



Engaging the Front Line

A College Network Development Project

Bulletin #1 April 2008

Working Together to Improve Student and Client Outcomes

If you are teaching or supporting apprentices or adults in academic upgrading, helping job seekers, or assisting employers with their hiring needs, you are among the hundreds of college staff supporting the success of students and clients in Employment Ontario programs at Ontario's colleges.

Many faculty, support staff and managers are involved in the delivery of programs and services which are funded by Employment Ontario. These areas include Job Connect, Literacy and Basic Skills/Academic Upgrading, Apprenticeship and Pre-apprenticeship, and Employment Assistance Services.

The success of our students, apprentices and clients depends upon our ability to deliver these programs effectively. Colleges are uniquely positioned to offer all four programs and services, emphasizing quality and integrated services.

What Does the Project Include?

Colleges have secured funding to support the work of college staff in these four Employment Ontario-sponsored program and service areas. Thanks to the Ministry's Network Development Fund, the *Engaging the Frontline* project will allow us to further invest in the development of processes and resources to better support the success of our students and clients.

What does the project include?

- Three information bulletins for college staff in Employment Ontario sponsored program and service areas.
- Individual College information days for all frontline staff in Apprenticeship, Job Connect, Employment Assistance, and College Upgrading. This event will be held at your college sometime before May 30th.
- Four regional events to develop action plans and strategies. Eight staff per college will be invited to participate in the regional events. These will be held in May and June.
- A compilation of the action items, reports, strategies, innovations and recommendations will be available on the CSC website.
- An environmental scan to determine the increase in the overall awareness of Employment Ontario programs and services at colleges will be done in the fall.

NEWS

The Ontario government will invest in skills training for Ontario workers, including a new, longer-term skills training program for up to 20,000 people.

Premier McGuinty says these new budget initiatives will help move the Ontario economy forward by improving workers' skills and education.

Ontario's 2008 budget includes:

- Investing \$1.5 billion for skills training through the *Skills to Jobs Action Plan*
 - Investment in the further expansion of apprenticeship to increase the number of apprentices to 32,500 by 2011-12
 - Funding for the Apprenticeship Enhancement Fund to improve training facilities and equipment
 - \$355 million over 3 years for a new Second Career Strategy to help 20,000 unemployed workers
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Why Participate?

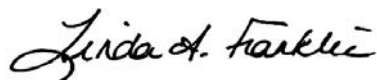
Your participation in the project- by reading the bulletins, participating in the college information events, attending the regional events, reviewing the action items and reports, by networking with your colleagues at your own college- will contribute to the overall success of your students and clients in Employment Ontario programs. It is hoped that better information and better networks will result in improved client and student referrals, better integration of services, more collaboration and sharing of resources and better program outcomes.

Letter from Linda Franklin - President, Colleges Ontario

I wish to congratulate the members of the College Sector Committee for securing Employment Ontario Network Development funding to improve the integration of Employment Ontario programs delivered by Ontario's 24 colleges. These programs and services, including apprenticeship, Job Connect, academic upgrading and employment assistance services, are an integral part of the colleges' mandate to equip students with the skills and knowledge that will help them achieve personal and career success.

I wish you the very best as you plan and implement the project's activities, and hope you will keep me apprised of your progress as your work unfolds. I commend you for your commitment to your clients and students, and to your colleges as you carry out this important work.

Sincerely,



Job Connect

The Job Connect program just passed its 10th anniversary last year! Currently 21 colleges are delivering the program with 57 sites located in colleges, malls, libraries and schools. In 2006-07 the college Job Connect sites helped over 12,000 unemployed people find jobs, placed 13,000 students in summer jobs, and helped 800 clients become registered and employed as apprentices. College Job Connect sites administer employment training

supports to local employers, with approximately 21 million dollars in provincial funding and over a quarter of a million people using these free resource centres in 2006/07. The Job Connect College Sector- JCCS, represents all college Job Connect and EAS sites and is represented on SDAG, the provincial Service Delivery Advisory Group to Employment Ontario. The Job Connect program has recently held four regional provincial conferences

and JCCS also took a lead in organizing the Employment Ontario Managers' Forum in Toronto in December of last year. All Job Connect college sites look forward to continuing to build close working relationships with apprenticeship and academic upgrading staff, developing an improved referral process and understanding the connection of clients to each others' services.

Apprenticeship

Apprenticeship is a hands-on training experience. About 80% of apprenticeship training is learned on the job with an employer. The remaining 20% is delivered at a community college or an approved training organization. Ontario's colleges serve over 25,000 apprentices per year. This figure represents approximately 85% of all in-school training for apprenticeships in the province of Ontario.

