



## What's New!

### Best Practices in eLearning courses fill up – new intakes added

NAIT's Best Practices in Online Learning course has filled up faster than expected but new dates have been added to accommodate as many people as possible.

The new course, which was developed with the support of eCampusAlberta and funded through seed money provided by Grant MacEwan College, features some of the best and most current online teaching and learning information available.

Between Feb. 27, when the course offering was announced, and March 6 more than 50 requests for registrations were received.

As a result, the first three sessions are full. They are scheduled for:

- 🕒 March 10 to April 4
- 🕒 May 5 to May 30
- 🕒 April 7 to May 2

However, NAIT has scheduled two more sessions for:

- 🕒 May 26 to June 13
- 🕒 June 2 to June 20

“We are very pleased with the interest this course has generated,” says Executive Director, Tricia Donovan.

“Registration requests came from faculty, administrators, people who want to begin teaching online and course designers from all over the province. We will do everything we can to ensure we can accommodate the demand to learn more about improving the online experience for learners, faculty and administrators,” Donovan says.

“I'd like to thank all the people at NAIT and MacEwan for all the work they have done to ensure the success of this project.”

The course is designed to increase participants' online teaching skills by improving their ability to:

- 🕒 recognize individual students' online learning styles
- 🕒 discuss the tools required to enable effective online facilitation

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## Best Practices in eLearning course continued

- 🕒 identify the importance of developing and maintaining a community of learners
- 🕒 apply asynchronous and synchronous discussion forums in online learning
- 🕒 describe information literacy
- 🕒 explain the process required to embed information literacy in online courses

Each session takes four weeks to complete and participants can expect to spend five hours per week on the course.

Learners who achieve a grade of 80 per cent or higher will receive a NAIT completion certificate and will be considered qualified to teach the Best Practices in eLearning course.

Anyone interested in taking the course is asked to e-mail Joanna Budd ([joanna.budd@ecampusalberta.ca](mailto:joanna.budd@ecampusalberta.ca)) who will work with NAIT to register participants.



## eCampusAlberta receives \$1 million – \$650,000 announced for OCDF

eCampusAlberta is pleased to announce that Alberta Advanced Education and Technology has awarded the consortium a \$1 million one-time grant, of which \$650,000 will be offered to member institutions for OCDF (Online Curriculum Development Fund) projects with the remainder designated for project management and core operations.

“We are tremendously happy to receive these funds to further our objective of increasing access for learners. The member institutes have demonstrated a strong commitment to developing curricula for online and flexible learning and this will help them to respond to the student demand,” says Tricia Donovan, Executive Director, eCampusAlberta.

Funds will be awarded to support proposals to develop/enhance curriculum in the following areas as identified by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Technology:

1. Increased access for:
  - 🕒 Health/health science related programs
  - 🕒 Business programs
  - 🕒 Physical, natural and applied science programs (includes engineers)
  - 🕒 Trades and technologist programs
2. Increased attraction and retention of students in graduate programs (MA, PhD) with particular emphasis on graduate students in science-related programs.

3. Enhanced collaboration among institutions, including program changes that maximize credential laddering opportunities, transfer programs and other learner pathways.
4. Increased access for under-represented groups.
5. Proactive strategies for dealing with immigrant education, bridging and training needs, innovative strategies to better articulate the role of international students in Alberta's advanced education system, as well as mechanisms to address retention.

Proposals to access these funds must be received by March 31, 2008.

Members are welcome to re-submit proposals that were previously submitted for consideration but not selected for funding.

Please submit proposals by e-mail to the eCampusAlberta Administration Office by fax (403-284-8940) or e-mail: [sheila.whitmore@ecampusalberta.ca](mailto:sheila.whitmore@ecampusalberta.ca). For e-mail proposals, please scan the copy that includes your Senior Academic Officer's signature and/or copy him or her on your e-mailed submission.

