



Winter 2007-08

# School College Work Initiative

## Grand River Region Newsletter

### What is SCWI?

The School/College/Work Initiative is a cooperative effort of the Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) and the Committee of College Presidents (COP) and is jointly funded by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. A co-management team consisting of college presidents, school board directors, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities personnel manages SCWI and works with all district school boards and all colleges through 15 Regional Planning Teams, across the province. SCWI provides opportunities for district school boards and colleges to bring together faculty, teachers and administrators to work together to increase opportunities for student success.

In Phase 9 (2005-2006) the SCWI emphasis on dual credit programming provided opportunities for student success through Dual Credit Pilot B projects in 14 locations involving 361 students. The Phase 10 (2006-2007) emphasis was on dual credit pilot projects involving approximately 2,500 students in 65 pilot projects through the Regional Planning Teams throughout the province. SCWI through the Dual Credit Pilot B projects, forums, curriculum alignment activities and outreach experiences contributes directly to the increased capacity of boards and colleges to provide students with engaging programs and appropriate supports to ensure both secondary and post secondary success.

**Coming together is a beginning.  
Keeping together is progress.  
Working together is success.**

**-Henry Ford**

**School**

**College**

**Work**

**Initiative**

Grand River Region

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# Grand River Region Planning Team of the School College Work Initiative

This planning team came together in 2004-2005 with John Schaeffer of Mohawk College-Brantford, Donna Gates of Fanshawe College- Simcoe and Wayne Joudrie of Grand Erie District School Board lead by Theresa Harris of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board. It functions currently under the leadership of Cathy Horgan, Director of Education for the BHNCDsb, chair of the Steering Committee.

The two local school boards and the two community college campuses which lie in this area are the core partners of the team with support from several other agencies and institutions.

SCWI Coordinator Pat Lenz and SWAC Coordinator Betty Anne Jackson are employed by the Planning Team to assist members of the partner organizations in implementing all of the SCWI funded activities.

## The Grand River Region Planning Team is a partnership of:

- Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board  
Cathy Horgan, Director of Education
- Fanshawe College (Simcoe)  
Donna Gates, Campus Chair
- Grand Erie District School Board  
Jim Wibberley, Director of Education
- Grand Erie Training & Adjustment Board  
Jill Halyk, Director
- Mohawk College (Brantford)  
Paul Armstrong, Dean
- Nipissing University (Brantford)  
Dr. Maria Cantalini-Williams,  
Director of Concurrent Education
- St. Leonard's Community Services  
Marilyn Kaus, Director, Employment Services
- Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities  
Cheryl Gregory, Training Consultant

# New Resource Launched

In Phase 9 (2005-2006) local educators produced the DVD resource “Pathways to Success: Destination College” designed to enhance awareness of college as a viable post-secondary destination. During Phase 10 (2006-2007) intermediate teachers and secondary guidance teachers were offered a half-day workshop launching the DVD and an excellent curriculum package also developed by local personnel.



## Destination College DVD launch participation:

- 45 Elementary teachers
- 34 Secondary teachers
- 8 College faculty and staff

### Quotes from participants:

“... enjoyed the review of Fanshawe’s program, watching the video was also helpful – otherwise it might have joined the pile of other resources.”

“Delivery Models (suggestions); package of activities that can be used NOW!”

“... would be great to take my class on a tour of a college or to have a rep. from a college be a guest speaker!”

“... very informative and fun! Learning takes place with fun! Thank you! Good ideas.”

Copies of the DVD were also provided to 2006-2007 participants in the Junior Intermediate Internship in Community College.

## Interested in acquiring this valuable resource tool?

Check with your staff colleagues at BHNCD SB, GEDSB, Fanshawe College-Simcoe and Mohawk College-Brantford as many of them received them last year, or

Teachers: Contact your Student Success Leader – Marlene Kennedy of the GEDSB or Kathy Evans of BHNCD SB.

College faculty: Contact JoAnne Procter at Mohawk College-Brantford or Deb McEwan at Fanshawe College-Simcoe.

