

CSC takes its show on the road

CSC Consultants share stories of challenge, achievement and dedication—hallmarks of the dedicated students, faculty and staff committed to the success of the ACE Program.



Arlene Cronin, Project Lead
ACE Distance Delivery



Luc Dupont, Associate Prof.
University of Ottawa
CSC sponsored Keynote Speaker
ACCC Conference



Mary Jonik, Coordinator
Learn to Learn

Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC) Conference *Continuous Learning 3.0: The Transformation of Education*

October 6 & 7, 2010 • Chateau Cartier, Gatineau

Telling Our Story: ACE Distance—From 37 to 3300+ in 21 Months

When ACE Distance delivery started in July 2008 there were 36 enrolments. Twenty-one months later, more than 3,000 enrolments had been processed in the 10 ACE Distance courses, not counting the *Learn to Learn* orientation course. Arlene Cronin presented the ACE Distance story, including its phenomenal growth and what has been learned, to a rapt audience from across Canada. The CSC was a sponsor of the conference and Jan Lean staffed an exhibition booth.

Ontario Literacy Coalition (OLC) Conference

October 20, 2010 • Toronto

Preparing Students for Online Learning in the Academic and Career Entrance (ACE) Program—A Case Study

The OLC conference presented another occasion for ACE Distance delivery staff to raise awareness and promote the program. Arlene Cronin and Mary Jonik presented a session focusing on best practices in retention using *Learn to Learn* and the ACE Distance program as a theory-into-practice case study. Over 75 people attended the session.

More out and about...

Earlier in the summer, CSC consultants and faculty presented at a number of conferences including the Laubach Literacy Ontario conference in Waterloo (Arlene Cronin) and the CSC Conference at Georgian College in Barrie (Mary Jonik, Megan Way-Nicholson, Arlene Cronin, Bea Clark, Sue Menard, Sandra Hennessey, Barb Glass and Sue Folinsbee).

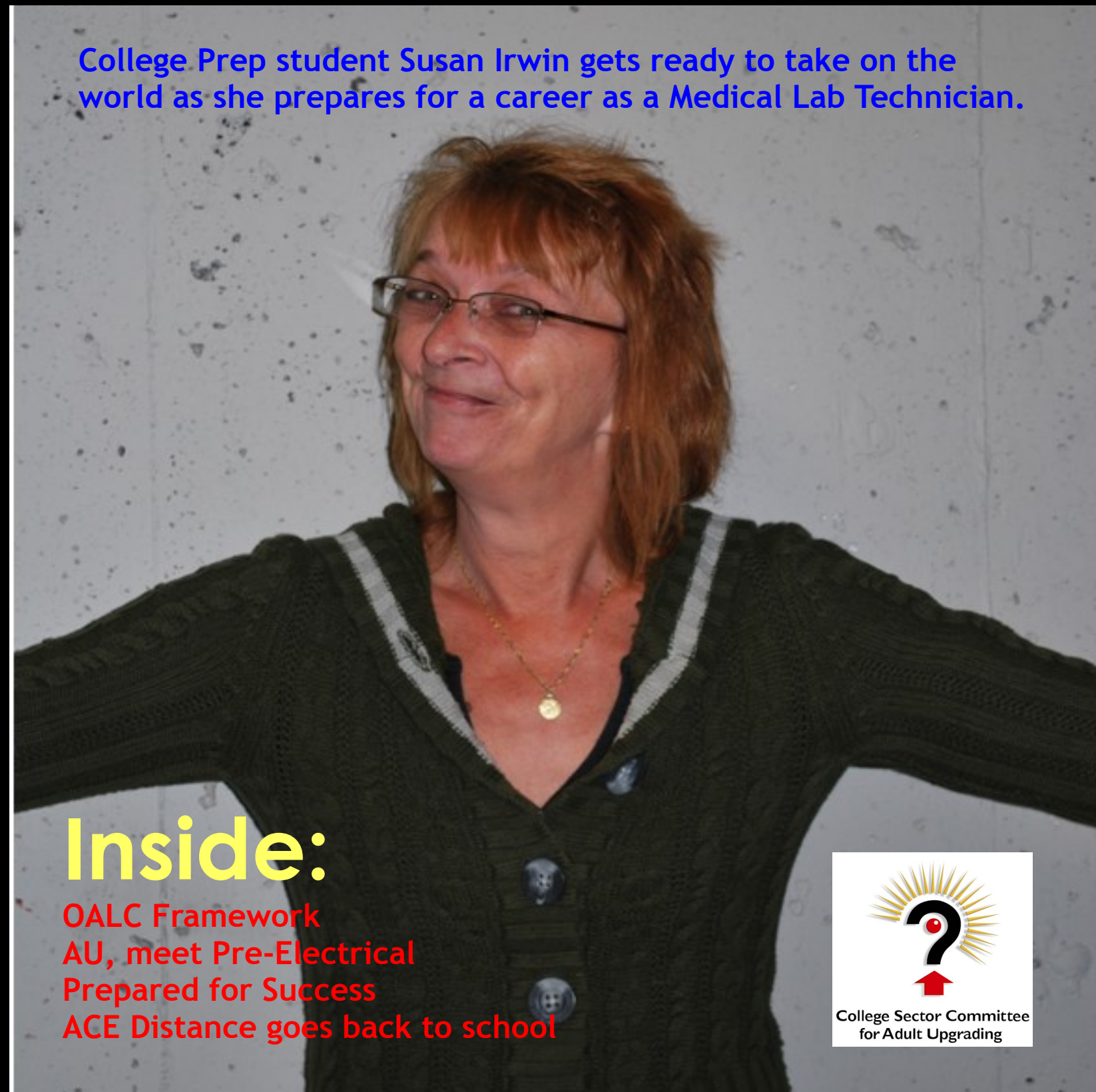
On October 4, 2010, Jan Lean attended *Harnessing Productivity: The Investment in Literacy and Essential Skills*, a reception at Queen's Park hosted by the Ontario Literacy Coalition and attended by Minister Milloy, MPPs and representatives of literacy providers from across Ontario. The purpose of the reception was to recognize the efforts and strides Ontario has made in improving the literacy skills of all Ontarians.