EAS Employment Assistance Services

The term *EAS* describes employment programs that were federally funded, but are now part of Employment Ontario.

EAS programs and services include Employment Resource Centres, Re-Employment Centres for International Professionals, Self-Employment Benefits

Programs, Employment Assessment Centres, Rapid Re-employment Action Centres, Job Finding Clubs, and Centres for Experienced Workers (40 years of age or older).

College EAS managers are invited to join the Job Connect College Sector (JCCS) committee.

The JCCS advocates for college service providers and provides a forum for the sharing of ideas and best-practices.

For more information about JCCS, contact Dan Goldring at dgoldring@sl.on.ca

ACE Anywhere !! Any Time!!

The Academic and Career Entrance or ACE program is delivered exclusively by College Upgrading Programs. It is accepted by colleges and the Apprenticeship Branch as equivalent to an OSSD for purposes of admission. It is also accepted as equivalent for purposes of hiring and promotion by employers in Ontario including the OPP, Hydro One, General Motors, Proctor and Gamble, and Vale INCO.

During the past year, a total of 21 ACE courses have been developed for distance delivery, 10 in English and 11 in French. Currently, students and teachers from all colleges are piloting the English ACE courses and they will be ready for Distance Delivery in July 2008. Some of the courses taught in French will be available in July and the balance in September. Registration will be through *Ontario Learn*.

ACE Distance courses will be of particular interest to students who are unable to participate in classroom-delivered programming because of geographic barriers, employment schedules and personal situations. The Apprenticeship Math and Physics courses will be of particular interest to individuals seeking to qualify for many careers in Apprenticeship. We are currently piloting a modified Computer Fundamentals course in a number of Rapid Reemployment initiatives in south western Ontario. There is no charge for tuition, and all learning materials will be provided free of charge for all ACE courses.

For more information about ACE, go to www.collegeupgradingon.ca. The CSC will be distributing directions on how to register for an ACE Distance course in May.

Prepared For Success

Each year since 1995, the College Sector Committee for Adult Upgrading has been tracking the success of individuals who have moved on to a fulltime postsecondary program from college upgrading. The results are consistently positive. Success is measured in terms of GPA, retention through to the end of the first semester and registration in the same program for semester two.

Here are some interesting stats from the 2005-2006 report:

- 1,786 students from 23 colleges were tracked
- Health Sciences is the most popular choice (27.5%) followed by Technology (14%) and Business (16%)
- 7% enroll in a Trades or Skills program
- 4 semester programs are chosen by 54% of upgrading graduates
- 82% successfully complete their first semester

Regional Events

Regional events will be held in late May and early June. Each college will be invited to send eight participants to the regional event. Your college lead will soon have more details for you.

College Events and Leads

Your college is hosting an information event for college staff in all four programs. Each college lead will be sending you details about the event at your college. Your college lead is listed below.

Algonquin	Joe Ranieri	Humber	Elana Lewis
Boreal	France Belanger-Houle	La Cite	Eric Marois
Cambrian	Sue Ferguson	Lambton	Anne Marie Cosford
Canadore	Barb Glass	Loyalist	Warren Gee
Centennial	Biljana Bruce	Mohawk	Muzeria Nuredini
Conestoga	Andrea Leis	Niagara	Sue Reinhart
Confederation	Lynne Thornburg	Northern	Johanne Recoskie
Durham	Jeanette Barrett	Sault	Penny Perrier
Fanshawe	Doug Millar	Seneca	Dale Long
Fleming	Lucy Canary	Sheridan	Janet Gambrell
George Brown	Susan Toews	St. Clair	Joann Green
Georgian	Dave Forbes	St. Lawrence	Janet Ashford

Working Group

Lynne Wallace, CSC, Dan Goldring, JCCS-EAS and Piero Cherubini, HAT are responsible for securing this project. College staff from all four program areas comprise the project's Joint Working Group.

Project Lead

The project lead is Bea Clark, the recently retired director of Workforce and Business Development at Niagara College. You are invited to send questions, feedback or comments about the project to Bea at: beaclarke@cogeco.ca.

Share Your Knowledge

You are invited to share your successes, tips and best practices. Send them to the project lead, Bea Clark for inclusion in Bulletin #2. What's working for you and your students and clients? Share your ideas - big or small.

Employment Ontario Partners' Gateway

www.eopg.ca

College staff are invited to check this web site! It provides support to partners and agencies delivering Employment Ontario projects or services. It contains tools and materials to support the Employment Ontario Brand, as well as employment and training information.

This site is continuously upgraded with information and resources to support the Employment Ontario network.