# Junior/Intermediate Internship in Community College

Pre-service candidates from year four of the Nipissing University Brantford Concurrent Program with their associate teachers built an understanding of the alignment of the college pathway through pairing with a college instructor.

### Quotes from participants:

“We’re coming away with a better understanding of each institution.”

“Keep the doors open between all levels for interaction / communications. We’ve worked in our own little worlds for too long.”

“SCWI added perspective and information. It provided a better understanding of colleges as an option.”

# A YEAR IN REVIEW 2006-2007

## WHAT MAKES OUR COMMUNITY WORK (THURSDAY MAY 3, 2007)



Through visits to various city departments and other local sites including tours and presentations, Gr. 7 and 8 students were presented with career pathways as well as academic and training requirements.

### City of Brantford facilities:

Parks & Recreation Head Office, Northridge Golf Course, Bell Homestead, Wayne Gretzky Sports Centre, A community centre, Urban Forestry Division, Water Treatment Plant, Public Works Department & Traffic, Mohawk Street Landfill Site, City of Brantford IT Services/Brantford Power, Council Chambers/Mayor's Office, City of Brantford Human Resources, Brantford Tourism, Brantford Fire Department.

### Other locations:

Laurier Brantford, Mohawk College, Brantford Public Library, Brant Museum & Archives, Rogers Television, CKPC, Ontario Clean Water Agency, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Brantford & District, Brantwood Farms, Royal Bank, Canada Post, Brantford Airport, Best Western Brant Park Inn.

EVENT

EVENT

EVENT

EVENT

## Destination College

Through three interactive workshops at Mohawk-Brantford, instructors in technology and the helping careers introduced Gr. 7 students to education and career options.

**MOHAWK**  
COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY

**Brantford Campus**  
411 Elgin Street, Brantford, Ontario, Canada N3T 5V2  
Tel: 519-759-7200 ■ Fax: 519-758-6043 ■ [www.mohawkcollege.ca](http://www.mohawkcollege.ca)

**April 25th, 2007**

**What is Destination College?**  
"Destination College" is a half-day session that includes three interactive activities related to programs offered at community colleges as well as a brief information session on college life.

**Who is invited?**  
Grade 7 students and teachers. A teacher or chaperone/student ratio of 1:20 is **required** for this event.

**Why should your students attend?**

- To introduce students to the opportunities available to them through the programs offered by the colleges in their region
- To experience college learning by participating in interactive displays and activities that are fun as well as educational
- To become familiar with the college environment and college life

**When and Where:**  
Mohawk College, Brantford Campus.....May 30<sup>th</sup>  
Two timeslots are available; the morning session will run from 9:30am to 11:30am and the afternoon session will run from 12:30pm to 2:30pm. It is strongly recommended that schools arrive 15 minutes early. Sessions will begin promptly.

**Important Information:**

- Upon receiving confirmation of attendance, schools will be responsible for transportation.

**Registration Form (Please print)**

Success!

## Skilled Trades: They're Everywhere!

Want to know more about the skilled trades?

Want to work in the skilled trades but not sure how?

### FEATURING:

- **Christine Cushing**, Food Network host, Chef and owner of "Pure" by Christine Cushing products, will talk about what trades make her show a reality & the food industry
- Meet Christine and ask her questions in a Q&A session
- Talk to **employers** about what they want in an employee
- Chat with **apprentices** in our "Ask An Apprentice" section
- Get info on **resources/ services** available with local community organizations



Meet Christine Cushing  
Food Network host, Chef and owner of "Pure" by Christine Cushing products

**FREE**  
Open to residents of Haldimand & Norfolk

**Date:**  
Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007

**Time:**  
10:00am—1:00pm  
(speaker/booksigning: 11am-12pm)

**Location:**  
Holy Trinity High School, Simcoe

In the Haldimand Norfolk area over 250 students, parents, staff, employers benefited from information evenings for secondary students and their parents hosted at each of the nine Career Resource Centres located in Haldimand and Norfolk schools as well as one high-profile event. That session highlighted how vital skilled trades are in our world.

