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Scott McAlpine

April 2010

### **Strategic Planning**

Work is continuing on the Strategic Plan and draft documents are set to be released later this month for consultation, feedback and town hall forums.

### **New Vice President Education**

The search for a new Vice President of Education at Douglas College has now concluded. On behalf of the Selection Advisory Committee, I am pleased to announce that Dr. Kathy Denton is the successful candidate and will assume her new role effective May 1, 2010.

My thanks to members of the Selection Advisory Committee for all their hard work: Peter Wilkins, Robert Nicholls, Lynette Sigola, Glen Stanger, Karen Maynes, Blaine Jensen, Jan Carrie and Silvia Wilson. I would also like to thank Jan Carrie for serving as the Acting Vice President of Education for the past eight months, and acknowledge her for a stellar job of managing the transition of Douglas College.

I look forward to working with Kathy in her new administrative role at Douglas College as we launch our new Strategic Plan.

### **Douglas College Gains SSHRC Grant Eligibility Status**

Douglas College has been approved by the Social Sciences and Humanity Research Council (SSHRC) as an institution eligible to authorize research applications to SSHRC and to administer any funds awarded. As employees of an institution that has successfully met all of SSHRC's eligibility requirements, Douglas College researchers will now be able to participate as applicants or as collaborators in a number of research project grant programs, provided they meet certain eligibility requirements.

Achieving SSHRC eligibility status is a very significant step for Douglas College and has involved the work of many people. It demonstrates the commitment the College has to research and scholarly activity (RSA) in support of students and their learning.

I would like to acknowledge Joy Page, Director of the Centre for Faculty & Academic Development for facilitating this process.

### **Douglas College Awarded NSERC Grant (CCI)**

Douglas College has been awarded an Entry Level Grant by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) under the College and Community Innovation (CCI) Program.

The objective of the CCI Program is to increase innovation at the community and/or regional level by enabling Canadian colleges to increase their capacity to work with local companies, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). It supports applied research and collaborations that facilitate commercialization, as well as technology transfer, adaptation and adoption of new technologies.

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This grant, totaling approximately \$200,000 over two years will fund a research project on the biological control of arthropod pests in British Columbia agriculture. The use of arthropod predators and parasitoids for the control of key pest species will be studied, as a means of providing an ecologically-based alternative to the use of chemical pesticides.

The College will undertake the research in partnership with Applied Bionomics Limited, the BC Greenhouse Growers Association, the Bug Factory, Koppert Canada Biological Systems, and Kwantlen Polytechnic University. The Principal investigator is Dr. Robert McGregor. The Douglas College research team consists of Dr. McGregor, Dr. Lucia Fuentes, Dr. Todd Harper, Dr. Len Millis and, Dr. Lynette Sigola.

Congratulations to Rob McGregor, Thor Borgford and the research team. Thanks to Joy Page for her work with the proposal submission and the development of new policy.

### **2010 Douglas College Student Research Days**

Showcasing student research being undertaken at Douglas College, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Student Research Days took place in the New Westminster Gymnasium and in the David Lam Atrium on March 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, respectively. The events featured nearly 200 students from across all College Faculties presenting over 100 research project posters on a diverse range of topics. The events continue to raise the profile and enthusiasm for student research at the College. Planning is already underway for next year's events which will be held on March 28 and 29, 2011.

### **Strategic Workforce Planning at Douglas College**

Employee Relations will soon be introducing strategic workforce planning tools for College use. The purpose of workforce planning is to identify potential future skill gaps within the workforce by reviewing the overall skills and abilities within each work group/unit, as well as to identify potential internal employee interest and ability to fill future vacancies. This type of planning helps organizations to "get the right people in the right job at the right time" and provides managers with a strategic basis for making good human resource decisions.

To meet commitments made in the Academic and Strategic Plans, Senior Management Team (SMT) and the College Board identified workforce and succession planning as a priority. As a result, Employee Relations initiated the Strategic Workforce Planning project in December 2007. After two years of research and revising and testing various drafts, Employee Relations recently successfully test piloted two planning tools for Administrator use - one to analyze the faculty workforce and a second tool to aid in the analysis of the support staff and excluded workforces. The purpose of the analysis is to assess the skills of the workforce overall. This exercise is not intended to be an evaluation of the skills or abilities of individuals.

Employee Relations is currently customizing the workforce planning tools for each Department/Division/Faculty and anticipates that the tools will be provided to Administrators by early May.

### **Centre for International Education**

In March, six faculty received International Support Awards totaling \$13,000 to develop field schools, practicums, degree completion, and new curriculum with institutions in Sweden, Uganda, Hungary, Guatemala, England and China. Students also received awards including thirty domestic students who received \$500 each to participate in international field schools, practicums, work/study, and exchange programs. Fifteen international students with GPAs over 3.5 obtained scholarships. Five students were awarded \$1000 while 10 students received \$500 scholarships. About 50 faculty, staff and administrators participated in the International Education Forum on March 31st. This event showcased the wide variety of international activities at the college including teaching overseas, international development, student and faculty mobility, and collaborative curriculum development.

