

Youth In Transition Program Comes of Age

THE YOUTH IN TRANSITION PROGRAM

at NorQuest College is celebrating its first year of helping immigrant youth become successful and productive citizens.

The program is for students aged 17-24, and focusing on increasing literacy, communication, and personal development skills, preparing students not only for post-secondary education but also for life in Canada

"I have come a long way in a very short time. I know that with the skills and confidence that I have gained at NorQuest I will be successful," says student, Andrei Radu.

The program began in September 2006 with 18 students. A second class was added in the February term, and 35 students completed the program in June. The first year was very successful. The students gained education and literacy skills, as well as more confidence in their abilities.

"The energy and sense of accomplishment from the students was overwhelming," says Patti Lefebvre, Coordinator of Adult Literacy and Youth in Transition. "We set out to help them raise their reading levels by two grade levels, and most of the students exceeded this."

The one-of-a-kind program received a huge boost from John and Judy Cosco, who donated \$250,000 in support of Youth in Transition. This

donation is very significant, as it enables the students to participate in activities that add value to their educational experience at NorQuest.

"The donation will bring more computers into the classroom, will help with team-building field trips, and supply bus passes for those who cannot afford them," says Patti.

The Youth in Transition program has been approved for a second year and classes will begin in September 2007. To learn more about NorQuest programs please call 644-6000, or visit our website at www.norquest.ca.

"The energy and sense of accomplishment from the students was overwhelming."

Patti Lefebvre, Coordinator, Youth in Transition



John and Judy Cosco: Supporting Access to Education

JOHN AND JUDY COSCO BELIEVE that education should be available to all those who want to access it. After being introduced to NorQuest College, it was clear to the Coscos that they could help make the dream of accessible education a reality for many students by making a donation to the College.

“I think education is a human rights issue and that everyone who deserves an education should be given the opportunity to achieve that,” says Judy.

Judy was first introduced to NorQuest College through the Have a Heart program at the Glenora Rotary Club. The Have a Heart program sponsored scholarships to NorQuest students. Judy had an opportunity to meet four of the scholarship recipients and she was impressed by their dedication and commitment.

“I think NorQuest students are fantastic. Some of them have families; some of them have refugee immigrant issues; some of them work full-time at a paying job, but they still find the time to study so they can improve their lot in life,” says Judy. “I think they are very ambitious and hard working.”

With interest in the College piqued, John and Judy met with President and CEO Dr. Wayne Shillington and took a tour of the College. “I thought it would be great to help people who fall through the cracks. And talking to Wayne and listening to his stories, it seemed to be that NorQuest fulfilled that need,” says John.

They allocated their donation to the Youth in Transition program—a literacy program for immigrant youth aged 17–24 that helps to ease the transition between high school and post-secondary. The program helps students improve their literacy skills and ensures that they are well prepared



for further learning and for the workplace.

The Coscos have always been supporters of the Edmonton community, which they have called home since 1978. They have made major donations to Bissell Centre, the University of Alberta Visiting Lectureship in Human Rights, Habitat for Humanity and performing arts organizations. They have also volunteered their skills in governance and direct service with many organizations—locally, nationally, and internationally.

“I’m not a person to believe that government should take all responsibility. I think that the people who do well in the community should help the people who need it,” says John.

THE NORQUEST COLLEGE FOUNDATION would like to acknowledge the following Board Members who have completed their terms. We would like to thank them for the contribution of numerous hours, guidance, and support—they have been great ambassadors in telling the NorQuest story. We are grateful to these people who will always be part of the NorQuest family.

Ron Brown

Linda Hughes

The Foundation would also like to welcome the new volunteers who have joined the Board. We look forward to working with them to promote NorQuest’s vision.

