

# FOUNDATION NEWS



## Community of women building a million possibilities

When a thousand women come together, anything is possible. NorQuest launched its *One Thousand Women: a Million Possibilities* campaign in June. The campaign began with a growing network of women in the community who joined together to help students in extreme need.

Within every student at NorQuest is the possibility for greatness. However, many students have difficulty meeting their most basic needs. Last year, hundreds of students applied for financial assistance through NorQuest's Student Emergency Fund. 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 their goals.



Guests mingle at the *One Thousand Women* launch party held June 29 at NorQuest College

Over the next three years, women are invited to do something inspiring, magnificent and groundbreaking. The goal is to raise \$1 million to create the Million Possibilities Endowment Fund to support NorQuest students who are experiencing extraordinary emergency needs.

In just a few short 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 our community through service clubs and professional associations. Future events continue to celebrate contributions women make to our greater good, all in the spirit of fun and friendship.

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## Helping build communities

Since their partnership began in 1989, Greg Christenson and Peter Dirksen have grown Christenson Developments from a quality builder of award-winning active adult communities to a local leader in creating sustainable urban villages.

Urban villages that were ahead of their time, such as Railtown in downtown Edmonton, are now joined by the exciting Centre in the Park, Citadel Village, Emerald Hills and 5th Avenue. All are examples of Christenson's commitment to provide choice in housing lifestyles abutting walkable urban parks with easy access to retail shops, professional services and public amenities.

Christenson's Mission Statement "Building Lasting Relationships" strives to create a culture of trust, communication and respect for customers, and sets the stage to partner with other principled groups sharing similar long-term values and aspirations for our community.

Christenson's advocacy for a future focused, caring, professional and educated workforce is demonstrated through its strategic partnerships with NorQuest College, YMCA Day Cares, Grant MacEwan University, and many other community organizations. When Christenson Developments states that it builds communities, their actions speak for themselves.



Joyce and Greg Christenson cut the cake for guests at the surprise unveiling of the Joyce V. Christenson Lab in May

## Community of women

Women have been coming together for centuries to make our communities better, stronger and healthier. The *One Thousand Women* project celebrates that tradition, making it accessible to everyone who wants to take part. By committing less than \$1 per day over three years, anyone can become a founding woman of this inspiring movement.

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 Karen.Woitas@norquest.ca or phone 780-644-5932.

## Have you been to a NorQuest 101?

A NorQuest 101 is a one-hour information session designed to teach people about NorQuest College. The session includes a presentation of the College's vision by President and CEO Jodi L. Abbott, PhD, 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:

**Thursday, August 26, 2010**  
Noon – 1 p.m.

**Tuesday, October 26, 2010**  
Noon – 1 p.m.

**Wednesday, September 22, 2010**  
Noon – 1 p.m.

**Thursday, December 16, 2010**  
Noon – 1 p.m.

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

## *A fond farewell*

Thank you for joining us to say goodbye to Dr. Wayne Shillington on June 22. It was a wonderful celebration of Dr. Shillington's career and many contributions to NorQuest College and the City of Edmonton.

We would like to extend a special thank you to everyone who made a donation to the Wayne Shillington Community Leadership Award. Through your generous gifts, over \$10,000 was added to this deserving award fund.

## Ambassador Corner

### Q & A with Marcella Wright



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

I decided to join the RBC Ambassador program because it was an opportunity to meet and interact with students from various nations and ethnic backgrounds. It also provided an environment where I was encouraged to acquire the skills I needed for public speaking.

**Q: What did you enjoy most about being an Ambassador?**

Everything! It was a safe place to be myself and to express who I am. I enjoyed the challenge of public speaking, building confidence and self-esteem along with my fellow ambassadors.

**Q: How has this experience helped to prepare you to achieve your goals?**

This experience has inspired me to go out, meet people, explore my career options, and appreciate the people who help us achieve our goals. My goal as an Aboriginal Liaison will lead me to work with and understand people from other nations and societies.



NorQuest student and RBC Ambassador Marcella Wright

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

Yes. My favorite moment was delivering my speech at the NorQuest Foundation donor appreciation event. It was a relief to finish it! The handshake and hugs from Dr. Wayne Shillington were priceless.

**Q: What were your thoughts when you discovered you were nominated for a Woman of Distinction award?**

When I discovered I was nominated for the Woman of Distinction Turning Point award I was shocked because the nomination is such an honour. I was incredibly humbled to actually win it.

