

## **Algonquin College Nursing Students Perform Missionary Work in Guatemala**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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PEMBROKE, ON - Eighteen Algonquin College Pembroke Campus Nursing students and three of their faculty will participate in a week-long humanitarian effort to help disadvantaged children and their families in Guatemala. The students are in the third year of their four-year degree program and have started a fundraising campaign to help pay their travel expenses to the impoverished Central American country.

Student representative Zaineb Al-Haddawi says it will be an extraordinary learning experience that will help shape the students' careers in nursing. "We are excited about the opportunity to help make a difference in a third world country where so many people struggle to access health care and live in impoverished conditions," adds Al-Haddawi.

The students will be working directly with doctors and nurses in small health care clinics, providing check-ups and basic medical care in poor communities and at orphanages. Performing missionary work in an international setting will help the students to gain new insights into the nursing profession and its global impact.

Algonquin College Nursing Professor, Michelle Osmond, is among the faculty who will be participating in the project and says students are encouraged to look beyond the Canadian nursing experience and to expand their knowledge of the nursing profession. "These ambitious students are committed to making a difference in the world through missionary work. By embracing this international learning opportunity, they are demonstrating the qualities and values that make nursing a compassionate and rewarding career," adds Osmond.

The students will be in Guatemala from May 23rd through the 30th. The cost for each student to participate in this global learning experience is approximately \$2,000. The students have been holding a number of fundraising activities on campus and in the broader community and have also set up a website where the business community and individuals can make donations to help them cover their travel costs. The site can be found at: [www.gofundme.com/volunteernurses16](http://www.gofundme.com/volunteernurses16)

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Algonquin College's Pembroke Campus has a long tradition of training nurses. The campus offers both the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program in collaboration with the University of Ottawa and the two-year Practical Nursing diploma program.

For more information, please contact:

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In the photo are, back row, left to right: Angela Rintoul, Michelle Osmond, Sammie Leroux, Rachel Seely, Chanda Silva, Hannah Shruder-Tate, Myriam Henrie, Robyn Dyer, Crystal Lewis, Emily Milligan, Darcy Parisian.

Front row, left to right: Jen Carter, Melissa Jardine-Ridley, Zaineb Al-Haddawi, Mona Yazdani, Elai Mangal, Suhair Ali.

Missing from the photo are: Lauren Murphy, Dawn Bride, Judy Lafleur.