

Community Report

Imagine the NorQuest of the future

Dr. Jodi L. Abbott shares her vision during official installation ceremony

Imagine...

"A community college based in Edmonton that has earned the respect and reputation of being the best in Canada.

"A community college that inspires adult learners of all ages to learn new skills, empowers them to become valuable contributors to our community and economy, and instills within them a passion and enthusiasm for life-long learning.

"A community college that is the first phone call for business and industry leaders seeking practical, workplace-specific solutions for today's economic challenges.

"A community college that employs the most skilled faculty and staff ensuring the college remains relevant through the eyes of its learners and its partners.

"A community college where a business leader can grab a quick bite, and where a mother can take a break between classes to spend time with her child at the campus daycare."

This is what President and CEO Dr. Jodi L. Abbott imagines when she thinks of all the possibilities that exist at NorQuest College. On September 7, Jodi invited an audience of business leaders, government leaders, students, employees and other College supporters to imagine right along with her.

NorQuest College Board of Governors' Chair Wendy Kinsella presented Jodi with a beautiful silk scarf designed by renowned local artist Irene Klar before Jodi took the official NorQuest



Loyalty Oath and spoke about her dreams for the College's future.

"When I look at the NorQuest of the future, I imagine an amazing transformation," said Jodi. "Programs that allow students to achieve and fulfill their dreams. A college that transforms the way people access education.

Technology that reaches learners wherever they are while leveraging the expertise of skilled instructors and staff. A college that transforms regional communities, ensuring that these communities remain viable to the people who live, work and learn in them. Together, we will create that college."

The Strengths Perspective

NorQuest Social Work grads apply classroom knowledge to real-world situations

The powerful combination of a NorQuest education and practical, real-world work experience has given Ashley Reimer a whole new perspective.

"I definitely look at things in a more positive way," says Reimer, one of this year's first graduates of NorQuest's newest two-year diploma program, Social Work with a Multicultural Focus. "One of the best skills the program taught me is the 'strengths perspective,' which encourages us to focus on a client's positive attributes and their potential rather than their shortcomings.

"Everybody faces hardships and we all have problems, but my clients also have talents and dreams to do great things. I try hard to apply that

way of thinking at work every day," says Reimer, a care worker at Elizabeth House in North Edmonton that serves as a transition shelter for women.

Reimer admits the best part of her job is sharing in her clients' success.

"The program challenged me to question how culture and environment affect all of us, and the many ways we accept or refuse assistance during times of struggle," adds Reimer. "My instructors really believe in the social work principles and I've adopted that positive thinking to my work."

Fellow grad Roman G. Mariam brings a different, but equally important, perspective to her role as a health broker with Multicultural Health Brokers in Edmonton. Having emigrated from

Ethiopia in 1994, G. Mariam now works closely with other families new to Canada, serving as their direct link to mainstream agencies.

"My goal is to help new immigrants and at the same time, excel in the profession so that I can be of greater value to my clients," says G. Mariam. "By providing parenting support, health education and other vital services to parents with small children and special needs children, I hope they benefit from my experience to realize how lucky they are to have resources and support available to them."

Reimer and G. Mariam have their sights set on a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Calgary.



Preparing Health Care Aides for employment

The provincial curriculum for NorQuest's Health Care Aide (HCA) Certificate program got a refresher this year.

Alberta Health Services has identified the first four courses as Preparation for Employment, with criteria set by the Alberta Health Services Health Care Aide Skills Initiative Project. As of January 1, 2011, all new hires in Alberta's continuing care sector without a recognized HCA certificate must complete these four courses in order to work directly with clients.

NorQuest, a national leader in Health Care Aide education with the largest HCA program in Canada, has made these courses available to students this fall. Once complete, students are eligible to apply for HCA positions with the expectation that they will complete the final five courses and practicum through NorQuest's distance delivery or workplace delivery offerings. All new staff must complete the HCA Certificate within 18 months of being hired.