# COLLEGE Expo



Third year Nipissing pre-service teachers experienced presentations and hands-on workshops highlighting the skilled trades and apprenticeship career opportunities at the Fennel campus of Mohawk College.

### Quotes from the student participants:

*"I feel as though I have a better understanding of the college experience and what is required."*

*"After physically experiencing the college environment and asking questions, I gained new insights about the college system (i.e. learning environment)."*

*"Upon entering the college, we were able to get a feel for the building and the atmosphere."*

*"I learned about many different programs. I also found out that while something may start out as a general program, it may branch out into different things. College also promotes a hands-on and knowledge base for students."*

*"I have never been to a college and I have spoken to very few college students. The experience opened my mind to different options and ideas for future pathways for me and my students."*

*Yes You Can!*  
*Yes You Can!*  
*Yes You Can!*  
*Yes You Can!*  
*Yes You Can!*  
*Yes You Can!*



**"Yes You Can" – Women in Technology & Trades.** This conference presented by Grand Erie Training and Adjustment Board with SCWI addressed the promotion of skilled trades and technology to female students, their parents, teachers and others through mentors and displays by employers and educational institutions.

### Participation:

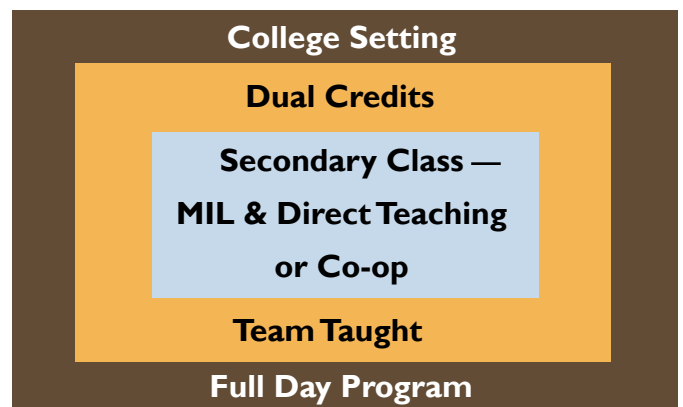
- 1) All secondary schools of both boards were involved
- 2) 87 students
- 3) 16 teachers
- 4) 43 others (which includes 19 Mentors)

# School Within a College:

## Dual Credit Project

School Within a College (SWAC) is an incredible opportunity for senior students who wish to explore a career and complete secondary credits in an alternative way. The Grand River Region SWAC is a partnership among Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board, Grand Erie District School Board, Fanshawe College, Simcoe and Mohawk College, Brantford. Programs are offered as full days in the college setting. Students engage in a dual credit program based on their pathway choice. They attend a congregated class and take the entire program as a group with one secondary teacher as their primary contact. Secondary staffing is provided by both boards equally.

There are two components to SWAC programs. Dual Credits are team-taught by college professors and secondary teachers. The college staff takes the lead and the secondary teacher partners in a wide variety of ways including curriculum alignment, student support and partner teacher. Assessment and evaluation are a joint effort with each responsible for reporting to their respective institutions. Students receive up to two secondary credits and 2 or more college credits, depending upon the hours required per credit.



Additional secondary credits are taught by the secondary teacher. They include learning experiences which enhance the pathway chosen by the students. This is accomplished by a combination of direct teaching (usually English and/or Math), credit recovery and monitored independent learning (MIL). This combination of approaches allows students to focus on the English and Math needed to accomplish their OSSD and qualify for the next step programs they may want to enter, as well as to complete other courses they may need to graduate.

Currently the secondary staff includes Marianne Helgers, Ed House, Laura Giliberti and Dennis Perras. They are extraordinary teachers who work closely with a variety of college professors to make the program a success.



Shannon Valliear, Aslan Selby and Kayla Haskett work on a project in their Human Services program at Fanshawe College.



Students get a taste of roofing as part of their Trades Pre-Apprenticeship.



