

Comments from the Frontlines

At the January, 2009 provincial managers' meeting, participants were asked to answer a brief questionnaire to evaluate the effectiveness of the CSC and to identify areas for future development. The following summary provides the highlights of that survey.



- 97% of the respondents indicated that the CSC effectively represents college upgrading programs in the college system, with MTCU and with the broader adult education delivery system.
- 97% identified that the CSC distributes information to programs which enables them to be current on new directions and resources. They indicated that the CSC responds immediately to requests for information.
- 97% indicated that the annual reports which the CSC produces, especially *Prepared for Success*, are important internally and externally.



- 100% of respondents use the college website www.collegeupgradingon.ca regularly to stay current, train new staff and inform the broader educational system.
- 100% agreed that the support of the CSC makes it easier and more efficient for programs to achieve their objectives.
- 97% supported the CSC forming closer working relationships with the other sectoral networks (CESBA, CLO and LLO).

Additional comments:

"I can't imagine how we could function as individual programs within this climate of change without the support of the CSC."

"We bring the reports to our VPA meetings to inform others."

"The CSC is the glue that helps keep colleges together and informed."

For the full evaluation, go to www.collegeupgradingon.ca/Annual Reports.



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Spring 2009

Your Connection to Adult Upgrading in Ontario's Colleges.

Christy Siciliano and her mother, Linda Brodie, inspire adult learners at Durham College's Student Celebration.



College Sector Committee
for Adult Upgrading

Inside:

Navigating Change Conference
Ace Online Successes
Adult Literacy Curriculum Update
Student Celebration

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collegematters

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Out Of The BRIEFCASE

A Message From The Editor

Spring is traditionally regarded as a season for growth and regeneration. In an effort to celebrate and capture the positive energy

of students and staff throughout the college system, we're introducing a new format for *College Matters*.

In the past, we've posted *College Matters* on the CSC web site. By supplementing our electronic version with this expanded format, we're hoping to share the stories of our incredible adult students and provide updates on important projects to a broader audience.

In this issue, celebrate the success of adult upgrading students from an in-class and an online perspective. Learn how one college links the past with the future by engaging former students in their student celebrations. Find out more about the explosive growth happening in adult online learning through the ACE Online update. On the lighter side, take a gander at how another college manages to combine both laughs and support for a worthy cause in one entertaining event.

College Matters is a voice for those learning and working in college adult upgrading programs across Ontario. We invite you to share your stories, successes, ideas and concerns. In turn, we will provide you with the most up-to-date information on projects, programs and services affecting you and your learners. As editor, remember that I am "Lean'n on you"!

We at the CSC wish you and your students a happy, productive spring!

MISSION STATEMENT:

The College Sector Committee for Adult Upgrading will assist the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities and lead the Ontario College System in the creation of provincial resources, procedures and standards related to the development and delivery of relevant programs and/or services.

The CSC is committed to providing leadership in promoting the continuous improvement of the delivery of upgrading programs to meet the needs of adult learners.

On our cover:

Former students Christy Siciliano and her mother, Linda Brodie, inspire adult learners at Durham College's student celebration. Story on Page 8.

