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ALGONQUIN COLLEGE LAUNCHES TELE-HEALTH PROJECT WITH MARCH NETWORKS

Ottawa, ON, MARCH 31, 2003: Algonquin College nursing students will soon be utilizing state-of-the-art Home Tele-Health technology in the classroom, thanks to a partnership with March Networks.

March Networks has provided Home Tele-Health systems to be used by Algonquin College's nursing students, beginning in the fall of 2003.

"Algonquin College will use Tele-Health technology as a vehicle to support accessibility to primary health care," says Marie Cormier, Dean of the School of Health and Community Studies. "This partnership enhances Algonquin's strategic direction which leverages technology to enhance programs and services."

The March Networks Home Tele-Health solution consists of video-conferencing, computer software and a health-monitoring kit used in patient's homes. Using this system in the classroom will allow nursing students to practice Tele-Health.

"Our Home Tele-Health solution is intended to provide healthcare professionals with the ability to perform remote video visiting and vital signs monitoring to patients within their home environment," says March Networks Vice President and General Manager of Healthcare Applications, Bob Webster. "The use of this equipment will assist nurses in preventing health problems, monitoring and maintaining the health of their home-care clients, as well as providing health education at a reduced cost."

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Barbara Foulds, Algonquin College's Nursing Studies Chair in the School of Health & Community Studies, sees this cutting-edge technology as a critical addition to Algonquin's nursing curricula. It will allow students to work with state-of-the-art equipment prior to graduation. In doing so, the students will be equipped with the additional skills needed to service patients in more isolated communities and situations upon graduation.

"This technology will allow healthcare professionals to interface with patients and helps keep them healthy in their own environment," says Foulds.

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