

Media Release**June 14, 2013****Algonquin College in the Ottawa Valley Wins Two National Awards**

Algonquin College's new Waterfront Campus in Pembroke is capturing national attention. In the past week, the Campus has received two Canadian awards from within the post-secondary educational sector related to the new campus project and its impact on the community.

Campus Dean, Karen Davies, received a Bronze Award of Excellence from the Association of Canadian Community Colleges at its annual conference in Penticton, British Columbia. Davies was recognized for her leadership and determination in helping to secure a new campus to serve the Upper Ottawa Valley. She was also singled out for her guidance in helping the College students, faculty and staff, make a smooth transition into the new campus in the middle of the fall semester, a peak period in the academic calendar.

The second national award was to acknowledge the team who planned and executed the very successful grand opening ceremony for the new campus. The Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education bestowed a Prix d'Excellence Silver Award in the "Best Special Event" category at its annual conference in St. John's, Newfoundland. The Prix D'Excellence is an annual awards program recognizing outstanding achievements in alumni affairs, public affairs, communications, marketing, development, advancement services, stewardship, student recruitment and overall institutional Advancement.

The new Waterfront Campus held its Grand Opening event in November 2012. It included live musical performances by Bear Nation of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan and Canadian country recording artist Jason Blaine, a graduate of the College's Business program. It also paid tribute to five decades of alumni, and featured a number of new videos celebrating the campus. Because of its location along the Ottawa River, the College executed a maritime-style christening, breaking a champagne bottle against the building while a voyageur canoe and the river served as a backdrop.

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To mark this milestone in Algonquin's history, the College also produced a special commemorative magazine that included photos and stories about the journey to build the new campus, and a brief history of the Pembroke Campus. The opening ceremony was attended by more than 250 people and was televised by TV Cogeco, allowing more people to see the special event.

Campus Dean, Karen Davies, while humbled by the award that she received, calls the recognition significant for the College's reputation. "These two awards have helped put our campus on the national stage of higher education. More people are learning about us and what we have accomplished as a dedicated group of faculty and staff who are committed to providing the best possible College experience for our students----one that compares with any of the leading post-secondary institutes in the country," adds Davies.

The new campus opened in October of last year, following a year-and-a-half of construction. The \$36-million project features 16 classrooms, nine specialized learning labs, a gymnasium, fitness centre, Library, and Student Commons. The facility offers students a spectacular campus setting, built along the shores of the Ottawa River, and adjacent to Pembroke's beautiful municipal waterfront park.

Public tours are held on Friday mornings in June and select days throughout the summer. Those interested in seeing the College can contact Alana at 613-735-4700, ext. 2700 to book a tour date.

For more information, contact:

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