### **Douglas College joins forces with Royal Westminster Regiment on Project Hero**

Douglas College signed on to the ACCC Project Hero initiative that sees the College covering the tuition costs of children under 26 who have a parent who died while on active service with the Canadian Armed Forces.

A ceremonial signing of the Project Hero document was held at the Armoury in New Westminster with Hon. Col. Leslie Deane of The Royal Westminster Regiment, Hon. Lt.-Col. Karen Baker-MacGrotty, a member of the Douglas College Foundation Board, and the regiment's commanding officer, Lt.-Col. Doug Poitras.

Project Hero marks the continuation of a relationship between the Regiment and Douglas College that began with a bursary established in 2002 by the Duke of Westminster that benefits members of the regiment enrolled at Douglas. Last month, Lt.-Col. Poitras was a guest lecturer in Shaun Tyakoff's history class where he outlined the Canadian government's policy in Afghanistan and answered a range of questions.

### **Partnership at the Fraser River Discovery Centre**

A wooden boat taking shape at the Fraser River Discovery Centre in New Westminster is bringing credit to Douglas College. The boat, a replica of the unique Fraser River skiff, is being built under the leadership of Robert Buller, Dean of Commerce and Business Administration, in his capacity as a member of the Vancouver Wooden Boat Society. The official launch of the boat-building project is in May, but meanwhile volunteers from the community and the College can work on the project on Saturdays while visitors tour the Centre, learning about wooden boats as well as the history of the Fraser River. The partnership is a result of discussions on ways the College can partner with the Discovery Centre.

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### **Student Stories Enrich Annual Awards Luncheon and Tea**

Donors to Douglas College listened intently to students as they spoke of the challenges they faced and the joy, relief and encouragement they felt upon receiving a bursary or award. The 13<sup>th</sup> annual Awards Tea and 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Awards Luncheon took place March 24 and brought together more than 150 donors and student recipients. Hazel Postma, Associate Vice President External Relations, who is also Executive Director of the Douglas College Foundation, said the event is a highlight for donors who hear first-hand what their donation means and who are often inspired by students to continue giving.

The events take several months to plan and involve employees from the Foundation, Alumni, Finance, Financial Aid and Facilities. Some of the \$300,000 provided in Financial Aid this winter semester was distributed at the Luncheon and Tea.

### **Facilities Update**

Over the next few months Facilities Services will be undertaking several exciting capital projects at the College using funds received from a variety of sources – namely the Federal & Provincial Governments' Infrastructure Program and the Province's Annual Capital Allowance and Capital Certificate Programs. Tendered contracts for the majority of the work have now been awarded and contractors will be on site and ramping up at both main campuses beginning in mid to late April. A summary of the work to be undertaken by campus is as follows:

#### **New Westminster Campus**

- Construction of an Aboriginal Gathering Place – This structure will be constructed on the roof deck on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor south (outside of Student Services). It will be ~2000 square feet in size and will provide a Gathering Place as well as a reception and meeting area. This Gathering Place will be used for ceremonies and cultural celebrations, a cultural commons, study space, classroom space for Aboriginal program streams as well as Aboriginal agency meetings and gatherings. Construction of this space is expected to be completed by September 2010.
- Roof Decks – Further roof deck replacement will occur on levels 3 and 4 (north and south buildings) over the summer with completion expected by September 2010. This work will include much needed replacement of the green house adjacent to the Biology Lab.
- Theatre Upgrade – Work will be done to upgrade the sound and lighting systems and the physical control booth in the theatre. Completion of this project is estimated at December 2010.
- Washroom and Change Room Upgrade – Upgrade work will be done to the change rooms on level 1 near the gymnasium. In addition, the washrooms on level 2 South and levels 3 and 4 North will be renovated. This work will be staggered through the summer semester.
- Computer Room/UPS Upgrade – The main Computer Room at New Westminster will be relocated on the first floor. In addition, enhancements will be made to the UPS systems. This project will begin in the summer of 2010 and take ~18 months to complete.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

to the Douglas College Board and Community



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## David Lam Campus

- Parking Renewal – The underground parking lot will be resurfaced and the original surface lot repaired and repaved over the summer months.

## New Westminster and David Lam

- Safety and Security - In addition to the work listed above, significant safety and security enhancements will be made at both campuses over the next 12 months. This will include an emergency announcement system at both locations, and installation or replacement of the door hardware to all general purpose classrooms in order that the classrooms can be locked from the inside in case of an emergency situation. The College is also working on an Emergency Notification System to reach students and employees both on and off campus in emergency situations.

We would like to thank all members of the College community in advance for your patience and understanding over the next few months while we continue to improve our campuses. Every effort will be made to reduce noise levels where possible.