

Community Report

NorQuest introduces 2010-2020 Strategic Plan

A 10-year blueprint for building Alberta's leading community college

Excellence, energy, diversity, compassion and achievement. These words define NorQuest College, Alberta's largest community college. The Strategic Plan will guide and shape the College over the next decade as demand for NorQuest programs, expertise and learner-centred approach continues to rise. Enrolment over the last two years has grown by 28 per cent.

The theme of the plan, *Relevant. Responsive. In your Community*, captures the essence of what it means to be a community college. To help us take full advantage of important opportunities and address anticipated challenges, the 2010-2020 Strategic Plan outlines three priorities:

- enhancing our presence in the communities NorQuest serves and the education sector
- growth in learning opportunities and our ability to serve learners

- diversification in learning opportunities that reach Albertans where they live and work
- To enhance our presence in those communities where NorQuest programs directly benefit adult learners and local employers, the College is actively sharing its strategic planning goals with our stakeholders: business and industry leaders, government officials, employers, and community and cultural organizations.

Student support workers awarded for making a difference in the life of a student



(l to r) Kym Keith, Maroro Zinyemba and Janice Mills

The Autism Society of Edmonton honoured three NorQuest student support workers for their valuable contribution to a young man with autism spectrum disorder. Student Support Specialist Janice Mills, Adult Literacy Co-ordinator Kym Keith and instructor Maroro Zinyemba received the award for excellence in post-secondary education. The trio's combined dedication and expertise helped student Anthony Barrett complete his math course with a mark of 91 per cent.

RELEVANT RESPONSIVE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

2020 GOAL
WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE BY 2020

OUR FOCUS
WHAT WE WILL DO

OUR PRIORITIES
HOW WE WILL ACHIEVE OUR 2020 GOAL

OUR COMMITMENT
WHAT WE ARE COMMITTED TO MAKING HAPPEN

Valued as:

- Alberta's leading community college
- A college for all
- The college where motivated learners are empowered to succeed

ENHANCED PRESENCE
... in the communities we serve and the education sector

GROWTH
... in learning opportunities and our ability to serve learners

DIVERSIFICATION
... in learning opportunities that reach Albertans where they live and work

- Career education and credentials
- Foundational education
- Applied research
- Regional stewardship

- Access to quality education opportunities for all
- Teaching excellence
- Supportive, respectful learning environments
- Quality student services and supports
- Responsiveness to community priorities
- Active and engaged community partners

Wayne Shillington – a legacy of learning; a teacher at heart

President and CEO Dr. Wayne Shillington is a true believer in education's ability to change lives.

"I've always been passionate about giving people opportunities to improve their lives through education," says Dr. Shillington. "My whole career in education has been focused on that goal."

After more than 30 years of living his passion, Dr. Shillington is set to retire on June 30, 2010. During his 12 years with NorQuest, this former teacher has successfully turned a once small, local centre providing primarily academic upgrading and language training into a comprehensive community college that offers health and business career credentials and reaches learners across Alberta, Canada and as far away as Jamaica.

"You just have to look at the College: what it is, what it offers, the great reputation it has, the amazing success of our students, and

the increase in the number of programs and learning sites. What NorQuest is right now – this is Wayne's legacy," says Wendy Kinsella, chair of the Board of Governors.

Wayne says it's been a privilege to run the first lap and he's ready to hand the baton to the next leader who can take NorQuest where it is meant to go.

"We're working hard to become Alberta's leading community college. We are growing our career programs, growing the recognition of those programs in the marketplace, in the workplace, and increasing the number of partnerships with employers. We're partway there now and I am confident the College will get there over the next few years," says Dr. Shillington. "My successor will have my complete support and a little bit of envy because it's going to be tough to leave a place as dynamic as NorQuest."



Student Ambassador Yonas Arefina and Dr. Wayne Shillington

Newest centre for excellence provides leadership in learning supports

The expertise of instructors and support staff at the Centre for Excellence in Learning Supports at NorQuest is making a critical difference in the lives of many students.

"JAWS is my lifeline as a student," said Lincoln Nanaquawetung who had a promising career in the trades before losing most of his vision. JAWS is a text-to-speech translation software that enables Lincoln to read his Social Work Diploma program course materials and conduct Internet research.

NorQuest launched its newest centre for excellence on September 30. The Centre for Excellence in Learning Supports provides national leadership in the development and utilization of cutting-edge technologies, applied research and support services to students with disabilities.

"The future success of our province depends on the knowledge and skills of Albertans," said Minister of Advanced Education and Technology Doug Horner. "This is a meaningful addition to Campus Alberta, supporting our goals of increasing access to learning and employment opportunities."

NorQuest College serves more than 500 students with disabilities each year and works closely with government, businesses and community organizations to strengthen support services within communities across Alberta.



Instructor Myles Bingham works with student Cassie Chaba

NorQuest educates next generation of practical nurses in Jamaica

"We are convinced that NorQuest's Practical Nurse Diploma program is the most exciting, credible, learner-friendly nursing program in Canada," said Colin Jarrett of Pre-University School in Jamaica as his school entered into an agreement with NorQuest College to educate Jamaican students as practical nurses.