collegematters

Fall 2010

Your Connection to Adult Upgrading in Ontario's Colleges.

College Prep student Susan Irwin gets ready to take on the world as she prepares for a career as a Medical Lab Technician.



Inside:

OALC Framework
AU, meet Pre-Electrical
Prepared for Success
ACE Distance goes back to school



College Sector Committee
for Adult Upgrading

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collegematters

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Out Of The BRIEFCASE

A Message From The Editor

Although New Year's may be a time for resolutions, Fall traditionally heralds the time for new beginnings and getting down to business. De-

spite the fact that many of us now live, learn and work in a year-round training environment, a significant number of educational programs still experience the greatest influx of students in September. The shortening days and turning leaves remain powerful prompts to make decisions and put plans into action. The onset of the "Ex" persists as a reminder for this former Torontonian that the beginning of school is not far off.

This issue focuses on the experiences of those effecting new starts through education. Whether they be faculty, online learners or traditional in-class students, they are all involved in new beginnings that promise renewed skills, energy and opportunities for themselves or their students. Through their stories, they offer insight, inspiration and hope for the future. We also update you on important programs and projects affecting learners and colleges across the system.

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 a happy, energized and productive Fall.

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:

College Prep student Susan Irwin prepares for a new career with the support of the staff at St Lawrence College. Story on Page 10.

Ontario Colleges

Algonquin College

1385 Woodroffe Avenue
Nepean, Ontario, K2G 1V8
www.algonquincollege.com
613.727.4723

Cambrian College

1400 Barrydowne Road
Sudbury, Ontario, P3A 3V8
www.cambriancollege.ca
705.566.8101

Canadore College

P.O. Box 5001, 100 College Drive
North Bay, Ontario, P3A 3V8
www.canadorec.on.ca
705.474.7600

Centennial College

Box 631, Station A
Scarborough, Ontario, M1L 4N4
www.centennialcollege.ca
416.289.5000; 1.800.268.4419

Collège Boréal

21 Boul. LaSalle
Sudbury, Ontario, P3A 6B1
www.borealcol.on.ca
705.560.6673; 1.800.361.6673

Conestoga College

299 Doon Valley Drive
Kitchener, Ontario, N2G 4M4
www.conestogac.on.ca
519.748.5220

Confederation College

P.O. Box 398
Thunder Bay, Ontario, P7C 4W1
www.confederationc.on.ca
807.475.6110

Durham College

P.O. Box 385, 2000 Simcoe St. N.
Oshawa, Ontario, L1H 7L7
www.durhamcollege.ca
905.721.2000

