

School Board Officials Attend Algonquin College Classes

Ottawa, ON, Oct. 6, 2005 – Algonquin College and local school boards joined forces today to hold a new event called the Algonquin College Group of Seven. The school board representatives consisting of Directors, Superintendents, Secondary School Principals, Guidance Counsellors, Grade 7 and 8 Principals, Technology Teachers and Student Success Specialists gained valuable College experience as they sat in on classes and familiarized themselves with College life.

“This event responds directly to the Province’s ‘K to 18 Strategy’ with the aim of helping high school students stay in school and ease their transition from high school to post-secondary learning,” says Algonquin College President Robert Gillett. “It is also a unique opportunity to showcase Algonquin College’s leading-edge programs, services and facilities, as well as strengthen our partnership with area School Boards.”

School board officials, such as James G. McCracken, Director of Education for the Ottawa-Carleton Catholic School Board, attended classes in the College’s leading-edge Photonics lab, state-of-the-art Transportation Technology Centre and the first-of-its-kind in Canada Simulation Learning Centre for Health Sciences.

Algonquin College students also played an important role in this event, as they were paired with school board representatives and accompanied them to their morning classes.

“We are pleased to collaborate with our school board partners and with Algonquin College students for this new and innovative event,” says Kent MacDonald, Executive Director of Algonquin College’s Strategy and Business Development Division. “The ‘Student Ambassadors’ helped showcase Algonquin’s diverse programs and services to our school board partners and helped them gain a better understanding of the College experience.”

-More-

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Group of Seven - 2**About Algonquin College:**

Algonquin College of Applied Arts and Technology is located in the Nation's Capital and the Ottawa Valley and is the third-largest college in Ontario. Algonquin turns technology to students' advantage, delivering top-calibre education and valuable experience in high-demand industries. Algonquin College has a diverse population of some 15,000 full-time students and 41,000 part-time registrations in more than 120 programs and is committed to student success.

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-30-**For more information, contact:**

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Group of Seven Backgrounder

Participating School Boards and their Representatives:

Guidance Representative	Kevin Dionne	Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario
Supervising Principal, Student Success Initiative	Sheila Farris	Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario
Technology Teacher Representative	Tom Dregley	Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario
Director of Education	James McCracken	Ottawa-Carleton Catholic District School Board
Principal of Grade 6-8 Students	Gerry Mikalauskas	Ottawa-Carleton Catholic District School Board
Secondary School Principal	Peter Atkinson	Ottawa-Carleton Catholic District School Board
Student Success Leader	Hazel Lambert	Ottawa-Carleton Catholic District School Board
Superintendent of Program/Curriculum	Rosann Mullins	Ottawa-Carleton Catholic District School Board
Director of Education	Diane Jeudy-Hugo <i>(For Lorne Rachlis)</i>	Ottawa-Carleton District School Board
Guidance Counsellor	Sandra Walton	Ottawa-Carleton District School Board
Principal of Grade 6-8 Students	Bonnie Allen	Ottawa-Carleton District School Board
Secondary School Principal	Mary Bada	Ottawa-Carleton District School Board
Student Success Leader	Frank Allan	Ottawa-Carleton District School Board
Technology Teacher	Kevin Shea	Ottawa-Carleton District School Board
Director of Education	John Leitch	Renfrew County Catholic District School Board
Guidance Counsellor	Derek Lennox	Renfrew County Catholic District School Board
Principal of Grade 6-8 Students	Mark Searson	Renfrew County Catholic District School Board
Secondary School Principal	Jaimie Perry	Renfrew County Catholic District School Board
Student Success Leader	Patricia Watters	Renfrew County Catholic District School Board
Technology Teacher	Josh Agnesi	Renfrew County Catholic District School Board
Guidance Counsellor	Kathy Rajsic	Renfrew County District School Board
Principal of Grade 6-8 Students	Bryan Baird	Renfrew County District School Board
Secondary School Principal	Dennis Jenkins	Renfrew County District School Board
Student Success Leader	Loran Young	Renfrew County District School Board
Superintendent of Program/Curriculum	Roger Clarke	Renfrew County District School Board
Technology Teacher	Wanda Hilts	Renfrew County District School Board

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