

ALGONQUIN COLLEGE STUDENT RECEIVES NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

Ottawa, ON, January 23, 2003: An Algonquin College student has recently begun her second semester at Algonquin College after receiving the Garfield Weston Merit Scholarship for Colleges (GWMSC) national-level scholarship from the Canadian Merit Scholarship Foundation (CMSF). Algonquin College is one of over thirty Canadian Colleges participating in the GWMSC across Canada.

Marcella Kranenburg is now studying in her first year of Algonquin College's two-year Social Service Worker Program as a result of receiving a scholarship worth approximately \$4,000. Founded in 1988, the CMSF supports students who combine academic promise with character, leadership potential and a commitment to their community.

The first GWMSC scholarships were handed out in 1998, and saw its winners attending 25 Ontario community colleges. They are awarded at the regional, provincial, and national levels, ranging from \$500 to \$4,500 respectively. The scholarships are now accepted at over 31 colleges across the country, with a total of 141 awards in four years.

"Algonquin College is proud to be involved in the Garfield Weston Merit Scholarship for Colleges," says Raymonde Hanson, Algonquin College's Vice President Academic. "It is important for Algonquin to attract high-calibre high school graduates, like Marcella, who are involved in their communities, and this prestigious scholarship helps us achieve that goal."

Kranenburg attended high school in Lucknow, Ontario, and is not only enjoying her studies in Algonquin's Social Service Worker Program, but she also likes doing so in the Nation's Capital. "I chose Algonquin for many reasons," says Kranenburg. "I had heard great things about the Social Service Worker Program, and I always wanted to live in the Capital of our country, so I am really enjoying myself."

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In order to be considered for this scholarship, the student must have a community-minded outlook as well as solid volunteer experience. Kranenburg's high-school volunteer hours included peer-support work, as well as volunteering in a youth drop-in centre.

Working in the community, especially with the homeless, is important to Kranenburg, and she feels that winning this scholarship is an important step in her Social Service career path.

"It was an honour to win this scholarship," says Kranenburg. "I was so surprised when I heard that I had received the scholarship, and I was excited about the opportunity to study at Algonquin. It has been an amazing experience and I'm looking forward to my field work."

Kranenburg is currently fulfilling the Social Service Worker Program's placement requirement at an Ottawa women's shelter.

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