Dennis Perras works with Brandon Jausiw on a lathe in the shop at Mohawk College. Dennis team-teaches the Machining Module with Mohawk's Ed Radko.

## Program Options

SWAC programs are evolving based on identified need and the availability of the college to offer the program focus. Currently we have one semester programs in:

- Business
- Human Services
- Manufacturing and Construction Trades
- Facilities Maintenance Trades
- OYAP and Apprenticeship Options in trades areas

## Target Group

The target group for SWAC includes students who are:

- 17 – 20 years of age who have not completed the OSSD
- have an interest in exploring a career path offered through the program
- may be considering or already dropped out
- are motivated to improve work skills and build self confidence
- are capable of working at the College or Apprenticeship level

## Sharing more than the classroom



The Trades classes and teachers take time out to share a Christmas breakfast at Mohawk.

## School Within A College (SWAC): the major project of SCWI in the Grand River Region

Laura Giliberti, Student Success Teacher for SWAC feels that, in life, only sometimes do people get second chances...and sometimes that's just what a student needs to be successful.

School Within a College (SWAC) is a program for those students, who, for whatever reason, have become disengaged with the regular school system but would benefit from something just a little different. These students need something that they can be successful in and feel good about to put them on the right track...whatever that track may be: the world of work, apprenticeships or college.

The Ontario Ministry of Education has a number of programs and initiatives that offer students another chance at success. Put PLAR (Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition) and SWAC together, and you have a definite recipe for success. Genil Philips is a student who took advantage of the "leg up", and participated in both the PLAR and the SWAC programs. Because of these two programs, she made up for lost time and got back on track for her OSSD. She worked hard at both recovering any lost credits, and in the SWAC program. That dedication paid off....she has now been accepted into the Business program at St. Lawrence College. She is well on her way to a successful career in Business Management.

## Success Stories

Marianne Helgers reports that Kristine Cotton is a real poster child for this program. She is only 17 and has lived on her own since she was 15. She does not qualify for student welfare so she works evenings and weekends to support herself.

Kristine needed only 6 credits and will likely do that with ease. Her marks are all above 80%. She has grown in confidence, maturity and especially in decision making skills. Her biggest decision now is whether she should pursue an apprenticeship or go to college.

Kristine says ...

*"SWAC has been a turning point in my life. This program has changed my views about school, life and my future. It has given me a more positive outlook on school and going to post-secondary education. Before SWAC I did not like school and showed up 25% – 50% of the time. My grades were fair; I managed to maintain a 70% average. If I did not get this opportunity, I can guarantee that I would have been a drop-out for my last year and probably with a much more negative outlook.*

*My first thoughts about SWAC were not high because it sounded too good to be true. However, after my first week, I realized that this program was going to work for me. My attendance has improved to 95%. I love being in class and now I plan on continuing my education into college.*

*From SWAC you can expect to be able to meet your goals, to have an amazing teacher who will assist you to understand assignments, help you or give advice in personal problems, set a great environment and set you up to apply to college. There may have been some failures in the program but many of us would have failed without it.*

*This program allows an individual to mature, to see things from a more college environment and to focus on future. The college courses challenge my intellectual side and give a perspective into what college will be like. This component likely is the determining factor that helps change our views on education and causes many of us to realize that we can go on to post-secondary.*

*I am thankful to be part of this program and hope it continues to expand. I think it should run each semester at Fanshawe, with the same class size but more classes. Hopefully more students will have this opportunity."*





Ed House, Teacher of the Trades I program at Mohawk, writes about Cody Bell, one of the many students who have been so successful at SWAC.

“When Cody Bell applied to the SWAC program he was looking to take his life in a new direction. At the age of 17 he was informed of the program through his guidance department at St. John’s College. He and his parents attended an open house at Mohawk College in Brantford where he discussed exploring the skilled trades while he completed the last of his required high school credits. Subsequently, he applied. On his application he stated, “I want to attend the college to pursue a career as a mechanic...and one day open my own business.”