Fanshawe College

1001 Fanshawe College Boul.
London, Ontario, N5Y 5R6
www.fanshawec.ca
519.452.4430

George Brown College

200 King Street East
Toronto, Ontario, M5T 2T9
www.georgebrown.ca
416.415.5000; 1.800.265.2002

Georgian College

One Georgian Drive
Barrie, Ontario, L4M 3X9
www.georgianc.on.ca
705.728.1968

Humber College

205 Humber College Blvd.
Etobicoke, Ontario, M9W 5L7
www.humber.ca
416.675.3111

La Cité collégiale

801 promenade de l'Aviation
Ottawa, Ontario, K1K 4R3
www.lacitec.on.ca
613.742.2483

Lambton College

11-150 North Christina Street
Bayside Centre
Sarnia, Ontario, N7T 7W5
www.lambtoncollege.ca
519.542.7751

Loyalist College

P.O. Box 4200
Belleville, Ontario, K8N 5B9
www.loyalistcollege.ca
613.969.1913; 1.888.569.2547

Mohawk College

Box 2034
Fennel Ave. and West 5th Streets
Hamilton, Ontario, L8N 3T2
www.mohawkcollege.ca
905.575.1212

Niagara College

300 Woodlawn Road
Welland, Ontario, L3C 7L3
www.niagaracollege.ca
905.735.2211

Northern College

P.O. Box 3211
Timmins, Ontario, P4N 8R6
www.northernc.on.ca
705.235.3211; 1.866.736.5877

St. Clair College

2000 Talbot Road West
Windsor, Ontario, N9A 6S4
www.stclaircollege.ca
519.966.1656; 1.800.387.0524

St. Lawrence College

P.O. Box 6000
Kingston, Ontario, K7L 5A6
www.sl.on.ca
613.544.5400

Sault College

P.O. Box 60
443 Northern Avenue
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 5L3
www.saultc.on.ca
705.759.2554; 1.800.461.2260

Seneca College

Yorkgate Campus
1 Yorkgate Blvd.
Toronto, Ontario, M3N 3A1
www.senecac.on.ca
416.491.5050; 416.493.4144

Sheridan College

1430 Trafalgar Road
Oakville, Ontario, L6H 2L1
www.sheridanc.on.ca
905.845.9430

Sir Sandford Fleming College

Sutherland Campus
599 Brealey Drive
Peterborough, Ontario, K9J 7B1
www.flemingc.on.ca
705.749.5530; 1.866.353.6464



Mary Gelinas, Coordinator, College Preparation
St. Lawrence College, Kingston Campus

Changing Times... Changing Lives Jan Lean

It's easy to see why students speak so highly of Mary Gelinas, Coordinator of the College Preparation Program at St. Lawrence College, Kingston Campus. Anyone meeting her would immediately respond to her generous spirit and positive energy.

Such was the case for Susan Irwin, who began the College Prep Program this Fall in preparation to enter the Medical Lab Technician Program at St. Lawrence in September, 2011. A self-confessed go-getter, Susan con-



Susan Irwin

initial phone call. At a point in her life where she was motivated and able to pursue her personal goals, Susan jumped in with both feet and has never looked back. Now well into the program, Susan acknowledges that the first week was "Overwhelming, bewildering, and all the other 'ings' you can think of". But she persevered and is now comfortably "in the mode", doing well in her tests, fitting in and enjoying the company of fellow adult learners and the support of her teachers.

Former College Prep student Jody MacDonald also speaks well of Mary. He asserts that "Any student who would return to dress up in a lion costume for a

school skit must think a lot of the teachers and staff". Now entering the second year of his RPN program at St. Lawrence, Jody attests to the high quality of teaching and support of faculty in College Prep that prepared him for success in postsecondary.

In the wake of a layoff due to downsizing in his workplace two years ago, Jody seized the opportunity to retrain offered through the Second Career Program. A firm believer that "When one door slams, another one opens", Jody drew on a lifelong interest in helping people and returned to school to pursue a career in the field of mental health. Having earned a 3.9 GPA

in the first year of his RPN program, Jody credits the College Prep program for his achievement. Jody's goal is to be happy in his second career; that wasn't the case in the past. From where he currently sits, Jody appears well situated to achieve his goal... and not only that, he apparently looks quite spiffy in a lion costume.

