

# eCampusAlberta

eZine - May/June 2007



## What's New!

### Enrolments soar as record year comes to a close

Enrolments in online courses offered through eCampusAlberta soared to a record high of more than 5,100 during 2006/07, exceeding the previous year's total of 3,541 by about 40 per cent.

"This has been a truly exciting year for eCampusAlberta. We have seen the number of enrolments increase to more than 5,000 for the first time in our history and we have surpassed last year's total by approximately 1,500 registrations," said Tricia Donovan, executive director, eCampusAlberta.

The exact number of registrations will only be known when all institutions have reported their numbers but it's expected to exceed 5,100.

"Clearly, there is a demand for online courses and programs in Alberta and eCampus is becoming the leader in providing access to those programs," Donovan says.

"This achievement is a tribute to all the work that people throughout the member institutions have put into ensuring eCampusAlberta's success. And I'm confident, as we head into another year, that we will see continuing growth in our numbers."

Reaching this milestone may also lead to an opportunity to obtain province-wide media coverage for eCampusAlberta. Communications staff in Advanced Education and Technology are working with Paul Rescanski, marketing and communication coordinator, to develop and issue a media release to promote this story later in July.

#### 2006/07 highlights of note include:

- ② The number of courses offered through eCampusAlberta rose from 239 to more than 400 during 2006/07, an increase of 38 per cent.
- ② The number of credentials offered fully online continues to increase each year and now includes more than 30 certificates, diplomas and degrees.
- ② A marketing and communications coordinator was hired in May, 2007. His immediate focus is working on a redesign of the website, a marketing plan that will be implemented during 2007/08 as well as developing new communication tools for specific audiences.
- ② Work has begun to develop a set of policies and procedures for the consortium. Upon completion, these foundational documents will provide support for the collaborative culture that is evolving.
- ② Representatives of the registrars' offices and senior student services officers have begun work on creating scaleable procedures to support increased registrations.

## New coordinator of finance and operations welcomed

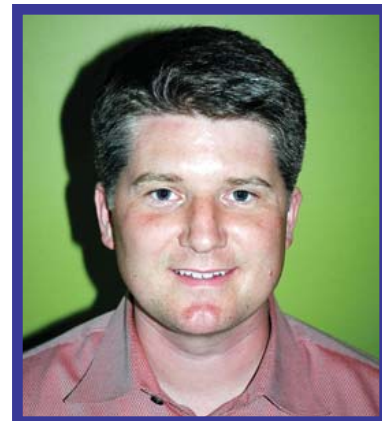
Craig Lawson joined eCampusAlberta as coordinator of finance and operations in June, replacing Shohil Khanji. Lawson brings more than seven years of experience in accounting to the organization.

“I am pleased to be part of eCampusAlberta. It’s a growing organization with a really exciting future and I’m looking forward to having the opportunity to make a contribution to the development of post-secondary education in the province,” he says.

Prior to joining eCampusAlberta, Lawson worked at Broadview Press, most recently as chief operating officer. Broadview is a Canadian publisher of university and college textbooks in the humanities and social sciences.

Lawson says he’s looking forward to meeting and working with staff at member institutions and to having the opportunity to visit as many member campuses as he can.

Lawson can be reached by phone at 403.774.4656, or by e-mail at [craig.lawson@ecampusalberta.ca](mailto:craig.lawson@ecampusalberta.ca)



▲  
Craig Lawson,  
Coordinator of Finance and Operations



## Blackboard now live and ready for new course materials

The BlackBoard server is now up and running at Grant MacEwan College ( [bb.ecampusalberta.ca](http://bb.ecampusalberta.ca) ) and college designers and administrators are invited to begin loading their course materials onto the server for fall courses now.

Blackboard will eventually replace WebCT 4.0. But, for those who are still teaching and learning using WebCT, it will be maintained until June 2008.

Administrative accounts have been created and will be distributed to the institutions by July 20. If you don’t receive an account by this date, please call or e-mail Joanna Budd at (403) 284-8777 or [joanna.budd@ecampusalberta.ca](mailto:joanna.budd@ecampusalberta.ca)

As well, a Blackboard user manual is posted on eCampusAlberta File Sharing.

A procedure to enable faculty and staff to access Blackboard through the eCampusAlberta website is being finalized now.

Watch the eCampusAlberta eZine for more information.

## eCampusAlberta perfect fit for visually impaired student

Now that she's finished her Office Administration diploma through eCampusAlberta, Khadija Mohammedbhai looks forward to the day she will teach other visually impaired students to use computers just as she did during her own studies.

Mohammedbhai uses JAWS – software for the visually impaired that reads to her as she types information into her computer and as she navigates online.

Mohammedbhai says she inquired at a number of colleges in Edmonton and most didn't offer courses compatible with the screen reader software she uses.

But through eCampusAlberta, several member institutions worked together to find ways to accommodate Mohammedbhai's special requirements. NorQuest College provided considerable expertise and support to ensure the student could access her course materials.

Now that she's graduated, she plans to move back to Ontario and pursue further studies in the Instructor for the Blind, Rehabilitation Teaching program at Mohawk College in Hamilton.

“Once I am a rehabilitation instructor, I will be able to teach other blind students Microsoft programs as well as JAWS, just as I have done through eCampusAlberta.”



Khadija Mohammedbhai,  
Graduate, OA Diploma

“ I think it's been a great experience. I'm pretty happy with what I have been able to accomplish. ”

**Khadija Mohammedbhai,  
graduate  
Office Administration Diploma**

Mohammedbhai completed her studies through Keyano College, SAIT and Red Deer College with NorQuest serving as a partner institution. Both colleges translated their hardcopy materials into brail for her and ensured JAWS was compatible with the online course materials.

“I think it's been a great experience. I'm pretty happy with what I have been able to accomplish. Plus, when it was minus 40, I didn't have to step outside to go to school.”

For more information on the Office Administration Diploma, visit:  
[http://www.keyano.ca/prospective\\_students/programs/certificate\\_diploma/online\\_office\\_administration.htm](http://www.keyano.ca/prospective_students/programs/certificate_diploma/online_office_administration.htm)



# Featured Program!

## Online program prepares professionals for work with elderly

With 25 per cent of Canada's population expected to be 65 years of age or older by 2035, Mount Royal College's online Gerontology program could not be better positioned to meet a growing need.

This post-degree certificate program consists of five courses and a practicum and is designed for practicing professionals who want to gain skills in working with older adults. And it's offered entirely online through eCampusAlberta.

Many types of professionals can benefit from the knowledge and skills the program offers, says Mount Royal Gerontology coordinator Dianne McDermid.

"This program will help them become be more knowledgeable about older adults and learn how to work more effectively with them," McDermid says.

Among the professionals who typically complete the certificate are recreation therapists, nurses, social workers and even business people who may be developing and marketing products for older people.

The program, which currently has approximately 40 students enrolled in it, offers learners flexibility so they can complete their courses on a part-time basis and continue working while pursuing their studies. It consists of five theory courses and a practicum, which may be completed in a workplace setting or online through project work.

McDermid says the program offers a broad perspective on working with the elderly and equips graduates to apply their skills in the workplace.

"This is an opportunity for students to study alongside other students of different backgrounds and to see the total picture of working with older adults."

For more information, go to [www.ecampusalberta.ca](http://www.ecampusalberta.ca)



▲  
Dianne McDermid,  
Program Coordinator

If you have a project or article you would like to see featured in the eCampusAlberta eZine, please contact the eCampusAlberta Administrative Office at (403) 284 - 8777 or e-mail us at [info@ecampusalberta.ca](mailto:info@ecampusalberta.ca)