

April 29, 2009

## NorQuest College aims to be recognized leader in diverse, intercultural workplace solutions

### Edmonton's community college launches Centre for Excellence in Intercultural Education

EDMONTON – NorQuest College officially launched its Centre for Excellence in Intercultural Education on Wednesday, April 29. The Centre is dedicated to involving and transforming businesses and community organizations through customized, innovative and practical intercultural training grounded in applied research. This exciting initiative is part of the College's commitment to develop intercultural and communication competence in Canada.

"Living and working in a multicultural society requires special communication skills that take into account cultural differences," says NorQuest College President and CEO, Dr. Wayne Shillington. "Businesses are realizing that NorQuest is a leader in English language training and intercultural education and more employers are choosing to work closely with us to create practical workplace solutions."

"Our partnership with NorQuest is enhancing the success and retention of our employees from non English speaking countries," says Cindy St. George, WorleyParsons Group of Companies. "It is improving their effectiveness, confidence and integration into Canadian culture on the job and in the community."

The Centre specializes in a broad range of language and cultural training services:

- Training and professional development through customized courses, on-site workshops and RBC Speakers Series presentations.
- Coaching on intercultural and workplace integration solutions
- Integrating intercultural and language instruction into educational programs
- Consulting with private, public and non-profit organizations on cultural and intercultural diversity issues
- Developing solutions through applied research

As part of today's launch, the Centre's Speakers Series presenting sponsor, RBC, proudly presented guest speaker Patti Digh, author of Global Literacies: Lessons on Business Leadership and National Cultures, named a "Best Business Book for 2000" by Fortune Magazine.

The Centre for Excellence in Intercultural Education aims to be recognized regionally and nationally as a leader in integrated intercultural education. The Centre is one of five new centres for excellence at NorQuest College which include Print Media, Education for Continuing Care, Learner Supports, and Aboriginal Learning.

NorQuest College serves about 10,000 students each year through full-time, part-time and regional programs in communities across Alberta. In addition to health care, allied health, human services, business and industry career programs, NorQuest offers expertise in adult literacy, English as a Second Language, intercultural education, Aboriginal education, academic upgrading, and learner supports for students with disabilities. For more information, visit [www.norquest.ca](http://www.norquest.ca).

-30-

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