

Nigerians book spots at college

By ANTONIA MCGUIRE

This fall, 70 Nigerian state-sponsored university grads will start a two-year training program at Algonquin College to gain worldly experience, along with specialized skills in network technologies.

"There are training facilities in Nigeria, but we needed to be exposed to the international community," said student leader Kuire Akpan.

Select group

Politicians, educators and students gathered yesterday for an official signing ceremony of an agreement between Algonquin College, in partnership with Canadian Studies Limited, and the government of

Akwa Ibom, Nigeria, to train a select group of graduates.

More than 1,700 Nigerian applicants competed for the Akwa Ibom state scholarship program.

"The state government has spent money and we expect a high performance," said Nigerian High Commissioner Femi George.

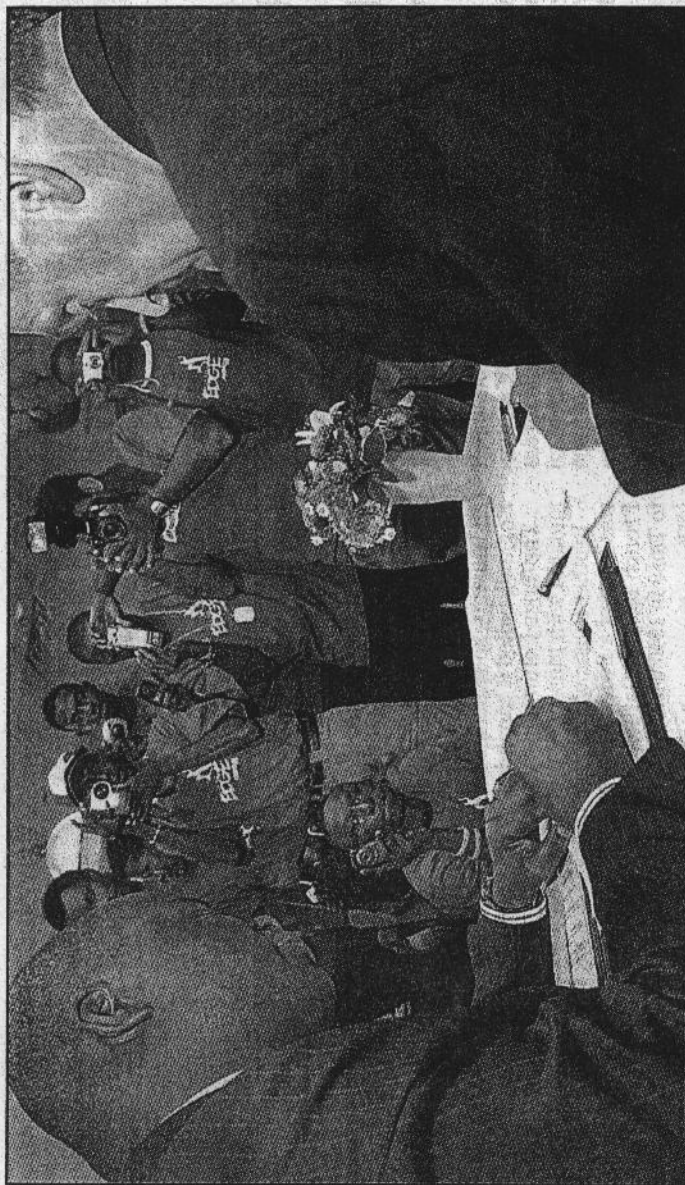
Motivated to learn

The students are motivated to learn and apply their skills.

"We came here to be taught how to fish," said Akpan.

"Most of all, I want to acquire skills to help my state."

The biggest gain for Algonquin is an international profile, said Susan Olszynko, of the college's International Education Centre.



Sean Kilpatrick/SUN

DR. EBEBE UKPONG, commissioner of the ministry of economic development for Akwa Ibom, Nigeria, and Algonquin College president Dr. Robert Gillett take part in a signing ceremony for a training program at the college yesterday as Nigerian students snap pictures of the occasion.