

FOUNDATION NEWS



ATCO goes above and beyond

ATCO leads support in Innovative Aboriginal Education

Since 2002, ATCO Gas and ATCO Electric have been loyal friends to NorQuest College. The companies share in NorQuest's belief that knowledge comes in many forms and that teaching the whole person in an applied way creates successful experiences for students and the community.

ATCO has supported NorQuest's Aboriginal students through creating an Aboriginal ceremonial room. The company also supports cultural activities for students, like the annual Culture Camp where students learn about traditional Aboriginal practices. Students build a sweat lodge and participate in the teachings of the lodge under the guidance of a Cree Elder.

Most recently, ATCO Electric has expanded its involvement with NorQuest through the development of a mentorship program. The pilot program allows students opportunities to receive guidance on educational and career goals, share experiences, and network with a company and its employees. For the ATCO Electric employees, it is a way to develop coaching skills and participate in an Aboriginal relations program to learn about culture, education and employment.

"Wherever possible, ATCO works to build mutually beneficial relationships with Aboriginal communities



A Culture Camp participant is making a traditional dream catcher made with natural materials gathered from the woods.

and develop opportunities to improve employment and business relations," explains Gordon Eckert, community relations supervisor for ATCO Gas and ATCO Electric.

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Following the right footsteps

Following the right footsteps is the definition of 'mentorship' according to Youth in Transition student, Girard Amani. Once a month, new Canadian students, aged 17 – 21 in the Youth in Transition program meet with community leaders from Edmonton to talk about their careers and their transition to life in Canada. The women have been meeting to have Lunch with the Girls for close to two years, and in February this year, NorQuest launched Pizza Pies with the Good Guys for the

young men in the English as a Second Language foundational program. As Steven LePoole, mentor for the men's group, tells the students, "There are a lot of footsteps out there, and it is important that you follow the right ones." Thanks to the vision of Board of Governor's chair Wendy Kinsella and the wonderful mentors involved in the program, the students are gaining confidence, receiving direction on their careers and education, and being exposed to cultural events in the city.



Back (L to R): Samira (Somalia), Helena (Ghana), Wendy Kinsella (Mentor), Judy Cosco (Mentor), Elexis Schloss (Mentor), and Janice Moore (Mentor)

Front (L to R): Arti Koshal (Mentor), Shae (Burma) and Thuyen (Vietnam)

ATCO goes above and beyond

“In addition to providing financial support, we’re working closely with NorQuest staff and teachers to help ensure the College’s Aboriginal students have the tools and support needed to reach their academic goals.”

The achievements of NorQuest’s Aboriginal students and graduates are a reflection of this teaching philosophy. The College is proud to have ATCO associated with this success.

Have you attended a NorQuest 101?

NorQuest 101 is a one-hour information session designed to educate people about NorQuest. The session includes a presentation of the College’s vision by President and CEO Dr. Wayne Shillington, quick facts about NorQuest and a student’s success story. It wraps up with a brief tour of the campus.

If you have never been to a NorQuest 101 or would like to see what is new and exciting at NorQuest, please call us today. For additional information, contact Janice Moore – Community Relations at 780-644-5923 or janice.moore@norquest.ca.

UPCOMING NORQUEST 101 DATES:

Tuesday, May 18, 2010
Noon – 1 PM

Wednesday, June 23, 2010
Noon – 1 PM

NOTE: If none of these dates or times is convenient for you or your guest, we can schedule an alternate. We can also arrange a one-on-one NorQuest 101 Information Session.

Retirement Celebration

Join us in celebrating Dr. Wayne Shillington’s career and many contributions to NorQuest College and the City of Edmonton.

TUESDAY, JUNE 22

Crown Plaza Chateau Lacombe, 10111 Bellamy Hill
5:30 PM cocktails, 6:30 PM dinner

Contact Lana Vandenberghe for tickets: 780-644-5901 or lana.vandenberghe@norquest.ca

In lieu of gifts, donations can be made to the Wayne Shillington Community Leadership Award. For information contact Rochelle Gilmour at 780-644-5917 or rochelle.gilmour@norquest.ca.

Ambassador Corner

Q & A with Gerard Amani



Twenty-year-old Gerard Amani is in NorQuest’s Youth in Transition program for new immigrants to Canada.

Q: What made you decide to become an RBC Ambassador?

I joined the RBC Ambassador program because it helps with public speaking. I realized that I am going to need public speaking experience in my career and so I joined the group. I love public speaking and what a better way to learn more about it than in the RBC Ambassador program?

Q: What do you enjoy most about being an Ambassador?

As an RBC Ambassador and a student of NorQuest College, I enjoy meeting the donors and answering questions about myself. What better way is there for a donor to learn about where their money is going than to hear about it first-hand from a student?