Ontario Colleges

Algonquin College

1385 Woodroffe Avenue
Nepean, Ontario, K2G 1V8
www.algonquincollege.com

Cambrian College

1400 Barrydowne Road
Sudbury, Ontario, P3A 3V8
705-566-8101, ext.
www.cambrianc.on.ca

Canadore College

P.O. Box 5001, 100 College Drive
North Bay, Ontario, P3A 3V8
www.canadorec.on.ca

Centennial College

Box 631, Station A
Scarborough, Ontario, M1L 4N4
www.cencol.on.ca

Collège Boréal

21 Boul. LaSalle
Sudbury, Ontario, P3A 6B1
www.borealc.on.ca

Conestoga College

299 Doon Valley Drive
Kitchener, Ontario, N2G 4M4
www.conestogac.on.ca

Confederation College

P.O. Box 398
Thunder Bay, Ontario, P7C 4W1
www.confederationc.on.ca

Durham College

P.O. Box 385, 200 Simcoe St. N.
Oshawa, Ontario, L1H 7L7
www.durhamcollege.ca

Fanshawe College

1001 Fanshawe College Boul.
London, Ontario, N5Y 5R6
www.fanshawec.ca

George Brown College

200 King Street East
Toronto, Ontario, M5T 2T9
www.gbrownc.on.ca

Georgian College

One Georgian Drive
Barrie, Ontario, L4M 3X9
www.georgianc.on.ca

Humber College

205 Humber College Blvd.
Etobicoke, Ontario, M9W 5L7
www.humberc.on.ca

La Cité collégiale

801 promenade de l'Aviation
Ottawa, Ontario, K1K 4R3
www.lacitec.on.ca

Lambton College

11-150 North Christina Street
Bayside Centre
Sarnia, Ontario, N7T 7W5
www.lambton.on.ca

Loyalist College

P.O. Box 4200
Belleville, Ontario, K8N 5B9
www.loyalistc.on.ca

Mohawk College

Box 2034
Fennel Ave. and West 5th Streets
Hamilton, Ontario, L8N 3T2
www.mohawkc.on.ca

Niagara College

300 Woodlawn Road
Welland, Ontario, L3C 7L3
www.niagarac.on.ca

Northern College

P.O. Box 3211
Timmins, Ontario, P4N 8R6
www.northernc.on.ca

St. Clair College

2000 Talbot Road West
Windsor, Ontario, N9A 6S4
www.stclairc.on.ca

St. Lawrence College

P.O. Box 6000
Kingston, Ontario, K7L 5A6
www.sl.on.ca

Sault College

P.O. Box 60
443 Northern Avenue
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario
P6A 5L3
www.saultc.on.ca

Seneca College

Yorkgate Campus
1 Yorkgate Blvd.
Toronto, Ontario, M3N 3A1
www.senecac.on.ca

Sheridan College

1430 Trafalgar Road
Oakville, Ontario, L6H 2L1
www.sheridanc.on.ca

Sir Sandford Fleming College

Sutherland Campus
599 Brealey Drive
Peterborough, Ontario, K9J 7B1
www.flemingc.on.ca



An interview with Patricia Ashie, a powerful voice for adult learners.

Feature Interview

Jan Lean

Patricia Ashie is a former Preparatory Program student of St. Lawrence College, Kingston Campus. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for both the Ontario Literacy Coalition and the Movement for Canadian Literacy (including the Executive), and is an impassioned advocate for adult learners as well as Spokesperson for the Learners' Advisory Network of Canada (LAN).

What prompted you to consider academic upgrading?

My life had been turned upside down and I thought I had nothing. Destiny intervened in the form of a gift from my mother, a trip to Cuba. I had a chance to reflect on my life and consider my fu-

ture. I decided to take a couple of night courses and my very observant computer teacher pointed me towards the LBS program at St. Lawrence College.

How did you feel entering St. Lawrence College the first day?

Lost, really scared, wondering what would happen if I didn't succeed. On my first day I was unable to find the class and my computer teacher came by and again I was pointed in the right direction. That moment turned me around...the thought that someone didn't want anything or expect anything of me, but assumed I could do this. I had to

live up to it.

What was your greatest challenge and how did you overcome it? I didn't believe in myself, but as I progressed in the program and began to achieve, my confidence and sense of self grew. Another major challenge was the lack of support at home. It was important that I learned to rely on people I trusted for honest feedback and encouragement.

Describe the qualities of your best teachers.

I remember their openness, that they never tired and always found time for me. I valued their sense of trust, their faith in me and my ability to succeed. The best student/teacher relationships I experienced were those in which I felt we were equal partners, working towards a common goal: my success. They took the time to notice, and I felt they truly were there for me. They provided a lifeline for me and pushed me to take risks and stretch. My teachers contributed to my academic and personal development, the discovery of "me".

