



STUDENT SUCCESS STORY Kelly: A New Direction...

The skills you learn in a virtual enterprise (VE) are designed to better position a student to enter the workforce, or perhaps, to help them to change career direction. Through running a business (though it may be virtual) the students learn about the many aspects involved, such as managing budgets, developing sales techniques and working in administration; this then allows them to gain a clear understanding of how a business runs.

Kelly had worked in the cleaning industry for twenty years, and decided to educate herself through the virtual enterprise program. Through the VE, Kelly was able to gain the experience and confidence necessary for job placement. Virtual Enterprise Australia (VEA)'s national office employed her for casual data entry and since then she has become VEA's national office administrator. She had so many of the necessary roles within her job description covered as she had already learnt and practised them in the VE!

Name: Kelly Gerard
Current Job Role: Administrator, VEA
Course: Certificate II, III and IV in Business Administration (completed 2011)
Virtual Enterprise: Xerox VE, Victoria University



Why was working in the VE beneficial to your career?

It gave me hands on experience and knowledge of what was needed in a job. It is one thing to learn about a job, but another to actually do the job!

What were the most useful business skills you gained?

Understanding of how a business is structured and appreciating team member's abilities and strengths. I was also able to participate in different departments within the business.

What was the no. 1 experience that made a difference for you when you joined the workforce?

Confidence in knowing I have the skills required to do the job, because I have actually done it!!! I had been working in cleaning for many years, by working in the VE I gained the confidence and experience necessary to enter into the field of office administration.

How do you feel your time in the VE prepared you for the workplace?

When you start a job, there are so many things to learn and remember. Because of how I learnt to time manage and prepare, this made the transition to a job less overwhelming.

Is there anything else you would like to say about this program?

It is a fun and exciting way to learn. The support I received from both facilitators and VEA staff was outstanding. It re-ignited my passion for learning and gave me confidence to attend interviews and enter the workforce on an entirely new career path.