Working with communities to improve access to post-secondary education

Post-secondary education is a vital part of community development. It provides adult learners with access to knowledge, the latest skills and technology that lead to today's in-demand careers, and the opportunity to contribute to the growth and sustainability of their community. The question is, how to access advanced education without having to leave home.

NorQuest College is working with communities to enhance access to post-secondary learning opportunities throughout the Edmonton region.

"We're partnering with community agencies to support existing literacy, foundational and employment programming," says Bryan Shepherd, dean, Student Services and Regional

Stewardship, adding NorQuest is working with community partners to establish more than a dozen Community Adult Education Councils.

"The community councils will collect information and recommendations from the community to analyze and prioritize community learning needs and trends," says Shepherd. "Council members will then make recommendations to the community and identify resources to support local educational initiatives."

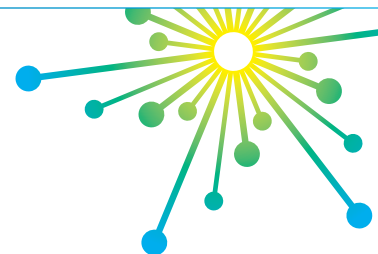
New directions for Alberta's advanced education and community adult learning systems were introduced in 2007. Under the Campus Alberta philosophy, the system encourages collaboration among institutions and stakeholders to meet the needs of students, communities and the overall social

and economic needs of Alberta. In 2009, the Government of Alberta designated NorQuest as the regional steward for a region that encompasses 30 major communities in a 61,760 km² area with 1.3 million people.

The provincial government has since transitioned two former consortia in the stewardship region – the Yellowhead Region Educational Consortium and the Pembina Educational Consortium – into the College. The learning sites have been renamed to reflect the collaborative spirit of Campus Alberta, the community and the College, e.g., 'Campus Alberta-Jasper, hosted by NorQuest College.'

Shepherd says the goal is clear. "To strengthen regional partnerships, enhance collaboration and improve learner pathways."

Pembina Educational Consortium and Yellowhead Region Educational Consortium are now