What advice do you have for an adult contemplating going back to school for academic upgrading?

Ask "What do YOU want for yourself?" It's more than your ABCs; it's a journey of discovery. This realization helps take away the pressure by empowering you so that you focus on the fact that you are worth it. Focusing on the journey frees your spirit and allows you to be you. Education is an adventurous journey—take it all in!



Learn to Learn is the pre-requisite course for students planning to take ACE Online courses. The purpose of the course is to introduce learners to online learning and help them determine if they have the technological skills, academic background and personality to succeed in an online learning setting. We are proud of Colleen's accomplishment as the first graduate of the pilot course. Her story is an inspiration to us all!

In The Spotlight

Learn to Learn success Colleen Cairns

I am 45 years old, have four children and three step-children ranging in age from 5 to 25 years of age. Education has always been an important part of my life. I had always wanted to obtain my BA; however, as a single parent to four children for most of my adult life, I had other priorities.

Because I had been out of school for quite some time, it was suggested that I might benefit from upgrading. I decided to return to college last year and enrolled in the ACE program at Georgian College taking Mathematics, Biology and Communications. After discussing my future endeavours with the Academic Advisor at Georgian College, I decided on the BA program (Psychology major) through Laurentian University as my goal. I wondered whether I

could manage such a heavy load plus family obligations.

I was approached by my Communications instructor to participate in the piloting of the *Learn to Learn* course where I met Mary Jonik, my instructor, online. I enjoyed this program very much. I particularly liked discussing my goals for the future as part of some of the assignments; this actually allowed me the time to sit down and map out what I really wanted for myself. It was through this process that I discovered that I wanted to work with women who experience barriers and are marginal within our educational system. One day, I hope to work in disability services at a college or university, once I obtain my masters degree.

Mary was gracious and she provided excellent feedback. Her encouragement made me want to get those assignments in as quickly as possible. Although I was still managing a full course load plus completing the L2L course online at the same time, I had little difficulty doing so. The course was very easy to navigate and the feedback was exceptional. I was so encouraged that I began posting tried and true tips for other students online, including ways to handle and manage your time as a full time student and tips on staying organized and stress free. I built a rapport with fellow students with whom I still correspond; they let me know how they are doing, and they are doing amazingly well!

I'm taking a summer course through Laurentian, and have applied for admission this fall. I've been accepted into Georgian College for September into the General Arts and Science Program. However, should my application for Laurentian be accepted, I will be heading to Laurentian at the Georgian College campus in September. It is due to the encouragement from ACE teachers such as Mary, Joan and Joanne who really made a difference in my journey.

Until then, I am enjoying working closely as an Assistant to Mary Jonik and the team that works so hard to put together the L2L course and ACE Online program. Online is the lifeline that helps students get where they want to be.

Making the Case for Integration

By Sue Folinsbee

The project *Making the Case for Integration* is a research project highlighting best practices in joint work among Adult Upgrading, Apprenticeship, Job Connect and Employment Assistance Services through Case Studies in seven colleges. The project began in September, 2008 with an invitation to all colleges to apply to be a case. Data collection started in January with site visits made to five colleges since then. The main deliverable for the project is a comprehensive report detailing the seven cases with an analysis of the factors that contributed to the success of joint work across the cases. In addition, there will be a short summary of each case and compilation of templates and tools for joint work useful to other colleges.

The Big Picture

Projects Across the System



For up-to-date information about projects, reports, resources and more, visit the College Sector Committee for Adult Upgrading web site at www.collegeupgradingon.ca

Taking Action!

Our new project has been approved!

By Bea Clark

I am pleased to announce that Employment Ontario has just advised us that our project, *Taking Action!*, has been approved. This will provide follow up and additional support to our recently completed *Engaging the Frontline* project.

