

Community Report



Growth and community involvement: two themes that go hand in hand at NorQuest

With the recent downturn in the economy and the resulting increased demand for post-secondary education, NorQuest is rising to the challenge and responding with new programs and opportunities. Our single most important goal is to open doors for learners, for employers and for the communities we serve.

NorQuest is helping Alberta employers find intercultural solutions to integrate workers with the advanced skills and attitudes required for today's workplaces. NorQuest is also engaging community members, business leaders and government representatives to encourage their support for our students.

With career programs as our core business, NorQuest also provides opportunities for learners with a diversity of backgrounds, cultures and needs to achieve their educational goals. We present options for immigrants to acquire new skills that enable them to thrive and succeed in Canada and for Albertans with disabilities to overcome those disabilities and achieve their full potential. We also offer opportunities for the disadvantaged to upgrade their education and skills to reach career goals that were once unattainable.

Despite the challenges of the current volatile world economy and its impact on life in Alberta, we are confident that NorQuest will continue to grow to meet the needs of our community.

Students from more than 100 countries celebrate International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination



Group painting by the Student Art Club.



Performance by traditional Aboriginal drummers.



Student performer Esther Chellah.

NorQuest becoming a leading intercultural resource in Canada

NorQuest College launched its Centre for Excellence in Intercultural Education on April 29. Established in 2007, the Centre has grown to include 13 full-time employees. The Centre offers a broad range of language and cultural training services to large and small employers in urban and rural settings.

"We help foreign workers integrate into the Canadian workplace more effectively and faster," explains Todd Odgers, Associate Director of the Centre for Excellence in Intercultural Education and an internationally recognized expert in intercultural training.

For example, Colt WorleyParsons, NorQuest and CoSyn enjoy a unique partnership on a series of language and cultural development courses to enhance the success and retention of new employees from non-English speaking countries.

"The courses provide these valuable employees with opportunities to expand their English communication skills to improve their effectiveness, confidence and integration into Canadian culture on the job and in the community," explains Cindy St. George of WorleyParsons Group of Companies.

The Centre for Excellence in Intercultural Education at NorQuest



(l to r) Executive Director Immigration Policy and Programs Alberta Employment and Immigration Percy Cummins, Dean Language Training and Adult Literacy Anna DeLuca and Associate Director of the Centre for Excellence in Intercultural Education Todd Odgers hold a Japanese Daruma doll to signify the start of a new challenge.

College focuses on issues related to the settlement and integration of new immigrants to Canada. The Centre assists members of an increasingly diverse workforce by connecting with industry to design customized intercultural and English in the Workplace communication tools for senior managers, human resource personnel, professionals, trades people and staff.

"Canada is a leader in effective immigration programs and NorQuest College is proud to play a role in the successful integration of immigrants into the workplace," explains Anna DeLuca, Dean of Language Training and Adult Literacy.

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

The Centre is planning a number of activities for 2009 to respond to the growing needs of employers and the community at large. Initially, the Centre's focus is on becoming the regional source of expertise in intercultural workplace training.

For more information about training opportunities, contact the Centre for Excellence in Intercultural Education at 780-644-6758.

Dr. Shillington – putting hope into action



(l to r) Edmonton Police Chief Mike Boyd and NorQuest College President and CEO Dr. Wayne Shillington.

Dr. Wayne Shillington, President and CEO of NorQuest College, was presented with a Men of Honour Award from the Prostitution Awareness and Action Foundation of Edmonton (PAAFE) at their awards gala on April 17.

Wayne's nomination, in part, cites:

"A man of honour is someone who makes a difference to those around him by showing them respect. Dr. Shillington's investment in the lives of students has a meaningful impact on them and the rest of our community. Dr. Shillington is approachable, respectful and encouraging to every student he meets. When students leave NorQuest to fulfill their dreams, that respect is paid forward to the community."

Dr. Shillington puts hope into action. Through

the example of living his dream of changing the world through education, he gives many individuals the opportunity to re-write their destinies and change their lives for the better, making our community stronger."

In partnership with PAAFE, NorQuest established the Rachel's Hope Bursary in 2005 in memory of Rachel Quinney, a 19-year-old woman whose dream of going back to school at NorQuest was cut short by her tragic murder. The bursary serves as a beacon to other young women who can see no way out of a high-risk lifestyle.

PAAFE envisions a community where, through partnerships, there is hope, respect and transformation for individuals, families and communities affected by sexual exploitation.

Welcome new board members

NorQuest is pleased to announce the appointment of three new members to its Board of Governors. The College became a board governed institution in 1998.

Brent Agerbak is a graduate of the University of Alberta School of Business where he earned his Bachelor of Commerce Degree in Finance and Marketing. A director with CIBC Commercial Banking, Brent manages a broad array of mid-market public and private sector businesses across Edmonton and Northern Alberta. Brent is involved in numerous community and charitable events in Edmonton.