The Trades program at Mohawk is designed to allow for the exploration of skilled trades in the areas of: Millwrighting (Industrial Maintenance Mechanic), Machining, CAD, Construction, Woodworking, Welding and Facilities Maintenance; while students earn dual credits (College prep and high school credits). The goal of the program is for students to graduate from high school and to make some inroads into the skilled trade of their choice. Cody Bell was very successful in doing both; first, in semester one, he completed his required academic courses... in phase two he entered into the Automotive Service Technician AOYAP program at Mohawk’s Fennell Campus in Hamilton. Within AOYAP his placement was at

Al’s Automotive in Brantford. “I feel that after all he has learned here, the positive attitude that he has been able to maintain may be his best attribute,” says Dennis Perras, Cody’s Co-op and SWAC Instructor.

Today, Trevor Wagler at Gary Cullen Pontiac Buick feels the same way. Trevor is the Service Manager at the 24,000 sq. ft. dealership in Brantford. Cody has earned the opportunity to put his skills to work for real. “He’s a great kid,” says Trevor. Cody is working in the service department where one of his initial duties is to check-in the vehicles in a very fast-paced environment that requires organization, patience and people-skills as well. When he is not doing that he is often rotating tires, changing oil and performing maintenance duties on the shop floor. “When he came to the Dealership he already had the skills that were necessary to work in the shop,” his manager explains. “It’s a busy time here and I think he used the SWAC program as a real stepping stone to get to where he is.”

Cody’s efforts will be further rewarded in the fall of 2008 when he will engage in eight weeks of the ASEP (Automotive Service Education Program) a course specific to General Motors. We are certainly proud of what Cody has accomplished in such a relatively short time. It’s testimony to what an alternative approach to education like SWAC can accomplish when educators, community, parents, local business and great kids like Cody all work together.

Matt Roberts says ...

“In my opinion, the experience that I have had at SWAC has been great! I think the program is a great way for people to get their high school diploma. Before coming to SWAC, I was in a regular high school but I was not doing all that well. I believe I didn’t do well because of all the distractions, and the fact that I really didn’t like the school setting. At SWAC I get the chance to work at my own pace, in a more laid back, less stressful setting. While I have been here I have tried to get good marks, and so far I am at about 80% or higher. The program is a turning point in my life because in September I was going to drop out but chose to try SWAC. The college course means we can get dual credits. At the end of this semester I will have my diploma and two college credits on a college transcript. That means I shouldn’t have any trouble being accepted when I apply. After SWAC I plan to work full time to help pay for college. I am definitely going to go to college!”



# Building Bridges for Seamless Educational Transitions

During their practicum sessions this winter in the final year of the Nipissing University Brantford Concurrent Education Program, several student teachers with their associate teachers will have an opportunity to build a better understanding of the alignment of the college pathway.

In this project, an evolution of the former Junior Intermediate Internship in Community Colleges project, pre-service teachers who will be practice teaching in either of the two local school boards will partner with their associate teachers and faculty of Mohawk College Brantford to walk in each other's shoes.

### As part of this experience they will:

- examine curriculum gaps/overlaps
- share instructional strategies
- identify skills sets essential for student success
- explore assessment & evaluation practices

Long-term goals of this partnership for all of the educators involved are, of course, what they will offer to their own students.

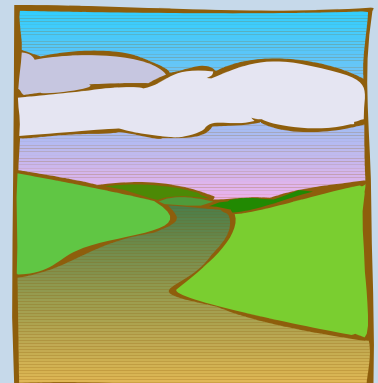
### These benefits include:

- better information about the full range of post-secondary destinations
- an increased awareness of local college and career opportunities
- better preparation for and a smoother transition to the college experience
- a learning experience shaped by the knowledge and skills of a variety of educators
- a more consistent educational experience, and
- potentially higher levels of academic success