Dean Wulf

Lindsay Nakatsui

Ray Rutman

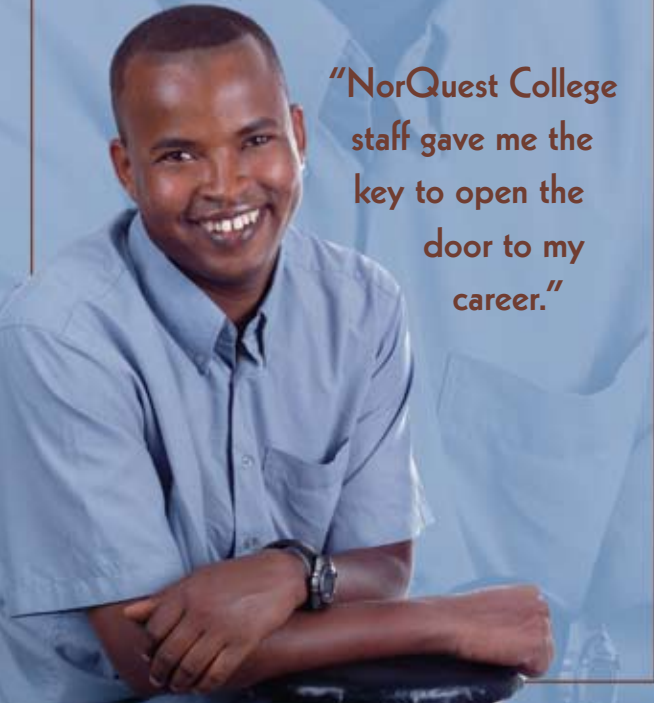
Kristina Williams

Badri Dolal

When I first arrived in Canada from Oromia, I was looking for a better life for myself and my family. I came from a lawless part of the world and in Canada I hoped to find peace and freedom. At first life in Canada was difficult; the culture was very different and I faced many challenges until I came to NorQuest College.

Coming to NorQuest changed my life. When I walked through the doors I did not speak a word of English and had no work experience in Canada. I struggled with vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation, as well as how to read and write English. But with the help of the professional staff at NorQuest College I was able to learn English and find a good career in the health care field. In so many ways, NorQuest College staff gave me the key to open the door to my career.

I am now living a happy life with my family, without any worries like I used to have before I went to school. Because of NorQuest College, I am speaking English and I am able to financially manage my life.



"NorQuest College staff gave me the key to open the door to my career."

NorQuest College Foundation Donor Recognition

NorQuest College and the NorQuest College Foundation gratefully acknowledge the following donors, as well as those who wish to remain anonymous, who have contributed to the success of our students, with combined gifts of \$1000 or more, between April 1 and June 30, 2007.

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Judy and Craig Wilson and Family

Sheilagh McBride

* The NorQuest College Foundation gratefully recognizes the multi-year financial commitment of these Circle of Success Donors

We want to recognize your contribution appropriately, so please contact the NorQuest College Foundation with any corrections to your name or changes to your mailing address at:

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E-mail: andrea.danko@norquest.ca

Mail: Room 205, 10215 - 108 Street
Edmonton, AB T5J 1L6

A Message from the Foundation Board



As the new Chair of the NorQuest Foundation Board I would like to express how privileged I feel to be involved with NorQuest College and with such a dynamic Foundation Board.

Past Chairs Linda Hughes and Shauna Miller set up a Foundation Board that focuses on stewardship and relationships, and I look forward to carrying this forward. Elaine Warick served as the Foundation Board's Executive Director for 6 years and was a major factor in establishing NorQuest's Foundation Board. Although Elaine is moving on to other exciting challenges she assures us she will be a friend of NorQuest forever. We will miss Elaine's energy and unwavering love of NorQuest and its students.

The last two years on the Foundation Board have given me a window into how important institutions like NorQuest are to our social fabric. After attending this year's Canada Day celebration at the Westmount campus it is easy to see why so many people get involved with NorQuest. Hundreds of students, recently immigrated from over 30 countries, crammed into the auditorium during a hot noon hour, and more than 90 per cent of them celebrating their first Canada Day. These students are already on the road to integrating themselves into Canadian culture and providing a better, safer life for their families. Foreign educated professional engineers, teachers, skilled trades people and individuals with various backgrounds enrol in NorQuest to better their skills in the English language, post-secondary preparation and workforce preparation courses. These students are a part of a direct link to helping solve Alberta's labour shortage.



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NorQuest Foundation Board Directors

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The NorQuest College Foundation Newsletter is produced by the NorQuest College Community Relations department. If you would like to receive the electronic version of the newsletter, 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 one of the newsletter editors.

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THE NORQUEST COLLEGE FOUNDATION WOULD LIKE TO announce that Elaine Warick has retired from her position as Executive Director as of August 31, 2007 to pursue a consulting career.

We would like to thank Elaine for creating and building the NorQuest College Foundation over the last six years.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to work with all the wonderful people at NorQuest, especially the students who have inspired me to step into my next challenge," says Elaine.

Associate Director Karen Faulkner will be taking over as Executive Director. "I am excited to be able to build on the monumental success created by Elaine and the team," says Karen.