So kudos to the students, faculty and support staff at St. Lawrence College. Their caring nature has had an immense impact on the success and retention of their students, and it shows in their attitudes. As Mary says, "Working in College Prep is the best gig in the college."



Jody MacDonald

In The Spotlight

Looking Back, Moving Forward

Ontario Adult Literacy Curriculum Framework



Looking Back...

The 2007 Liberal plan, *Moving Forward Together*, identified that "Ontario will work with the college sector and non-profit groups to design and deliver an adult literacy curriculum." The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) has been the lead ministry for this provincial initiative, with the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration included on the Steering Committee.

Initial work on the OALC project was conducted by a team of 12 from across sectors and streams. The CSC played a major role. This team undertook reviewing current adult literacy and learning theory and researched delivery models in other jurisdictions. This work resulted in the identification of six core competencies, supporting task groups and tasks for three of these competencies. Guidelines for one of the compe-

tencies were also developed. This package of draft OALC materials was piloted with agencies from all sectors and streams during the January to March 2010 period. Fifteen colleges were involved in the pilot.

Moving Forward...

With a curriculum framework or template in place, other pieces of the puzzle needed to be addressed. In April 2010, project partners were given lead roles in specific areas—curriculum framework, assessment, materials management, training development, LBS agency support, sustainability and an allied project supporting deaf literacy.

The CSC was assigned the task of carrying forward the curriculum work of the original team. The foundation—competency, task group, tasks and guidelines tem-

plates and processes—were provided to support the completion of the curriculum framework. The CSC hired project staff from all three sectors (Community-Based, College and School Board) to complete the curriculum framework documents. Although a minor change was made—two competencies were collapsed to one—the resulting curriculum framework documents are based on the original foundation.

The initial curriculum framework is scheduled for implementation in 2011. OALC Overview Training for colleges is scheduled to take place in each of the four regions in November, 2010 and will be followed by implementation training in early 2011. The sustainability project will be developing protocols, processes and criteria for field engagement in the use and revision of framework content.

Over the coming months, the assessment and learning materials components will be released to the field to support implementation. All of these components will be housed on a website developed by AlphaPlus.

To read more in depth information about the OALC, see the OALC Communiques posted at <http://www.on.literacy.ca/whatwedo/initiatives/pd/adultcurriculum>.



Integrating Academic Upgrading into Pre-Electrical Programming

By Sue Folinsbee

The goal of this project is to ensure that pre-trades and pre-apprenticeship students receive an Academic Upgrading (AU) component that is tailored to their trade and appears seamless with the trade component of their program. The project, funded by MTCU, is a partnership between the CSC and Durham College. The project ends on March 31, 2011.

The major components of the project include the following:

- A literature review
- Best practices review for integrated programming within Ontario's colleges
- Consultation with Durham College pre-electrical students, electrical apprentices and trades and AU faculty
- Development of an integrated

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

- curriculum offered up to 20 first year Durham College pre-electrical students
- A "how-to" handbook and

workshops on integrated programming

At the present time, 14 pre-electrical students are registered in the trades-related AU program. The focus is on trades math following what people are learning in their pre-trades college program. AU and trades faculty have been working closely to ensure the curriculum in the supplementary class meets the identified needs from the consultation at Durham College and the day-to-day concerns of the students and trades faculty.

In addition, a draft literature review focusing on integration has been completed along with selected interviews with faculty across Ontario for the best practice review. A survey on integration practices will go to AU at all colleges in January 2011. The next steps are to implement an evaluation strategy for the project and plan out the "how-to" handbook and series of workshops.



Shared Genius

Don't hide your light under a bushel! Share your stories, ideas, and brain waves with others across the system. In this issue, read about the amazing success of College Upgrading students across Ontario.

PREPARED FOR SUCCESS The 2009-2010 Results Are Ready!

