

A newsletter about achievements, innovations and leadership in Ontario's college system

Apprenticeship funding cut Dollars for capital programs disappear



The increasing need for a skilled workforce is creating a greater demand for Ontario's college graduates. This means colleges must make investments in new capital equipment.
Photo: Collège Boréal

The Ontario government has quietly cut the \$10-million Apprenticeship Enhancement Fund that allows colleges to purchase equipment for apprenticeship programs.

The government has also eliminated the \$10-million College Equipment Renewal Fund, which colleges use to purchase industry-standard equipment for student training.

Minister Chris Bentley said the government continues "to explore opportunities to build on the successes achieved" through those programs.

Both programs, created five years ago, have allowed colleges to purchase equipment and software in a wide range of areas, from computer labs and diagnostic imaging ultrasound units to welding machines and defibrillators.

"This doesn't make sense at a time when the province needs to be training more skilled workers," said Bar-

bara Taylor, the chair of the colleges' committee of presidents. "The funding cuts contradict the government's public statements about the need for apprenticeship training."

In a recent letter, Training, Colleges and Universities Minister Chris Bentley said the programs were established to run for five years and that period has ended. He said the government continues "to explore opportunities to build on the successes achieved" through those programs.

"I am confident that by working cooperatively we will be able to provide colleges with the resources necessary for them to continue to deliver the high-quality education and training for which they are known," Bentley said.

Paul Haggis

A special homecoming for Oscar winner

One of Fanshawe College's most celebrated success stories, the Oscar-winning director/screenwriter Paul Haggis, returned recently for a special homecoming celebration in his honour.

Haggis visited the college and the City of London for Paul Haggis Day, a tribute to the man whose films have won Academy Awards for best picture, best director and best original screenplay.

"Everything I learned here, I've used in my work," Haggis said to students gathered in Fanshawe College's broadcast centre. "If you have a passion, follow it no matter what."

Haggis, who has had a long



career in television and movies, is the director/screenwriter who created *Crash*, the 2006 Academy Award winner for best movie and best original screenplay. Haggis also wrote the screenplay for

Million Dollar Baby, the best picture winner in 2005.

During his visit in London, he had a park named after him and he was the guest instructor for a film class at Fanshawe. As well, the col-

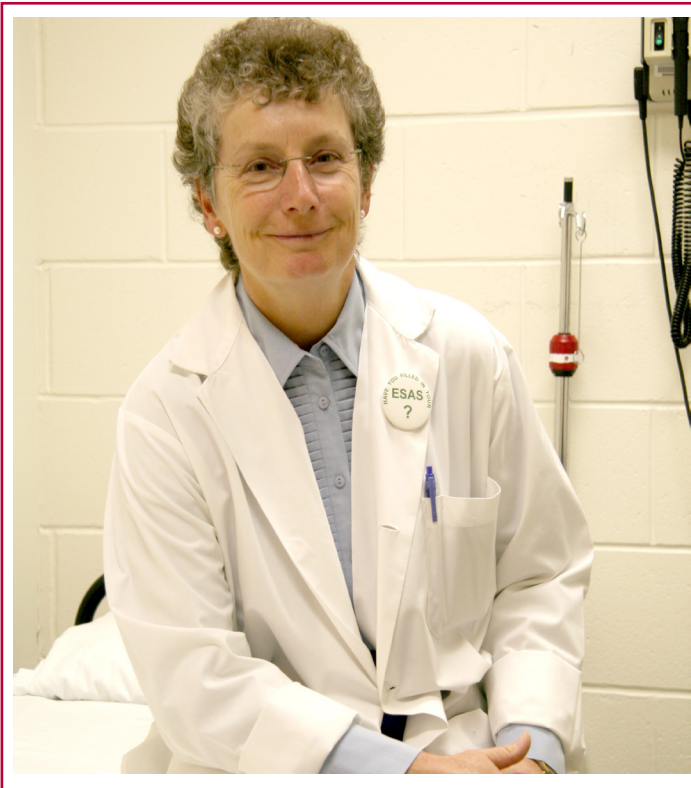
lege announced it would be awarding an honorary diploma to Haggis, who had dropped out in the 1970s without completing his program.

Haggis said he did learn film editing during his time at Fanshawe, and he discovered his love for making movies.

Fanshawe College President Howard Rundle said it was very exciting for students to meet Haggis and receive some instructions on film techniques.

"It was a terrific experience for our students and our college," Rundle said. "His story is inspiring and we are very proud of him."

