

NORQUEST COLLEGE FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2009



Sixth annual fundraising breakfast gives students a hand up

At the sixth annual NorQuest fundraising breakfast, guest speaker Patrick LaForge asked attendees to share their good fortune by helping NorQuest students make Edmonton a better place. "Good people make great communities," said LaForge, President of the Edmonton Oilers Hockey Club and Past Chair of the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce. "Forget about the word student; these are people who are trying to make a difference in their lives. They need food and shelter. They need a hand up..."

With over 500 guests packing the Westin ballroom, the breakfast, presented by RBC, brought NorQuest College ever closer to its annual \$2 million goal. The nearly \$300,000 raised will be matched by the Province's Access to the Future Fund.

Guests were inspired by two student ambassadors whose lives have been transformed through their experiences at NorQuest. Cora Bilobroka, a graduate of the Hospital Unit Clerk program, believed her dream of a post-secondary education would go unfulfilled when

she was diagnosed with breast cancer. After intense treatments and some soul searching, Bilobroka made the decision to pursue an education and now works in the Stollery Children's Hospital.

"Cancer was not the worst thing that happened in my life," said Bilobroka. "It has led me to where I am today. I have found a career that suits me perfectly. I am grateful to NorQuest College for the excellent training and for the support I received as a student recovering from a challenging illness."

Scott Jack described his journey from a drug-addicted life of hopelessness and homelessness to one of fulfillment and success as a student at NorQuest. Jack's dream is to complete his upgrading and study engineering and he has worked hard to move closer to this goal. "I knew I needed to be a student here at NorQuest," said Jack.

"It didn't take me long to figure out that NorQuest College is very well suited to the student who really wants to succeed: right from the teachers, to the success partners, to the tutors and the tutorial centre, where I have spent an

awful lot of time in my year and a half with NorQuest."

Funds raised from the breakfast will go towards much needed student supports and services, scholarships and bursaries as well as technical



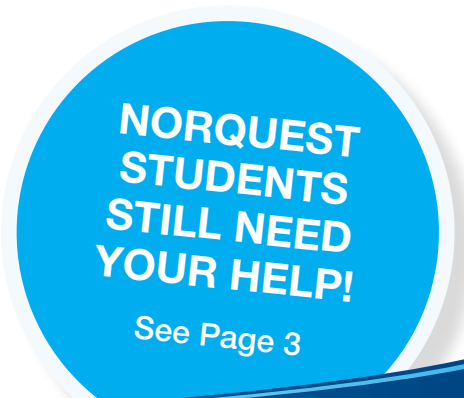
Guests enjoy some time to network at the sixth annual fundraising breakfast

equipment. For those of you who were unable to attend the breakfast, it is still possible to make a contribution online at www.norquest.ca or by contacting the Foundation Office at **780-644-5915**.

On behalf of all the students and staff of NorQuest College, we wish to extend our deepest appreciation for your part in making our community great!



Guest speaker Patrick LaForge inspires a crowd of over 500 guests — one of the largest turnouts to date



RBC: Investing in the futures of new Canadians

The RBC Foundation is committed to making a lasting social impact through inspired, responsible giving and strong partnerships. One of these partnerships is with NorQuest College, where RBC has been supporting our students since 2004.

To date, RBC has given NorQuest a staggering \$500,000 in donations and sponsorships largely in support of newcomers to Canada. RBC began helping new Canadians at NorQuest through their donation to the Adult Literacy program, where many students learn to read and write for the first time. Through their support for the Centre for Excellence in Intercultural Education, RBC inspires and supports many of our new Canadian students.

NorQuest's partnership with RBC has flourished since 2004. With RBC's support, we have been able to impassion record numbers of individuals at our annual fundraising breakfast, enthuse crowds of new Canadians at our RBC sponsored Canada Day celebration, and allow scores of students to shine their brightest through the RBC Student Ambassador program.

"RBC supports NorQuest College's Centre for Excellence in Intercultural Education and the RBC Student Ambassador program because NorQuest provides new Canadians with the support, education



Westmount students celebrate Canada Day

and training they need to succeed," says Wafa Kadri, Manager Community Investment, Alberta & the Territories. "The investment in NorQuest students is an investment in our community's future."

NorQuest College and the RBC Foundation have also initiated a one-of-a-kind intercultural communication speaker series, launching in the spring of 2009. The series will bring experts to Edmonton to train our community's businesses, service groups, educators and government in intercultural issues.

With their donations, the RBC Foundation has not only made an investment in our community's future, they have been an inspiration for countless others to do the same. That's a partnership that makes us all stronger.

Leo the lion joins the fun at the RBC sponsored Canada Day celebration at Westmount



NorQuest ambassador Wendy Lee Marshall welcomes guests to a NorQuest 101

NorQuest students need your help

Every student who comes to NorQuest College has a dream for a career and a better life. They recognize that they need an education to realize that dream.

Sadly, the number one reason students cite for dropping out of school is a lack of funds. At an average age of 34, many students at NorQuest College must balance family, full-time or part-time work, and community and personal commitments. For many, the resources to pay for an education are non-existent.

With support from the community, NorQuest is able to help hundreds of students stay on course with their education by providing emergency financial aid, short-term loans, scholarships and bursaries as well as the services of a student food bank.

With rising enrolment, more and more students need our financial help. The number of students using the NorQuest food bank for themselves and their families has tripled since it was established 13 years ago. With your support, students who experience financial burdens that threaten to derail their education can stay in school.

Students come to NorQuest to pursue a career or a job, but they find that the knowledge and experience they gain benefits them throughout their lives. Their lives are transformed and we are all beneficiaries of that change.

Educator Derek Bok once said, "If you think education is expensive, try ignorance."

Your investment in NorQuest students will have a lasting impact on our community. Please make your



NorQuest Foundation Board Chair Andrew Megson looks to you to help our students

donation online at www.norquest.ca or contact the Foundation office at **789-644-5915**.



"While at NorQuest I accessed counselling, financial aid, learning support – every support available to me. Without these supports, dropping out would have been a major possibility,"

Zoe Demetrius

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. These donors have contributed to the success of our students with combined gifts of \$1,000 or more between October 1, 2008 and December 31, 2008.

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