



### What's New!

## Membership Charter provides foundation for growth



▲ Irene Lewis,  
Chair, eCampusAlberta Board of Directors

eCampusAlberta now has an official Membership Charter following the Board of Directors' unanimous approval of the document at their final meeting of this academic year May 29 in Banff.

"Finalizing an official Membership Charter is an important milestone in the history of the consortium. It's a strong endorsement and acceptance of the quality of the online courses offered by our publicly funded colleges and technical institutes and by the learners who choose online studies," says Board Chair and SAIT President and CEO, Irene Lewis.

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## Feedback on student support services sought

Online learning is on the rise in Alberta as the steady growth in eCampusAlberta registrations over the last few years shows. And, as the number of online learners increases, it's important to ensure all their needs are being met.

eCampusAlberta member institutions are committed to ensuring that all students have access to learner support services, whether they study online or on campus.

With that in mind, the consortium has obtained the services of Pat Hunter, retired Director of Student Services and Registrar at Olds College, to get feedback from staff at member institutions that will be used to evaluate the current situation.

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## Membership Charter continued

“The Charter strengthens the foundation of eCampusAlberta and will enable us to move forward and build on all that we’ve accomplished to date,” Lewis says.

Among many items, the Charter provides direction on:

- Member responsibilities within the consortium
- The roles and responsibilities of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee of the Board, Management Committee, Operations Committee and other groups, including the powers and duties of officers
- The criteria required for membership in the consortium, including the procedures for recruiting and approving new members

To receive a copy of the charter, please contact Tricia Donovan at: [tricia.donovan@ecampusalberta.ca](mailto:tricia.donovan@ecampusalberta.ca)

## Feedback on student support services continued

“The goal is to ensure students’ experiences are the same no matter how they choose to study,” Hunter says. “We are looking for opportunities for eCampusAlberta to offer assistance that will help make sure the online student experience is equal to the on-campus experience.”

Hunter has developed a list of questions and will interview people at each member campus who represent departments that provide services to or have contact with eCampusAlberta students. These services include: academic advising, career counselling as well as access to the library, bookstore and registrar’s office.

“What we’re trying to learn is what students experience when they enrol in a course,” Hunter says.

“We need to understand whether these services are working from the student’s perspective and we will try to determine if there are any gaps and whether eCampusAlberta can help close them,” she says.

Hunter will visit member campuses between June and October. She will work with all institutions to identify areas where improvements can be made as well as share information about what is working well.

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no matter how they choose to study.”**

**–Pat Hunter**

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## Faculty development projects profiled on web page

eCampusAlberta has developed a new area of the website that will provide faculty and curricula development teams at member institutions with access to information about the eight projects being developed through the Faculty Development Fund.

These projects are supported by the \$250,000 fund, which was announced last fall. Several members submitted proposals for projects that will enable faculty across the consortium to enhance their online teaching skills and improve interaction with students.

“The projects developed with this funding will benefit faculty and students at every member institution. Many of the projects are created in such a way as to support further development, and institutions may customize some projects to fit their faculty’s specific requirements. We are delighted with both the quality and variety of projects to date,” says Online Curriculum Development Fund Manager, Sheila Whitmore.

Examples include:

- 🕒 Creating a set of web-based, stand alone tutorials to support the development of accessible eLearning and facilitate community-wide collaboration in web-based instructional design (Mount Royal College and NorQuest College)
- 🕒 Developing a website to provide resources for the design and delivery of online and blended learning instruction (Lethbridge College)
- 🕒 Revising and enhancing student and instructor orientations to WebCT CE to enable the transition to Blackboard CE (Red Deer College)

Currently the page contains summaries of each project and contact information for project leaders. The intention is to post links on the page that will enable access to the projects as they’re developed so faculty can see the work at each institution and interact with the designers.

To view the project summaries and find contact information, see: [www.ecampusalberta.ca/node/80](http://www.ecampusalberta.ca/node/80)



▲ Sheila Whitmore, Online Curriculum Development Fund Manager, is working with member institutions on the development of eight projects funded through eCampusAlberta’s Faculty Development Fund.

# Featured Program

## Colleges collaborate on new health care certificate

Demand for chronic disease prevention, care and management will increase significantly over the next few years as the Alberta population ages.

To help address this need, three eCampusAlberta member institutions – Bow Valley College, NorQuest College and Northern Lakes College – have come together to develop a certificate program to help Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) enhance their skills in this area.

Promoting Wellness through Prevention and Management of Chronic Diseases will be offered online through eCampusAlberta starting in September. The program is designed to help LPNs increase their knowledge and skills in chronic disease prevention, care and management while continuing to work in their field.

“This program was designed to be accessible so we are able to reach licensed practical nurses wherever they are working. It will help meet a need that’s becoming more evident in our health care system,” says Julia Melnyk, Dean, University Studies and Health Professions, Northern Lakes College.



▲ Julia Melnyk was involved with developing the new Promoting Wellness through Prevention and Management of Chronic Diseases certificate program, which will be offered for the first time this fall.

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**“The result of this collaboration is a program designed to meet the mandates of the institutions involved, a program with content and structure drawn from the expertise available in the three colleges.”**

**– Julia Melnyk,  
Dean, University Studies and Health Professions,  
Northern Lakes College**

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“All members of the health care team need to have a well developed understanding of chronic disease management in order to help contain the economic burden on families and society. This post-basic certificate program will help prepare LPNs to work with clients to help them self-manage their own health care, which will help decrease stress on the system,” says Melnyk.

Ruth Hunter-Moffatt, Dean, Health and Human Service Careers at NorQuest College, worked with colleagues at Northern Lakes and Bow Valley colleges to design the program for online studies.

“Continuing education in chronic diseases management enhances the LPNs’ ability to care for and educate their clients. Through collaboration, the colleges are able to create a synergy that will ensure accessibility to the program across the province,” she says.

## Collaboration leads to new health care certificate offering continued

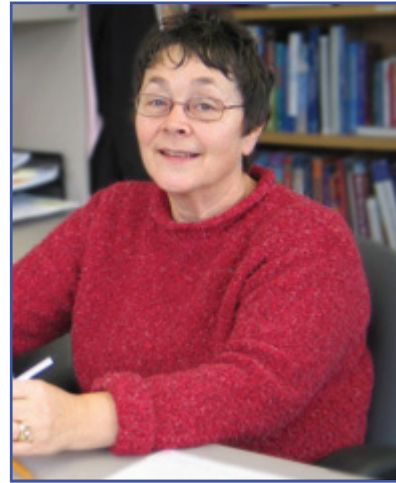
Participation in the online certificate program is open to all Licensed Practical Nurses starting in September 2008.

About 20 to 30 students are expected to enrol in the online certificate program this fall with that number expected to increase in subsequent years.

The nurses will benefit from the multi-institution, collaborative development process, says Pam Lammiman, Curriculum Leader for Health and Community Care at Bow Valley College.

“Collaboration brings in perspectives from all over the province. It makes the program stronger. Different populations will have different rates of chronic diseases and we can learn a lot from each other,” Lammiman says.

For more information, please call 1-866-652-3456 and ask to speak to Bonnie Porat.



▲  
Bow Valley College's Pam Lammiman



### Tool Box

It's that time of year again when our members pull data from the eCARRS system to provide reports to their own institution and the ministry.

If you experience difficulty with setting the parameters for a report, try updating your web browser.

For additional help, contact [info@ecampusalberta.ca](mailto:info@ecampusalberta.ca)

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)