Campus Alberta hosted by NorQuest College

YOUR LINK TO ADULT EDUCATION AND POST-SECONDARY PROGRAMS IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

Campus Alberta – Camrose

4250 Exhibition Drive
PH: 780-672-7282

Campus Alberta – Drayton Valley

5056 - 50 Avenue
PH: 780-542-5400

Campus Alberta – Edson

200, 111 - 54 Street
PH: 780-723-5206

Campus Alberta – Hinton

247 Pembina Avenue
PH: 780-865-7666

Campus Alberta – Jasper

631 Patricia Street
Provincial Building
PH: 780-852-2101

Campus Alberta – Westlock

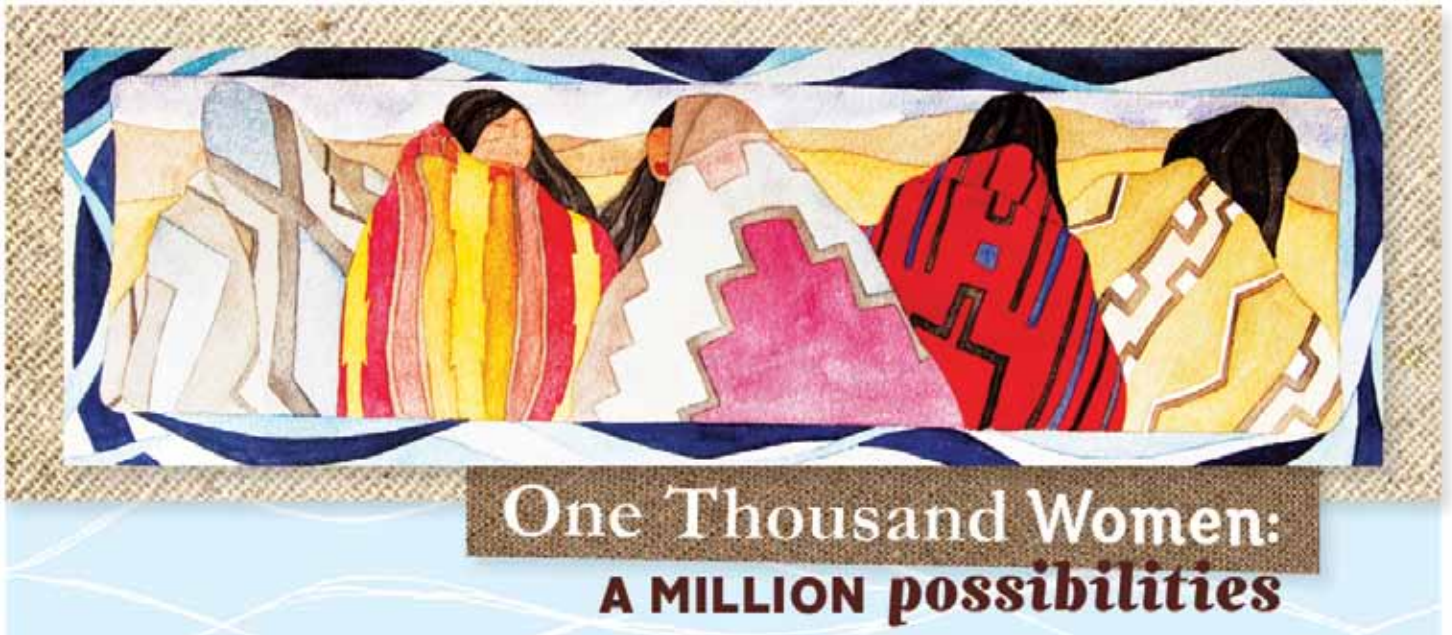
#2, 10007 - 100 Avenue
PH: 780-349-7775

Campus Alberta - Whitecourt

4739 - 50 Avenue
PH: 780-778-2000



Find out more at
www.campusalberta.norquest.ca



Women building a million possibilities

When a thousand women come together, anything is possible.

“Over the next three years, we are inviting women in our community to do something inspiring and groundbreaking,” says NorQuest College Foundation Executive Director Karen Faulkner. “There is an essential need to build an endowment that will always be available to support the unexpected circumstances that can severely disrupt a student’s progress toward achieving his or her goals. Last year alone, hundreds of students applied for financial assistance through our Student Emergency Fund.”

NorQuest launched its One Thousand Women: a Million Possibilities campaign in June, which has grown into a network of women in the community who are helping adult learners in extreme need. The goal is to raise \$1 million over the next three years to create the Million Possibilities Endowment Fund to support NorQuest students who experience

extraordinary emergency needs.

In recent months, women have pledged support by making financial commitments, hosting parties, donating proceeds of sales, coordinating fundraisers and by reaching out to an ever-expanding network of women in their community through service clubs and professional associations.

“By committing less than \$1 per day over three years, anyone can become a founding woman of this inspiring movement,” says Faulkner. “Students at NorQuest want the promising future that comes with education. The Million Possibilities Fund will be a legacy of the One Thousand Women project by helping students realize limitless possibilities.”

For more information, or to get involved, contact Janice.Moore@norquest.ca or phone 780-644-5923.



Farewell Jaye

Vice-President Academic Jaye Fredrickson with deans and executive staff on her last day with the College. Fredrickson joined NorQuest in 2001 as a substitute teacher in English Language Training Intensive, bringing with her a passion that was instrumental in shaping the College into the relevant, life-altering institution it is today.

“I leave with a sense of having helped the college take on a bigger role in the community, and I look forward to seeing that role continue to build,” said Fredrickson.

Norma Schneider, former dean of Business and Community Studies, is Acting Vice-President Academic.

