

ALGONQUIN COLLEGE GIVES OPTIONS TO FOREIGN-TRAINED NURSES

Ottawa, ON, January 8, 2003: Algonquin College has created three new options for foreign-trained nurses seeking employment in Ontario. Algonquin's Foreign Trained Nurse Program is designed to assist nurses who have been trained outside of Canada to be able to practice in the province's health-care sector.

The program, funded by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, Access to Professions and Trades Unit, provides a foreign-trained nurse with an opportunity to remain in the health-care field, receive a recognized education and be prepared for employment at a level of care best suited to their skills.

"The creation of the Foreign Trained Nurse Program is in direct response to the current nursing shortage," says Algonquin's Dean of Health and Community Studies Marie Cormier. "This program will help widen the pool of accredited nurses and health-care professionals in this province."

There are many barriers facing skilled immigrants, and relevant Canadian work experience and occupation-specific language training are but a few of the many hurdles that face nurses trained outside of our country. Algonquin's Foreign Trained Nurse Program deals with these and other challenges facing foreign-trained nurses, such as cultural differences and a clear understanding of Ontario's health-care system.

Carmen Hust, Algonquin College's Foreign Trained Nurse Program Leader, believes that this program directly addresses many of the issues facing foreign-trained nurses today.

"One of the main aspirations of the internationally-educated nurse coming to Canada is to gain access to health-care-related employment as soon as possible," says Hust. "The Foreign Trained Nurse Program assesses the prior learning of the applicant and then builds upon their previously-acquired knowledge and skills."

--More--

1385 Woodroffe Avenue

Ottawa, Ontario

Canada

K2G 1V8

Public Relations,

Communications,

Alumni and

Development

Department

Office: 613-727-4723

ext. 7664

Fax: 613-727-7610



Foreign Trained Nurses - 2

The program allows foreign-trained nurses to challenge the course content in one of Algonquin's three nursing-related health-care programs: Personal Support Worker, Practical Nurse and Baccalaureate in Nursing. Once successful, the participant will be credited with the corresponding certificate, diploma or degree.

Multiple challenge options are available to the foreign-trained nurse. Hust believes that Algonquin's Foreign Trained Nurse Program enables nurses to find an option that will maximize their language and nursing skills, thus providing rapid access to employment in the health-care sector. Algonquin College's Prior Learning Assessment Recognition (PLAR) process helps identify the gaps in a foreign-trained nurse's skill set, and therefore helps to direct them to upgrading that best suits their individual needs.

The Nursing and PLAR Departments are but two of many Algonquin College groups that are partners in the Foreign Trained Nurse Program. The College's Language Institute, Career and College Preparation and the International Education Centre have come together to support this unique project.

According to Hust, there are many benefits to the Foreign Trained Nurse Program. "Not only will participants in this program help alleviate Ontario's nursing shortage, but the cultural and sector-specific language training will help the internationally-educated nurse gain the confidence they need to work in a new environment."

--30--

For more information on this media release, contact:

Carmen Hust
Professor, School of Health and Community Studies
Leader, Foreign Trained Nurse Project
Algonquin College
Office: (613) 727-4723 ext. 7263

Dawn Dubé
Director, Public Relations
Algonquin College
Tel: (613) 727-4723 ext. 5192
Cell: (613) 220-5291

1385 Woodroffe Avenue

Ottawa, Ontario

Canada

K2G 1V8

Public Relations,

Communications,

Alumni and

Development

Department

Office: 613-727-4723

ext. 7664

Fax: 613-727-7610