The project is sponsored by the CSC, Heads of Apprenticeship and College Sector Employment Services and is funded by the Employment Ontario Network Development Fund. The objectives are to continue and expand internal partnerships and to develop tools and processes to expedite development of a college referral process for EO clients. The project timeframe is April 2009 to March 2010. Stay tuned for updates!



Shared Genius

Don't hide your light under a bushel! Share your stories, ideas, and brain waves with others across the system. This issue features a teaser of things to come from Canadore College.

Who are these people?

The LBS/AU faculty and staff at Canadore have a lot more going for them than just a good upgrading program.



Having fun for a worthy cause has never looked so, um, entertaining.



This could be you. Recognize the hairdo?



Intrigued? Watch for the whole story in the next issue of *College Matters!*

Web Picks

Websites worth visiting. Tell us your favourites so we can share them with other readers!

College Upgrading

Check the CSC web site regularly for current information on what is happening in college upgrading programs. www.collegeupgradingon.ca This issue's highlight is the *Current Initiatives and Publications* section where there is information on Assessment, Employment Ontario and Essential Skills.

ACE Online

www.acedistancedelivery.ca is coming soon!

College System

Stay in touch with what is happening in the college system at www.collegesontario.org.

Provincial & Federal Initiatives

For up to date information go to www.ontario.ca/employmentontario and srv108.services.gc.ca/English/general/home_e.shtml

Editor's Inbox

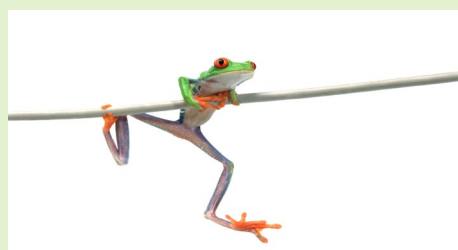
Please submit all articles, questions, comments, etc. to Jan Lean at jan.lean@sympatico.ca **Thanks for your input!**

Yours To Say...

"Everything's good in our virtual classroom."

Colleen Cairns
Learn to Learn graduate & online learner

This month's Freudian (Frogian?) slip: "newtworks"
Thanks Lynne!



"I'm a great return on your investment. Do you realize that the benefits of adult upgrading go beyond me?"

Patricia Ashie, Adult Learner
(message for funding agencies)



Christy Siciliano and Linda Brodie inspire adult learners!

Upgrades

Honouring students' achievements

As a mother and daughter team, they're unbeatable. In addition to being incredibly positive, self-directed and successful in pursuing their goals, they have something else in common: Christy Siciliano and her mother, Linda Brodie, are graduates from Durham College's academic preparation programs (Academic Upgrading and Pre-Health respectively). On May 7, 2009, Linda and Christy were invited as guest speakers to Durham College's twice yearly Student Celebration.

In 1988, Linda entered the Pre-Health Program with the goal of

becoming an RN. As a teen, Linda had left high school without finishing grade 12 due to family circumstances. She had always dreamed of being a nurse and, by leaving school, felt she had unfinished business. After a series of jobs, Linda realized that by not having an education she would never reach any goals she had set for herself or her family. After her sixth child, Linda signed up for Pre-Health and (after successful completion) was subsequently accepted into Durham's RN program. With three of her six children in

tow, and her husband driving back and forth for 15 months, Linda worked in a Cardiac Critical Care Unit in North Carolina. With this experience, she returned to Canada and has held positions in Critical Care, Home Health Care, Dialysis and Maternity. Linda currently works in Critical Care at Lakeridge Health, Bowmanville.

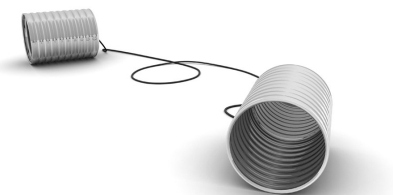
In 2005 – inspired by her mother – Christy decided to “take the leap” and return to school to embark on a new career path...and so the Academic Upgrading process began. Christy completed in 2008, demonstrating her true potential by achieving marks in the 80's and 90's. Christy recently completed her first year of the Practical Nursing program and did so with honours. She is justifiably proud of her accomplishments and, more than that, is “so grateful for the staff and the teachers who were instrumental to her continued development”.