After successfully completing a Masters and PhD in Educational Psychology at the University of Alberta, **Jodi Abbott** launched her career in Rehabilitation Service before moving into Chronic Disease Management as Executive

Director at the Canadian Diabetes Association. Her career continued with executive director positions in Alberta Health and Wellness prior to assuming the role of Vice President, Operational Policy and Integration Division at Capital Health, Edmonton for the last year.

Jodi was recently appointed Senior Vice President, Performance Improvement with Alberta Health Services.

Of Jodi's passions, her love of skating is at the forefront. She holds a position as Vice President of the Board of Skate Canada. She is also an International Skating Union judge in singles, pairs and dance.

In addition to serving on the NorQuest College Board of Governors, **Lynn Faulder** was appointed to the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission (AGLC) board in November 2003. She is the Chairperson of the AGLC board's

corporate governance and stakeholders committee, and served a two-year term on the board's audit committee.

Lynn also chairs the Edmonton Appeal Panel for the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped, Widows' Pension, and Aids to Daily Living programs.

A former director of the Royal Alexandra Hospital Foundation, Lynn has held executive positions with the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues. She is a graduate of the Institute of Corporate Directors and holds a nursing diploma with previous experience as a surgical staff nurse.

NorQuest is looking forward to working with these exceptional board members.

If you would like more information about the NorQuest College Board of Governors, visit www.norquest.ca/ourquest/about/board.htm.

Just what the health care professional ordered

Minister of Advanced Education and Technology Honourable Doug Horner (second from right) helps cut the ceremonial red ribbon at the grand opening of NorQuest College's new Health Education Centre – 106 Street in Edmonton. Other dignitaries included Edmonton City Councillor and Deputy Mayor Ed Gibbons, NorQuest College President and CEO Dr. Wayne Shillington and Board of Governors community member Linda Mabbott.

In 2008, the government's Health Workforce Plan mandated an annual increase in the number of practical nurses educated in Alberta to 1,000 by 2012.

"Through this expansion, NorQuest College has become one of the key players in resolving the nursing shortage in Alberta," explains Dr. Shillington.

NorQuest added new classrooms, labs, and a simulation centre to accommodate more practical nurse students. The simulation centre was funded through the generous donations of our supporters at last year's Gary Mar Charity Golf Classic.

For information about the Sixth Annual Gary Mar Charity Golf Classic on September 3, 2009 at Jägare Ridge Golf Club, or to register, visit www.norquest.ca/events/garymargolf/index.htm.



(l to r) Pat Furey, President Shillington, Councillor Gibbons, Minister Horner and Linda Mabbott.

Donors dig deep at sixth annual fundraising breakfast

NorQuest's Community Relations team has created a winning formula for the annual NorQuest Foundation Fundraising Breakfast. With over 500 guests, the breakfast has consistently been NorQuest's primary fundraising and "friendraising" event contributing to the \$2 million or more raised annually. Funds raised at the breakfast are matched by the Alberta Government's Access to the Future Fund.

Community and corporate donations help NorQuest meet its commitment to provide learning opportunities and supports that empower students to achieve their career potential.

"Students have options because of NorQuest," explains Foundation Board member Howard Spragins. "This is one of the greatest organizations in the world because it brings about such positive change."

Student speaker Cora Bilobroka described how her life changed because of NorQuest's commitment to her success. A graduate of the Hospital Unit Clerk program, Cora presented her story of breast cancer survival. "My classes were phenomenal therapy for my recovery. The instructors were wonderful sources of encouragement and inspiration," said Cora. "Now I am working full-time in the Stollery Children's Hospital where my job is both rewarding and challenging. I look forward to every minute of every busy day."

NorQuest thanks breakfast sponsor RBC, the generous donors, the provincial Access to the Future Fund matching grant program, and the many dedicated staff and volunteers who make this event such a success. We look forward to getting together over breakfast in 2009.



Breakfast guests Stephanie and David Gerow.

First College-wide Open House a great success!



Helping out at the Open House.

"Picture the Possibilities" was the theme of NorQuest College's first college-wide open house on February 21. Edmonton's community college opened its doors to prospective students and anyone interested in post-secondary education. Guests were invited to tour the four buildings of the College's downtown campus and participate in demonstrations and interactive sessions, showcasing NorQuest's unique programs and services.

Out of the more than 500 visitors, approximately 150 prospective students completed applications. These numbers not only exceeded our own expectations, they exceeded the numbers of visitors and registrations experienced by other colleges at similar events.

Highlights included a look at the human patient simulator labs in the new Health Education Centre – 106 Street, demonstrations in the state-of-the-art print media centre in the Business and Industry Education Centre, bannock and tea in the Aboriginal ceremonial room, and science and math demonstrations.