### Key dates

Feb. 25, 2008	Call for proposals
March 31, 2008	Deadline for submissions
April 15, 2008	Review and selection of proposals
April 18, 2008	Notification letters to institutions
September, 2009	Target date for completion of all curricula development

Please send any questions to Tricia Donovan ([tricia.donovan@ecampusalberta.ca](mailto:tricia.donovan@ecampusalberta.ca)) or to Sheila Whitmore ([sheila.whitmore@ecampusalberta.ca](mailto:sheila.whitmore@ecampusalberta.ca)).

Please note that all curricula developed and enhanced using OCDF resources must adhere to the Essential Quality Standards.

# Featured Program

## [BVC Health Care Aid certificate](#)

### Online program helps meet health care worker shortage

The health care industry in the Calgary area is expected to add 36,000 new jobs over the next 10 years, according to an employment forecast study produced by Calgary Economic Development.

And Bow Valley College (BVC) is prepared to help learners address those needs.

The one-year BVC Health Care Aide certificate (HCA) will qualify individuals who have a passion for caring to work in the health care industry.

And the program is available online, so learners can expand their skill set and stay employed at the same time.

“We provide flexibility for the learner,” says Pam Lammiman, Curriculum Leader for BVC’s Health and Community Care department. “All of the courses are available online. The learner only has to come to campus for two or three compulsory workshops and then gain clinical experience on-site for seven weeks.”

Studying online will appeal to those who feel they can’t give up their jobs to attend school or for those in a rural setting who find classroom attendance difficult.

“We can also custom design this program for employers or agencies who want to see their employees advance in their skill set,” Lammiman says.

BVC’s Health Care Aide certificate, which can be completed in one year, offers exciting potential to graduates. Once certified as a health-care aide, they can bridge to BVC’s Practical Nursing diploma,” she says.

Certification also guarantees an individual employment in the health-care industry.

“Bow Valley College HCA graduates have a 100 per cent success rate in terms of finding work in their field. Plus, the certification provides province-wide mobility.”

Graduates often find employment in community and home care settings, or in acute care hospitals and nursing homes.

“It’s really for people who want to be in a caring field. The patient contact is very rewarding because you’re helping people directly and on a daily basis.”

For more information please visit [www.bowvalleycollege.ca](http://www.bowvalleycollege.ca) or call 1-866-4-BVC-NOW (1-866-428-2669) toll free. Funding is available for qualified applicants.



▲  
Pam Lammiman,  
Curriculum Leader,  
Health and Community Care,  
Bow Valley College

## Online survey expected to provide valuable student and visitor information

An online survey, recently posted on the eCampusAlberta website, is expected to generate demographic data about students and visitors to the website as well as students' perceptions of their experiences with online learning.

Respondents are asked questions about their geographic location, age, gender, how they heard about eCampusAlberta (referral from a friend or guidance counselor, advertisement, media story etc.) and the reason they visited the website, among several other questions.

Current students are also asked about the number of courses they are taking, whether they are working towards a credential, which credential they are pursuing, as well as their opinions about their experience with eCampusAlberta.

“Gathering demographic data on current students and visitors to the eCampusAlberta website as well as information about which promotional efforts are prompting people to take a look at our programs will enable us to conduct more targeted marketing campaigns in the future,” says eCampusAlberta Marketing and Communications Coordinator, Paul Rescanski.

“The information provided should be valuable in enabling us to learn much more about who our students are, where they live and what kinds of people are most interested in education offered online,” Rescanski says.

All survey respondents have the option of submitting their e-mail address to enter a draw to win one of two iPod Nanos. One winner will be selected from those who complete the current students' survey and another will be selected from those who complete the visitors' survey.

The deadline to respond to both surveys is March 15, 2008.

A summary of the survey results will be published in an upcoming issue of eZine and presented to the eCampusAlberta Operations, Management and Executive committees as well as the Board of Directors.

### Win an 8-gigabyte iPod Nano

Complete our three- to five-minute online survey by March 15, 2008 and your e-mail address will be entered into a draw to win an iPod Nano.

[Current students](#)

[Visitors](#)

If you have a project or article you would like to see featured in the eCampusAlberta eZine, please contact Paul Rescanski at (403) 210 - 5863 or e-mail: [paul.rescanski@ecampusalberta.ca](mailto:paul.rescanski@ecampusalberta.ca)