"This partnership is an exciting opportunity for NorQuest to offer its expertise, teaching excellence and skills-training to meet the needs of learners in Jamaica," said President and CEO of NorQuest College Dr. Wayne Shillington.

The partnership offers face-to-face delivery of theory, lab and clinical components of NorQuest's nursing program to approximately 200 students in two locations of Jamaica: Montego Bay and Kingston. NorQuest College will provide the curriculum, consultative support, completion credentials and quality assurance to maintain high program standards.

The NorQuest program is the largest annual provider of practical nurse graduates in Canada.



(l to r) the Government of Jamaica's Alvin McIntosh and the Minister of Labour and Social Security Parnel Charles, and from NorQuest College, Board of Governors Chair Wendy Kinsella and President and CEO Dr. Wayne Shillington

Governments invest in greater access for students



(l to r) NorQuest President and CEO Dr. Wayne Shillington, MLA for Castledowns Thomas Lukaszuk, NorQuest Board of Governors Chair Wendy Kinsella and Member of Parliament for Edmonton Centre Laurie Hawn

The federal and provincial governments recently invested \$2.8 million in NorQuest College. Half of that comes from Ottawa's \$2-billion Knowledge Infrastructure Program to repair and expand research and educational facilities across Canada. The remaining \$1.4 million is a matching grant from the Province of Alberta.

"NorQuest's enrolment grew by 16.5 per cent last year and we are experiencing similar demand this year," says President and CEO Dr. Wayne Shillington. "This investment means new classrooms and labs for students and increasing our overall learning capacity to meet the growing needs of learners, employers and the communities we serve."

It also means new food services and a redesigned student assembly area at NorQuest's Downtown Campus Main Building in 2010.

Albertans wake up to the possibilities as breakfast raises over \$1.8M for students

Tears, cheers and smiles filled the main ballroom at the Westin Hotel on November 19 at the 7th annual NorQuest College Foundation Fundraising Breakfast.

NorQuest's largest fundraising event attracted more than 500 business, industry and government leaders as guests donated more than a million dollars to the College. Two student speakers stole the show as they shared stories about their struggles and their ability to succeed in post-secondary education because of NorQuest's unique learning supports and the generosity of community donors.

When combined with provincial government matching grants, the event raised just over \$1.8 million for students. The funds will be used for awards, bursaries, scholarships, new equipment and learner supports.



Preparing new immigrants for a career in transit

Seven years ago, Shan Fu moved from China with a clear goal: learn English in Canada so that he could work with people.

“Working in customer service and helping people is my way of contributing to the community I live in,” says Fu, whose first work experience in Canada was in the food service industry. Fu is changing lanes in a big way thanks to a new pilot program at NorQuest.

Bridge to Transit Operators is a 16-week certificate program for newcomers to Canada interested in a career as a city transit operator. The program offers a unique blend of skills training, occupational language and communication, customer service and conflict resolution. It is funded by Alberta Employment and Immigration, and is a

partnership with the City of Edmonton and the Edmonton Transit System.

“I learned so much that I now feel like I can start a career to support my family,” says Sabera Razak, one of 13 students to graduate from the pilot program. Razak, who moved to Canada from Sri Lanka in 2005, completed ESL and academic upgrading courses at NorQuest before enrolling in this program.

“Our innovative bridging programs are the result of unique partnerships with industry and government and are critical to preparing newcomers for careers in Canada,” says Dean of Language Training and Adult Literacy Anna DeLuca. “It’s another example of how NorQuest is relevant and responsive to the needs of the workplace.”



(l to r) Reza Afraz, Sabera Razak and Shan Fu get a thumbs up from ETS operator Mark Pelletier

Cal Poly and NorQuest team up: Lean is in for printers

Renowned Cal Poly professors Kevin Cooper (pictured) and Ken Macro presented a two-day workshop on lean printing to 19 print managers and co-ordinators from across Western Canada on September 8 and 9. The philosophy of lean revolves around finding ways to create more value with less work within a company’s existing processes. Co-hosted by the Centre for Excellence in Print Media at NorQuest College and the Graphic Communication Institute at California Polytechnic State University, this workshop is just one example of the value-added programming the Centre is providing to print industry employers in Western Canada.



Gary Mar tourney funds high-tech patient simulators

The 6th annual Gary Mar Charity Golf Classic raised \$140,000 this past season toward the purchase of new instructional equipment for health-care students at NorQuest. This includes a third human patient simulator (pictured with instructors Lorelei Nimco, Lynne Neis and Dawn Ansell).

Human patient simulations are an everyday occurrence in the NorQuest Interdisciplinary Simulation Centre. The College is also an active member of the Interdisciplinary Health Education Partnership with NAIT, MacEwan and the University of Alberta. Through research, collaboration, faculty development and evaluation, this group is breaking new ground in interdisciplinary education and will pilot these scenarios in the spring.