NorQuest student and ambassador Gerard Amani

Q: How is being an RBC Ambassador helping to prepare you to achieve your goals?

First, I am sure I will need public speaking in my future as a public relations specialist. As an RBC Ambassador, I am proud to say thank you for this program because day after day I am getting better with my public speaking. I get to give speeches to people who I have never met and I do just fine. I believe that the Ambassador program is helping me and preparing me in that way. Secondly, I get to have conversations with different people, and get to know a little about them. It is also hard sometimes to ask questions, but as an RBC Ambassador, I have gained experience by asking and answering questions. I truly believe that the program is helping me in diverse ways.

Q: Do you have a favourite moment about being an ambassador?

As an RBC Ambassador, every moment is a memorable moment, but there is always one that stands out. I enjoyed working at the Fundraising Breakfast -- it was a very great moment, sitting with the VIPs and talking to them.

Donors relieve some of the pressure

Awards and scholarships offer students financial relief

Anyone who has ever been a student will tell you that one of the hardest parts of going to school is the lack of income, especially when you have dependants at home needing your support. This can place pressure on students making them rethink continuing their education. Thanks to donor-funded awards and scholarships, NorQuest is able to offer help to students and relieve some of the pressure. After receiving an award one student wrote, "This financial help is for me like fresh water." Having awards and scholarships available for students makes the choice to continue with their education an easy one. Currently NorQuest has over 60 donor-funded awards and scholarships. During the 2008 - 2009 school year \$157,957.44 in scholarships, bursaries and awards were handed out to 296 students.



NorQuest donor Elly de Jongh stands with three award recipients following a graduation ceremony.

We appreciate our volunteers

National volunteer week - April 18 to 24



Guests enjoying lunch at our volunteer appreciation event.

The NorQuest Foundation thanks all of our hardworking and dedicated volunteers. It is due to your willingness to share your time and skills with NorQuest students that the College is able to offer such excellent programming. Many students benefit from the knowledge and opportunities offered to them by all of NorQuest's volunteers. Your efforts are appreciated and do not go unnoticed by staff, faculty or students. Thank you for being a part of the NorQuest family!

Peer tutoring program - students help students achieve

Current funder needed to sustain program

The NorQuest College Peer Tutoring Program began in 2008. Since then, it has developed into a highly successful program covering all subjects, with no cost to students. The program's success comes from the fact that students are the tutors. Students receive help from peers who have overcome the same challenges. One peer tutor voiced this about being a peer tutor, "Having the knowledge and the opportunity to share it, I feel it is my responsibility to aid others in the pursuit of their studies and to make sure they succeed." With such dedicated students on both the teaching and learning side, this program can only become more successful in the future.



Message from the Executive Director, NorQuest College Community Relations and Foundation

You Can Make a Difference

Last year we launched the *Together for Tomorrow Campaign*. We asked donors to support the Rachel's Hope Bursary fund, which had been depleted by student demand making NorQuest face the reality of having to turn applicants away. Rachel was a young woman who was murdered at a time when she was contemplating leaving her high risk occupation to come to NorQuest and start a better life. Her family, friends and the Prostitution Awareness and Action Foundation of Edmonton created a bursary in her name to help others in similar situations start a new life by taking NorQuest classes. Thanks to a group of NorQuest donors who received this newsletter, \$187,000 was raised!

This year, our priority is to help those students who want to start their education now. Igniting hope is the driving force behind NorQuest College's 2010 *Together*

for Tomorrow Campaign. Last year, the demand for bursaries grew by more than 200 students reducing our Learner Access Bursary significantly. At the same time, student demand for our Student Emergency Food Bank Fund tripled. It has been a challenging year and the goal of the Foundation is to enable as many students as possible to begin or continue their education. Let's work together to make 2010 another successful campaign.



KAREN FAULKNER
Executive Director, NorQuest College
Community Relations and Foundation

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 7	First Alumni Association Mixer
APRIL 30	Practical Nurse graduation ceremony
MAY 17	College-wide graduation ceremony
MAY 26	SHINE Awards
JUNE 22	Dr. Wayne Shillington's Retirement
SEPTEMBER 2	Gary Mar Charity Golf Tournament

HOW TO DONATE

Donate online:
www.norquest.ca

The fast and easy way to give.

NorQuest College
A205, 10215 – 108 Street
Edmonton, AB T5J 1L6

Charitable registration:
#891145401 RR0001

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FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER CONTACTS

The NorQuest College Foundation Newsletter is produced by NorQuest College's Community Relations division. If you would like to receive an electronic version of the newsletter (next issue), submit an idea for an article, have any questions or comments pertaining to the newsletter, or would like to be removed from the mailing list, please contact the newsletter editor:

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