(l to r) BACK ROW: Dean of Health Sciences Jason Dunne, Executive Assistant to the Vice-President Academic Llyn Madsen, Dean of Learning Resource Services Elaine Soetaert, Dean of Student Services and Regional Stewardship Bryan Shepherd, Dean of Business and Community Studies Norma Schneider
MIDDLE ROW: Associate Vice-President Enrolment Management Karen Bennett, Vice-President Academic Jaye Fredrickson
FRONT ROW: Dean of Academic Studies and Career Preparation Marilyn Shannon, Dean of English Language and Intercultural Education Anna DeLuca, Manager of Academic Administration Nicole Van Kuppeveld

College supporters hit the links

More than 100 golfers teed-up for the 7th Annual Gary Mar Charity Golf Classic on September 2 in support of NorQuest College. Friends of the College helped raise \$150,440 for continuing care education at NorQuest. The donations will be used to expand the College's Interdisciplinary Simulation Centre to include home and senior care settings.

(l to r) Faculty of Health Sciences' Deborah Loewen, Lynne Neis, Dawn Ansell, Kim Campbell and Jason Dunne take extra special care of Stan at the 7th Annual Gary Mar Charity Golf Classic



Keeping campuses safe

NorQuest partnered with Grant MacEwan University, NAIT and the University of Alberta to present the Civil Campus Conference on October 28. The theme of this year's conference, held at NAIT was Theories and Strategies for Promoting Safe Classroom and Campus Environments.

"Started by NorQuest College in 2007, the conference is a terrific example of a community-minded partnership among Edmonton's post-secondary institutions. This year's conference explored the factors that influence today's students. We examined how to create safe and respectful learning environments for students from diverse backgrounds and cultures," explains coordinator Sheilagh McBride.

The conference featured:

DR. GORDON NEUFELD, a Vancouver-based developmental psychologist who consults with parents and professionals regarding

children and their problems. Dr. Neufeld brought his unique synthesis of developmental literature and ability to make young people understandable. He has a widespread reputation for being able to make sense of complex problems and for opening doors for change. His style was dynamic, his approach refreshing and his effect was to affirm intuition.

www.gordonneufeld.com

and

J. KEVIN CAMERON led the crisis response team following the 1999 school shooting in Taber and was subsequently seconded by the Alberta Government to the Taber Response Project where he spent 13 months consulting with U.S. sites that experienced school shootings as part of his study of traumatic aftermath including student threat-related behaviour.



CivilCampus 2010

Attaining and Sustaining a Safe Campus Through Respect & Pride

Community leaders join NorQuest Board of Governors

This summer, Advanced Education and Technology Minister Honourable Doug Horner appointed new public members to the Board of Governors for NorQuest College. They are:



LESLIE (LEE) AHLSTROM — Lee had a distinguished career in the Canadian military before pursuing a successful career in law, eventually starting his own law practice, Ahlstrom Wright Oliver & Cooper LLP in Sherwood Park. Appointed Queen's Counsel in 1991, Lee continued to serve with the Canadian Armed Forces Reserves and retired as Lieutenant Colonel after commanding the Loyal Edmonton Regiment.

Lee has been a member of numerous community organizations including the Sherwood Park Kiwanis Club, St. John Ambulance and is a past president and director of the Sherwood Park & District Chamber of Commerce.



BOB BOWHAY — Bob had a very successful career as an engineer with Colt Engineering Ltd. (now Worley Parsons) from where he retired as partner and board member. Of note, he was the general manager at four of Colt's six offices, including CoSyn Technology in Edmonton, a longtime corporate partner of NorQuest College in developing new workplace programs for integrating newcomers to Canada.

A strong believer in the importance of giving back to the community, Bob serves on the cabinet of the United Way of the Alberta Capital Region, the Fund Development Committee for the Centre for Family Literacy, and the Devonian Botanic Gardens Strategic Advisory Committee.



