her placement at Skyservice ends, including in-school learning at either Centennial College or Canadore College.

Al makes the case that success in aircraft maintenance requires a passion for planes, a mechanical aptitude, and a strong work ethic. It's easy to see how Alysha Westwood demonstrates these three attributes and how she will be able to use them as a springboard to a satisfying and successful career.