Dr. Deborah Dudgeon



Dr. Deborah Dudgeon says her desire to see people live to the fullest, to the very end, has inspired her work in medicine.

Dr. Dudgeon, the W. Ford Connell professor of palliative care medicine at Queen's University, is a graduate of George Brown College. She says the college provided practical training and served as a foundation for further studies.

Dr. Dudgeon had studied kinesiology at university earlier on but was dissatisfied with higher learning. After working as a nursing assistant, however, she decided to enroll in nursing at George Brown.

"College gave me a much fuller view of what health care

was than if I'd just gone into medicine initially. It gave me a perspective and was a means to more education.

"I decided (palliative medicine) was an area where I

George Brown College President Anne Sado says Dr. Dudgeon "has had an interesting career journey."

could make a difference," she says. "Seeing the suffering people experience near the end of their lives helped me end up where I am today."

In 1979, diploma in hand, Dr. Dudgeon worked briefly as a nurse in California. She then enrolled in medical school at McMaster University, interned at the University of Ottawa and trained

as a medical oncologist at the University of Rochester (New York).

She also volunteered for two months at a leprosarium and at the Home for the Destitute and Dying, both run by Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity in India.

"I was interested in caring for people at the end of their life, and Mother Teresa was a world expert, so I thought I should go and learn from her."

After working at St. Boniface Hospital in Winnipeg as head of palliative care, and at the University of Manitoba as faculty, Dr. Dudgeon was hired by Queen's to develop a program in palliative medicine. She also serves as director of palliative medicine and supportive care with the Cancer Centre of Southeastern Ontario at Kingston General Hospital, and is the head of palliative care with Cancer Care Ontario.

Luz Balbin, a retired instructor who had taught Dr. Dudgeon at George Brown, recalls her vividly from the 1970s and describes her as a bright, caring individual with strong leadership skills.

"She always rose to the occasion," Balbin says. "She was very good at challenging issues or practices with lucid arguments."

George Brown College President Anne Sado says Dr. Dudgeon "has had an interesting career journey," and the award illustrates the value of hands-on training.

College input the key to success of new high school major

The Ontario government has announced a new Specialist High Skills Major for high schools that is aimed primarily at students who aren't interested in going to university.

To help this initiative succeed, Ontario colleges are working with the government and school boards on the development and implementation of the program. The college input will help ensure high schools are teaching courses in effective ways that will ultimately help the students succeed in the work-

place or in college and apprenticeship programs.

"We support the goal to help more high school students successfully complete their education," said Sylvia Barnard, the president of Cambrian College in Sudbury. "Colleges across the province are prepared to share their expertise to ensure high school students receive educational experiences that will enable them to prepare for their career choices."

There are various ways college input can help improve the delivery of these courses.

For example, the colleges can help determine appropriate case studies to be used in a math class, to ensure the students develop problem-solving skills that would actually be used in their chosen careers.

The Specialist High Skills Major offers high school programs in tourism and hospitality, construction, primary industries, manufacturing, and arts and culture. Pilot programs have been launched in school boards throughout the province, and colleges are participating in the pilot runs.

Flaherty announces capital funding

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty recently announced \$1 billion in one-time funding for provinces and territories for equipment and infrastructure improvements in postsecondary education. Ontario's share of the funding will be \$390 million.

The funding is to be used for: modernizing classrooms, laboratories and research facilities; updating training equipment; developing interactive library technologies and facilities; and enhancing distance-learning technologies.

Algonquin grad wins Emmy

Algonquin College graduate Jon Cassar knocked off The Sopranos and other competitors to win an Emmy Award this year for directing for the TV show, 24.

Cassar, who began his career directing episodes of the Canadian show, La Femme Nikita, won the Emmy for best directing of a drama series. The competition in that category included directors from The Sopranos, The West Wing, Six Feet Under, Lost and Big Love.

Connoisseurs of fine ale

Select beers will be on display Oct. 21 at the Lambton Inn in Sarnia when Lambton College hosts Brew Tasting 102, a showcase of beers from some of Ontario's finest brewers.

The event includes beer samples and a wealth of information on a full range of beer styles, from lagers to ales to pilsners to stouts. Brew Tasting 102 is the final event in Lambton's 40th Anniversary Homecoming Weekend.

McGuinty supports Seneca program

Premier Dalton McGuinty and representatives from his government recently visited Seneca College to announce \$750,000 in funding for Seneca's Centre for Outreach Education (SCORÉ).

SCORÉ is a program that equips first-generation, economically and educationally disadvantaged young people with strategies and skills to help them overcome barriers to employment.

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