Any words of wisdom for adult learners? Christy stressed focusing on the end goal, even when the going gets hard. Linda acknowledged the degree of self-motivation required to be successful: set goals, organize your time, and draw on the support of friends, family and your teachers.

Want more info?

Durham's 2X year celebration honours Academic Upgrading students who have completed levels, Pre-Health and University Preparation students who completed their programs, and those who achieved

honours. The event features guest speakers, tasty refreshments, decorations and heartfelt staff and faculty participation. For information, contact LBS Coordinator Cheryl Hurst at 905-721-2000, ext. 2548 or Cheryl.hurst@durhamcollege.ca.



Going The Distance

Update on the ACE Online Program

The ACE Online project is pleased to report that between July 2, 2008 and March 31, 2009, ACE Online had 1,364 enrollments from 853 learners. During this period we collected feedback and observed student performance. As a result, a number of improvements have been made and implemented effective April 1,

2009. We believe they will lead to a better learning experience for students and improve outcomes. One thing is very apparent. The implementation of ACE programming in an asynchronous, online format is a huge success. There has been demand for ACE Online programming from its inception and changes in the economy have only increased interest and demand.

Since April 1, 2009 all ACE Online students have been required to complete the *Learn to Learn* course or be declared exempt before enrolling for an ACE Online course. Currently, 15 English colleges and 2 French colleges are offering ACE Online courses.

They include the following: Algonquin, Confederation, Conestoga, Cambrian, Canadore, Durham, Fanshawe, Georgian, Lambton, Loyalist, Mohawk, Sault, Fleming, Sheridan, St. Lawrence, Collège Boréal and La Cité collégiale.

We've started off the 2009-2010 fiscal year in a big way. In April and May we had a total of 444 enrollments and we see no signs that things are going to slow down. There is the greatest demand for Chemistry, Biology, Communications and Core Math, which has been consistent since the start of ACE Online.

We're looking forward to a great year ahead as we continue to improve ACE Online and make it work for our students.

**Arlene Cronin, Consultant
College Sector Committee for
Adult Upgrading**

Congrats! ACE Online grad

David Mornix is a highly motivated, very focused young man who recently completed requirements for an Academic and Career Entrance (ACE) Certificate at Sault College. Dave completed the four courses for his ACE Certificate entirely online, while also working full-time and raising a young family. He did this in approximately four months from September 2008 to January 2009.

Dave appreciated the opportunity to learn online, and added that, as he presently works full-time, along with another part-time job to help support his wife and four-year old son, he couldn't have done it any other way.

Dave has applied for entrance into Sault College's Graphic Design program for Fall 2009 and, given his level of ambition and commitment, it is quite certain that he will do very well. Congratulations, Dave!



Navigating Change Conference

June 1, 2 & 3, 2009
Seneca College
King Campus



Historic Eaton Hall, Seneca College, King Campus



Seneca Residence & Conference Centre



Paul Huschilt entertains with *Seven Humor Habits for Workplace Wellness*.

Program Features...

- Managers' provincial meeting
- Subject working groups for teachers
- Administrative support staff working group
- Second Career & referral process
- CSC project updates
- ACE Online update
- Using Moodle
- Academic Upgrading partnership discussion
- Bare Essentials training
- *Learn to Learn* demonstration

...and not to mention

- Gala dinner at beautiful Eaton Hall
- Lively entertainment
- Sharing stories and strategies with old and new friends
- Did we mention the food?



Share ideas and expertise at the plenary sessions.



Keynote speaker Dr. Jim Black - President and CEO of SemWorks - is renowned internationally for his high energy presentations aimed at bringing confidence and clarity to the "complex business" of education.



Rhythm Resurgence
After dinner, unwind to the lively, soulful sounds of your favourite pop artists with a Motown twist.