## *College Pathways: Exploring Opportunities for Your Future Students*

On Monday, November 12, 2007 local pre-service (student) teachers from the Laurier/Nipissing Concurrent Education Program of the Brantford campus experienced the community college environment. Approximately 150 student teachers of the concurrent education program converged on the Brantford campus of Mohawk College (Elgin Street) for an event billed as “College Pathways: Exploring Opportunities For Your Future Students”. The aspiring teachers heard the stories of current college students – why and how they chose college after earning a secondary school diploma. Mohawk instructors welcomed the university students into their classes to showcase their programs, teaching styles and resources. This event, funded by the local planning team of the provincial ‘School College Work Initiative’ is part of a program which will prepare the student teachers to more effectively assist their future students in making appropriate, informed choices of courses, programs and careers.



# SHSM

## SPECIALIST HIGH SCHOOL MAJOR FORUM

A SHSM Forum was hosted at the Mohawk College Brantford Campus on November 29th, 2007. The purpose of the Forum was to provide valuable information for school teams considering submitting proposals for SHSMs for the 2008/09 school year. School teams including Administrators, Guidance, Coop and classroom teacher representatives from each school board participated in the day. We were also joined by representatives from St. Leonard's Society and Mohawk College.

A Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) is a ministry-approved specialized program. The SHSM allows students to focus on knowledge and skills that are of particular importance in certain economic sectors, and to obtain certifications recognized in those sectors, as they work towards meeting the requirements for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). Students who graduate with a SHSM designation on their diploma are prepared for success in a particular sector in the postsecondary destination of their choice, whether it be apprenticeship training, a college or university program, or the workplace.

The morning program provided an overview of the Specialist High Skills Majors component of the Ministry Student Success initiative, presented by Marlene Kennedy, Student Success Leader of the GEDSB and Mary Gallo, Principal of Program/Student Success from BHCNDSB. Following the overview was a Panel Presentation including representatives from four boards currently piloting SHSM. The guest presenters were Wendy Peters from Halton DSB, Colleen McPhee from Hamilton Wentworth CDSB, Tim Martens from Huron-Perth CDSB, and Bob Fulraski from Thames Valley DSB. Each presented valuable information on the highlights and challenges of implementing a SHSM.

To establish a context for the discussions Jill Halyk from the GETAB provided Labour Market information (Trends, Opportunities and Priorities) for Brant, Haldimand and Norfolk. Joanne Proctor, Associate Dean of Mohawk College, provided an overview of the various programs offered at the Brantford Campus as well as programs that are in the works which will support the alignment of SHSM pathways to college programs.

The afternoon session provided a Proposal Writing Workshop lead by Suzanne Cass, School to Work Officer from GEDSB. School Board Teams were provided with instructions and tips to begin the work of proposal writing. School Teams were provided with time to work independently on task. Feedback was positive and the information was well received.

### The Specialist High Skills Major Sectors include:

- Arts and Culture
- Business
- Construction
- Environment
- Health and Wellness
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Manufacturing
- Primary Industries
  - Agriculture
  - Forestry
  - Horticulture and Landscaping
  - Mining
  - Transportation

# Stay tuned for...

- **Helping Along the Pathways:** an opportunity to build awareness of destination pathways among community youth counsellors as well as school staff – late winter 2008
- **Picture Yourself at College:** an experience through which we hope to enhance the acceptance of college as a feasible post-secondary goal among aboriginal youth– spring 2008
- **Destination College & What Makes Our Community Work** – opportunities for intermediate students and their teachers in May 2008
- As well as **Skilled Trades conferences** in Brant and in Haldimand Norfolk throughout the year.



## Together we can make a difference.



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**The Grand River Region Planning Team is a partnership of:**

Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board

Fanshawe College (Simcoe)

Grand Erie District School Board

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Mohawk College (Brantford)

Nipissing University (Brantford)

St. Leonard's Community Services

*Contact one of our partners for information about the School College Work Initiative*