

ALGONQUIN DOES ITS HOMEWORK

Ottawa, Ontario, April 10, 2002 - All colleges in Ontario continue to get excellent results from their KPI surveys and the delta from top to bottom is extremely narrow. For the fourth year in a row, Algonquin College of Applied Arts & Technology has received good marks from graduates, students and employers in the massive province-wide accountability surveys known collectively as Key Performance Indicators (KPI).

This year, Algonquin College's KPI results are within a percentage point or so below last year's results, with the exception of the graduate employment rate, which dropped by 5%, but stayed within a percentage of the provincial rate of 88.7%. Says Algonquin College President Robert Gillett, "This drop reflects the impact of the past year's pre- and post-September 11th economic downturn and the challenges that our local economy has faced over the last year". "Employment rates changed dramatically with our technology sector and these KPI results reflect those realities", adds Gillett.

Overall, the results this year, along with the results of the past two years, demonstrate that Algonquin continues to "do its homework" when it comes to preparing students for the world of work.

The results of the Key Performance Indicators for Algonquin College show that:

- 88% of recent Algonquin College graduates secured employment within six months of graduation.
- 89% of employers were satisfied with the quality of educational preparation of Algonquin graduates.
- 80% of Algonquin graduates were satisfied with the usefulness of their college education in achieving their career goals after graduation.

Other Key Performance Indicators focused on student satisfaction with college programming and resources and given the funding challenges faced by all colleges, the results are in line with expectations. In detail, the student satisfaction results show that:

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- 85% of students feel that their college program is giving them the knowledge and skills that will be useful in their future careers.
- 77% of students are satisfied with the overall quality of the learning experiences in their program.

The provincial government uses the KPI results to determine the funding for a small portion of each college's annual operating grant. Results from the first three KPI's - graduate employment, graduate satisfaction and employer satisfaction - are used as the basis for KPI or performance funding from the province. "Ontario Colleges contribute to the economic development of the province and require reinvestment to remain a key and vital part of Ontario's prosperity," says Gillett. Gillett warns that the colleges are facing serious funding shortfalls that could affect the successes we are witnessing today. "The KPI results reflect the hard work and dedication by college staff and students, however if we are to continue to be successful, we must work more closely with our provincial government to ensure that the colleges have adequate resources to properly meet the needs of our students and our community," adds Gillett.

According to recent documentation from ACAATO, colleges require a minimum of \$60 million a year across the college system to address the province's skills shortage, and another \$65 million a year to hire faculty and buy equipment to meet the demand of the double cohort and the increased growth.

"For Algonquin College, the double cohort will result in an increase of 2,500 students over the next three years and along with the baby boom echo and the economic slowdown, the College will be severely challenged to continue to achieve good results in the KPI's," concludes Gillett.

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