Once again, College Upgrading students who have moved on to post-secondary programming demonstrate that they are successful in terms of grades, retention and correct selection of postsecondary program. Here are a few of the highlights:

- 3,372 students were tracked - an increase of 18%
- All 24 colleges provided data
- Health Sciences continues to be the most popular destination at 30%
- Trades and Skills has moved from the least popular to fourth place at 11%
- 4 semester programs are the most frequent destination at 49%
- 83% of students are successful at the end of the first semester of their postsecondary studies
- The highest success rate is in Health Sciences - 90%
- The lowest average GPA is in GAS at 2.99
- The highest average GPA is in Health Sciences at 4.48

The CSC congratulates former AU students for their continued success in postsecondary and wishes them all the best in pursuing their academic and career goals!

Many thanks also to the dedicated staff and faculty who support them in achieving their targets.

For the full report and commentary go to www.collegeupgradingon.ca.

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

Need information on career planning? Try...

Career Paths Online

www.careerpathsonline.com

Career Directions

www.careerccc/careerdirections

What's Key In Labour Market Info.

www.whatskey.org

Canadian Careers

www.canadiancareers.com/careerinfo.html

Motiv8 Online

www.motiv8.com

Career Bookmarks

www.careerbookmarks.tpl.toronto.on.ca/

Yours To Say...

"What a great group of intelligent, caring and committed individuals. I am proud to be part of this group."

CSC Conference Attendee

This month's Freudian slip: "OALC blubr"

Don't cry about OALC; we just meant blurb!



"Don't forget your dreams and don't forget to do them."

Susan Irwin
College Preparation Student
St. Lawrence College, Kingston



the fall program on the condition that I had a Secondary School diploma or equivalent. ACE Communications was the only equivalent that met all my needs.

I've taken many courses at college and university levels over the years to further my business skills. However, I don't have a Secondary School diploma, so I was a bit disillusioned by the requirement. Also, at that time

Upgrades by Corrine Engelmann

How ACE Communications Changed My Life

ACE Distance has allowed me to indulge my passion. Without it I would have to resign myself to being only a hobby potter. Earlier this year I learned of a wonderful Ontario college program in ceramics, designed to help potters learn the skills necessary to set up their own studio and run it as a business. For me, this meant a chance to turn something I love to do into a second career. I am over fifty, ready for a fresh start, and opening my own studio has always been a dream of mine. I applied for and was accepted to

my husband and I were working on a contract in Moscow, Russia which required us to live there, and meant that I would not have the option of attending upgrading courses in Ontario. When I learned of ACE Distance, it seemed the perfect solution to my problem. I was able to start the course within a month and finish it on my own time schedule, which enabled me to get the equivalency I needed in time for the fall program.

The materials for the ACE Dis-

tance course were all online and available to me 24 hours a day, seven days a week so I did not have to be concerned about restrictions due to time zones. In addition, the feedback from the instructor was helpful and encouraging, and I was made to feel that she sincerely wanted me to succeed. The ACE material first created a foundation of the subject matter and gradually progressed, becoming more complex as additional skills were learned and practiced in assignments. As well, I found that the material was up-to-date and dealt with real-world situations on various levels.

Overall, I've gained a genuine sense of accomplishment from having completed the ACE Distance course. Beyond the tangible benefit of meeting the conditions of my college acceptance, it's helped prepare me for a major change in my life by renewing my learning skills. I am now enjoying the ceramics program and am confident in my abilities to meet the challenges it presents. ACE Distance has left me knowing that, even at my age, I'm still truly capable of learning and, more so, at excelling.



Marketa, ACE Distance student, shares...

"The biggest challenge at first was finding the time to study. But when I took the *Learn to Learn* course I realized that doing these courses online is much more beneficial than taking a full day course which requires taking a day off and driving 50 kilometers.

ACE Communications was easy to understand and follow. Some assignments were completely new for me. Others were familiar. I had a helpful teacher to turn to. One assignment was to read a wonderful novel. I could 'study' like this twice a week :)! Elearning is fantastic! It helps me improve my skills and stay in nature at the same time."



Going The Distance

Update on the ACE Distance Program

ACE Distance faculty catch the "back to school" spirit at a professional development event in Toronto this Fall.

It was the end of August and time to go back to school. You could sense the excitement in the room. The rustling of papers, shuffling in chairs, cries of greeting and recognition, the anticipation. After a last check on her presentation, the facilitator smiled as she faced her class: the Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) who comprise the dedicated faculty of ACE Distance.