**Q: What advice would you give young women in your shoes?**

I would advise them to maintain balance: mentally, spiritually, emotionally and physically. I would encourage them to look to the Creator for guidance, to never give up and to keep moving towards their goals, no matter how long they take to achieve.

# Learning beyond the classroom



YIT instructor Kym Keith and the students of the Women's Mentorship Program pose at the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra Concert

Learning how to speak a new language and understand a new culture can be difficult and overwhelming, but with the help of donors like you, NorQuest is making it easier and fun.

Donors provide the support to allow the Youth in Transition (YIT) program take students on cultural outings. Some recent outings have been a ski trip to Jasper, an Edmonton Eskimos game and an Edmonton Symphony Orchestra concert. YIT instructor Kent Lee went to the Eskimos game and commented, "It was an experience for me to see my students adopt the Esks as their team.

I can't think of another activity that can develop as much civic pride as going to a game."

The Bridge to Business Careers program also gets students out of the classroom to learn. Through a partnership between Safeway and NorQuest, students in this program are given the opportunity to tour corporate offices, meet company managers and walk through company warehouses.

Partnerships like this take learning to a whole new level and help students feel more comfortable in their new home.

## Government of Alberta Community Spirit Program provides boost to new students

NorQuest College received a matching grant of \$25,000 from the Province's Community Spirit Program based on individual donations made to the College. The goal of the Community Spirit Program is to encourage individual charitable giving to help support Alberta's non-profit and charitable organizations by matching donations up to \$25,000. The funds from the Community Spirit Program will be used to provide Learner Access bursaries for new NorQuest students. For more information on the Community Spirit Grant Program, including generous tax incentives for donors, visit [www.communityspiritprogram.ca](http://www.communityspiritprogram.ca).

## Government of Alberta ■

# Go Eskimos Go!

Students in NorQuest College's Youth in Transition (YIT) program experienced their first football game in style on June 13. After giving an overview of football, and tossing the ball in the parking lot, mentors Steve Hogle, Jim Knutsen, John Ginn, and Phil Hanevich attended the pre-season game with the students, courtesy of the Edmonton Eskimos.

Since 1949, the Edmonton Eskimo Football Club has put particular emphasis on playing a positive role in the community. The tradition lives on as Eskimo players do their part to make our city a better place to live. Whether it is acting as an honorary chair for a charity, taking part in a fundraising event or participating in high school football camps, Eskimo players and coaches are instrumental to the success of a number of worthwhile causes.

The Eskimos are proud to have played a role in the NorQuest College YIT Mentorship Group's experience at the



The Men's Mentorship Program enjoying a day out at the Edmonton Eskimos game

Eskimos/Stampeders game on June 13 at Commonwealth Stadium and hope the students' first Canadian football experience was a memorable one!

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

# Anonymous donor provides challenge gift

If you have been following my messages in the last two newsletters, you know about the growing need to fund the NorQuest Learner Access Bursary.

This fund helps students who are unable to access grant funding, student loans, band funding or other sponsorships. We are hoping to help several hundred students this year. I am happy to announce that an anonymous donor has agreed to match any donations to this fund up to a cumulative amount of \$100,000! So now, more than ever, we are looking for your support. In addition to this challenge gift, your donations will be matched through

the Government of Alberta Access to the Future Fund. All funds received through this matching grant program will provide learning enhancements such as equipment, classroom enhancements, programming and student supports. As you can see, your donation will go very far. If you would like to make a donation or renew your pledge, please contact our office.



**KAREN FAULKNER**  
Executive Director, NorQuest College  
Community Relations and Foundation

## NORQUEST FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS

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## FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER CONTACTS

The NorQuest College Foundation Newsletter is produced by the NorQuest College Community Relations department. To receive the electronic version of the newsletter, submit an idea for an article, ask a question or make a comment pertaining to the newsletter, or to be removed from our mailing list, please contact the newsletter editor.

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Edmonton, AB T5J 1L6



## Wake Up to the Possibilities!

Join us for our annual fundraising breakfast...  
Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Doors open at 7 AM; breakfast served at 7:30 AM  
The Westin · 10135 – 100 Street · Edmonton, Alberta

Plan to attend!

Contact Rachelle Young at [rachelle.young@NorQuest.ca](mailto:rachelle.young@NorQuest.ca)

## HOW TO DONATE

Donate online:  
[www.norquest.ca](http://www.norquest.ca)

The fast and easy way to give.

NorQuest College  
A205, 10215 – 108 Street  
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