CYNTHIA HANSEN — is vice-president finance for Enbridge Pipelines Inc. Cynthia began her financial career at PricewaterhouseCoopers where she completed a two-year secondment with the RCMP as a forensic accountant.

Cynthia has served as treasurer and as a general board member for a variety of charitable and business organizations including Edmonton World Cup Triathlon, Heads Up Fraud Prevention Association, the Edmonton Better Business Bureau, Western Canada Spill Services, the Edmonton Chapter of the Certified Fraud Examiners Association, and Imagination Market Association.

"We are excited to have these four passionate and highly qualified community leaders join the NorQuest College Board of Governors," said Board of Governors' Chair Wendy Kinsella. "They join the Board at a time when the College is embracing its new role as the Edmonton and region's

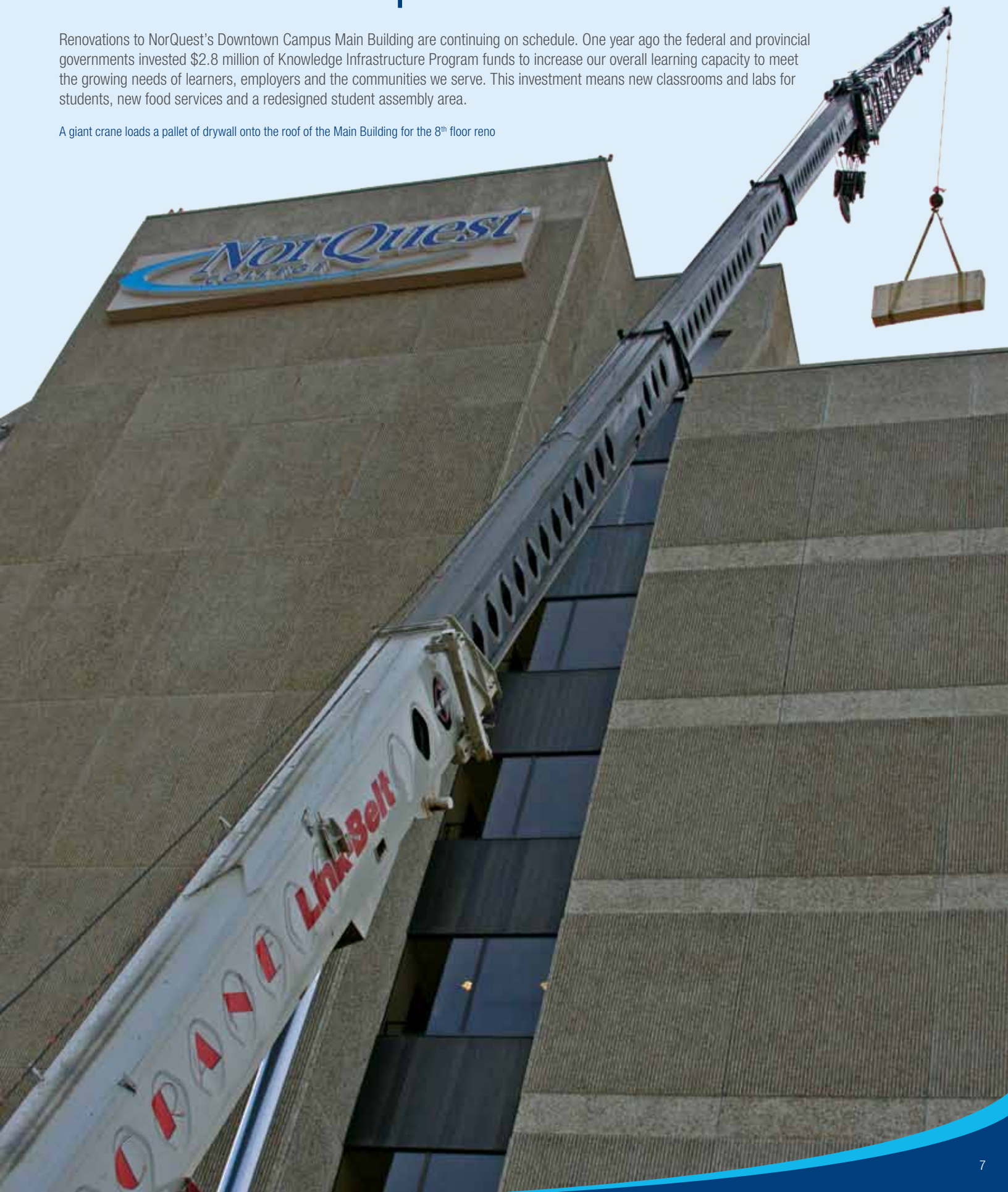
community college and is planning a major campus redevelopment in downtown Edmonton to meet the growing demand for our programs."

