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NorQuest president and CEO vows to take Alberta's largest community college to the next level

EDMONTON – Dr. Jodi L. Abbott was officially sworn in today as President and CEO of NorQuest College in Edmonton. Surrounded by more than 250 supporters representing students, staff and faculty, and community leaders from government, business and industry, Dr. Abbott expressed her desire to lead the College as it grows, diversifies and expands into communities throughout the Edmonton region.

“Imagine a community college that is based in Edmonton but has earned the respect and reputation as being the best in Canada,” said Abbott. “A college that inspires learning, empowers students, transforms the way people access education, and is the first phone call for business owners seeking highly skilled graduates and practical, workplace-specific solutions. This is what I imagine when I think of all the possibilities that exist for NorQuest College.”

Abbott said while NorQuest is committed to maintaining its high reputation for quality foundational programming such as employment readiness and English language studies, it has a keen eye on expanding its post-secondary offerings and further developing applied research.

“We will offer more two-year diploma and certificate programs, and eventually applied degrees in the faculties of health sciences, and business and community studies,” said Abbott. “We are also working with communities across our region to determine their post-secondary educational needs to ensure the right programs are reaching those communities.”

About NorQuest College

NorQuest College is the Edmonton region's community college and the largest community college in Alberta. NorQuest serves 11,000 learners each year at campuses in Edmonton, Wetaskiwin and Stony Plain, at seven community learning sites and online in more than 200 Canadian communities. NorQuest offers diplomas and certificates in health, human services, business and industry career programs. The College has expertise in adult literacy, academic upgrading, ESL, Aboriginal education, and learner supports for students with disabilities. NorQuest is the regional steward for the Edmonton region – encompassing an area from Camrose to Jasper and Drayton Valley to Whitecourt – ensuring access to post-secondary education. For more information, visit www.norquest.ca.

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