And Project Lead Arlene Cronin had a great deal to share and celebrate with her team. In July, 2008, the program began with 37 students; in the first quarter of 2010 alone, the program served 584 new students, 422 potential online learners completed *Learn to Learn*, 2686 students carried over and 600 individuals completed the *SmarterMeasure* assessment.

Throughout the two-day session, faculty shared information about their course development and evolution, success and retention



strategies for online learners and tips for juggling the multiple needs of distance students and the demands of teaching in an asynchronous online environment. The SMEs also appreciated meeting face-to-face, an opportunity that rarely presents itself.



As the meeting concluded, participants left with renewed energy and strength as a highly functioning team committed to the success of their students.

To learn more about ACE Distance faculty and students, registration and course information, visit www.acedistancedelivery.ca.

And their grade?
We gave them a resounding



Persévérance, confiance et estime de soi!

Geneviève Perkins a travaillé comme préposée aux services de soins personnels pendant une quinzaine d'années. Malgré le fait qu'elle adorait sa profession, devenue incapable de poursuivre son travail pour des raisons de santé, elle a dû envisager un changement de carrière.

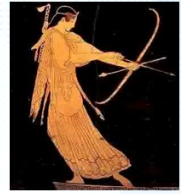
Elle s'est donc inscrite au programme de Formation de base de l'Ontario dans le cadre d'un programme de réintégration au travail. N'ayant complété qu'une 10^e année il y a de cela vingt-cinq ans, elle doutait de ses capacités de terminer ses études secondaires. Cependant, sa détermination, sa motivation et une attitude positive, l'auront amenée à progresser à un rythme très rapide (six mois) et à atteindre d'excellents résultats scolaires, et cela, malgré un arrêt temporaire de quelques mois pour récupérer d'une chirurgie.

Depuis son entrée dans le programme d'alphabetisation, Geneviève a gagné beaucoup de confiance et d'estime de soi. Elle a obtenu son certificate ACE en décembre dernier puis, en janvier 2010, elle s'est inscrite au programme Commis de bureau à La Cité collégiale. Aujourd'hui, Geneviève a gradué et travaille comme commis de bureau pour un centre de soins de longue durée.



Geneviève Perkins

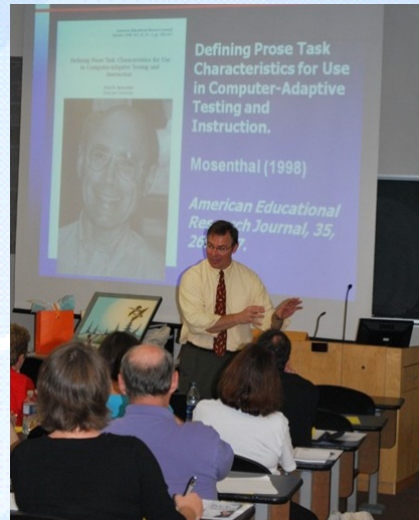
The verdict on the 2010 CSC Conference is in...



Hit and Myth was a **HIT!**



Sandra Hennessey and Bea Clark offer a warm welcome to participants upon registration.



Michael D Hardt of Performance by Design, Inc. shares an innovative approach to instruction.



ACE Distance Project Lead Arlene Cronin dispels myths about the nature and motivation of online learners.



Keynote speaker Sarah Delicate of BBMD Consulting Inc. outlines a plan to move *From Compliance to Competition*.



Math Professor Marco Antonelli takes advantage of the many workshops offered.

Our respondents spoke:

In brief...

- 100% agreed the information gathered during the conference was mostly relevant to the program at their college and their PD needs.
- 98% felt there was a good mixture of working groups, workshops and keynote speakers.
- 100% believed they gained important information about new directions and developments in the field.
- 100% enjoyed having the conference at a college site.

And furthermore...

- "I would like to have the info from other workshops—too many really good ones" - *All available presentations will be posted on the CSC web site soon.*
- "Keep us updated on OALC developments" - *See page 3 of this issue of College Matters.*
- "Would like to see more support staff specific topics" - *We intend to engage support staff in future planning.*
- "A lot of fun—well hosted" - *The fun factor will continue!*

For more information on the conference, visit the CSC web site at www.collegeupgradingon.ca.



Mark your calendars now!
Plan to join us at St. Lawrence College,
Kingston for the 2011 Conference
May 30, 31 and June 1.