These new appointments mark the end of the terms for retired public members Steven LePoole, Ross Undershute and Gail Stepanik-Keber.

Onward and upward

Renovations to NorQuest's Downtown Campus Main Building are continuing on schedule. One year ago the federal and provincial governments invested \$2.8 million of Knowledge Infrastructure Program funds to increase our overall learning capacity to meet the growing needs of learners, employers and the communities we serve. This investment means new classrooms and labs for students, new food services and a redesigned student assembly area.

A giant crane loads a pallet of drywall onto the roof of the Main Building for the 8th floor reno



NorQuest Print Media Centre attracts international speaker



Heidelberg's Martina-Maria Brand speaks to Digital Graphics Communications students

NorQuest print media students had the opportunity to learn from one of the best in the business. International speaker Martina-Maria Brand, from the Print Media Academy (PMA) of Heidelberg Drukmaschinen, met with first and second-year Digital Graphics Communications students on September 27 to talk about growing industry trends, how to remain competitive and what to expect once they enter the workforce.

"Our students and faculty really benefit from having a world-class speaker like Martina come

and share with them her insights about the industry," says NorQuest's Centre for Excellence in Print Media Coordinator Josh Ramsbottom. "It is because of the Centre's involvement with

vendors, government and other post-secondary institutions that we are able to attract experts like Martina."

Brand is head of International Business Training at the PMA. She is a respected, international industry speaker.

Brand and Ramsbottom also met to discuss the Heidelberg Executive Forum planned for September 2011 at the Banff Centre. Heidelberg and NorQuest are partnering to host the global forum for the first time in North America.



Go electronic!

In support of its sustainability initiative, the College is trying to reduce the amount of paper and printing involved in our newsletter production by increasing the number of newsletters sent by email. If you would prefer to receive [Community Report](#) by email, please contact Anna.Los@norquest.ca.

Print Media Centre receives federal funds

The Honourable Lynne Yelich, Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification, visited NorQuest on July 13, 2010 to announce an \$896,750 investment in the College's Centre for Excellence in Print Media.

"Our Government is proud to support the growth of Alberta's print industry by facilitating access to new technologies and processes that enable businesses to increase their productivity and maintain a competitive advantage," said Minister Yelich.

The Centre used the funds to acquire new equipment, software and expertise to upgrade its Job Definition Format (JDF) system. JDF streamlines the print process by allowing different print applications and systems to talk to each other. The Centre provides businesses with the ability to test the latest equipment and software, train staff and receive support in adopting and integrating new technology.

"The federal government's commitment to this innovative Centre will do a great deal to help us expand industry knowledge, create opportunities and prepare the business leaders of tomorrow," said President and CEO Dr. Jodi Abbott.



Digital Graphics Communications instructor Mike Yez demonstrates proper paper-cutting technique to Minister of State Lynne Yelich at the July 13 funding announcement

For information about this Community Report and our partnerships, please call 780-644-5913.
For information about NorQuest College and our programs, please call 780-644-6000 or visit www.norquest.ca.
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