

# Access, Outreach and Student Support

Providing access to higher education by offering comprehensive programming, as well as multiple pathways and supports for students to achieve their educational goals, is included in Seneca's Strategic Plan. Access initiatives focus on many issues facing today's students including affordability, retention initiatives, inter-institutional transfer and working with the community.

### ACADEMIC ACCESS PROGRAMS

**COLLEGE VOCATIONAL PROGRAM** - Students with learning difficulties are prepared for the workforce and develop independent living skills through classroom learning and work placement. The final semester is an unpaid work placement with 60 - 70 per cent of students finding employment where they completed their work placement.

**REDIRECTION THROUGH EDUCATION** - Adults with mental health or psychiatric histories are given an opportunity to explore and strengthen their vocational directions, academic and personal development.

**SENECA CENTRE FOR OUTREACH EDUCATION (SCORE)** - First-generation, economically and educationally disadvantaged youth (19 - 24 years, out-of-school, out-of-work) work toward an Ontario College Certificate in General Arts and Science. During two semesters (one year), students take a variety of courses to build foundation skills in core areas of learning. An Aboriginal SCOrE program called "Finding the Path," attempts to "bridge a gap" by eliminating many barriers that can prevent Aboriginal People, primarily urban youth between 19 - 29 years in the GTA, from pursuing post-secondary education. SCOrE has a research component to provide information on the effectiveness of student support measures.

**WORK ON TRACK** - Adult students with mental health issues receive career planning, job coaching and employability skills in this 24-week program. The final 12 weeks are spent in an unpaid work placement.

**FOUNDATIONS FOR SUCCESS** - Initiated by Seneca and the Millennium Scholarship Foundation in collaboration with two other colleges, this research project measures interventions for improved student success. More than 2,000 at-risk students will take part in the project during four semesters of study.

### SCHOOL OUTREACH PROGRAMS

**ADVANCED CREDIT EXPERIENCE** - Grade 11 students enrol in a college or university English and Liberal Studies subject and obtain a co-op credit (through a co-op placement) in the same semester. Students can use the credit obtained towards their graduation requirements at college or university. Supported by the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering Technology and the York/Seneca Institute for Mathematics, Science and Technology.

**BIOTECH TOOLBOX** - Secondary school classes participate in biotechnology experiments such as DNA isolation. Supported by the Canadian Biotechnology Education Resource Centre, YorkBiotech, Fisher Scientific, and the York Region District School Board and Seneca's School of Biological Sciences and Applied Chemistry.

**BRIDGES TO TECHNOLOGY** - Selected Grade 12 students from the York Region Catholic District School Board (YCDSB) take a full high school credit at Seneca's Jane Campus in Computer Numerical Control (CNC) manual programming. Students attend classes four afternoons per week and are taught by a technological education teacher from the YCDSB.

**COLLEGE MATHEMATICS PROJECT** - The project's ultimate goal is for students to have a seamless experience in math from kindergarten to college by aligning curriculum and sharing best practices. This research project, involving six colleges and five school boards, is led by Seneca, with assistance from the York/Seneca Institute for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education.

**DUAL CREDIT PROGRAM** - Selected students from Parkdale Collegiate Institute and Don Mills Collegiate have the opportunity to obtain a first-year college credit and two Ontario Secondary School Diploma credits. The goal is to provide students with exposure to the college experience so they will consider college as a more viable post-secondary option.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR (ECE) APPRENTICESHIP** - Grade 12 final semester students who have achieved all of their compulsory subjects are eligible to enter the ECE program through the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program. They receive four co-op credits for completion of their high school diploma, in addition to three college credits towards the 23 credits required for the Early Childhood Educator Apprenticeship Certificate.

**GRADES 7 AND 8 AWARENESS/CAREER CONFERENCE DAYS** - Workshops promoting the range of programs offered at college are presented to classes from the two Toronto school boards.

**GRADE 10 CAREER CLASS PRESENTATIONS** - Promotes the college system to Grade 10 students as an option for post-secondary education.

**SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENT TUTORING** - For select Grade 10 and/or 11 students with learning barriers, learning disabilities, financial concerns or first generation learners in the Seneca@York catchment areas (North York - Jane-Finch and York Region - South Markham). Students receive additional support prior to applying to college.

### SERVICES

**ADECCO AT SENECA** - Working as an extension of the Career Education and Management Centre, Adecco assists college students and graduates in finding part-time and full-time employment. This partnership between Seneca College and Adecco was formalized in November 2006 with the opening of an Adecco office at Newnham Campus.

**COUNSELLING DISABILITY AND HEALTH SERVICES** - Counselling, Disability and Health Services offices, located at the Newnham, King and Markham campuses, offer a variety of services for students with physical and non-visible disabilities or those requiring personal or academic counselling, academic assessment or health care.

**LEARNING CENTRES** - A wide range of academic support, including one-on-one tutoring, course-specific workshops, assistance with learning strategies, assistive technologies and services for ESL students, is provided at no additional cost. Learning Centres are located at Seneca's King, Markham, Newnham and Seneca@York campuses.

**SENECA COLLEGE LIAISON TEAM** - College liaison staff visit more than 200 secondary schools each year (31 school boards across the province) as well as Adult Education Centres, Alternative Schools, Elementary School Career Fairs, University Fairs and other external and internal events.

**STUDENT MENTORING IN LIFE AND EDUCATION (SMILE)** - New students are given the opportunity to be mentored by a senior student in their program, supporting their transition to college life.

**SUCCESS@SENECA** - Through coaching by College staff, students' transition to college is eased and a foundation for greater success is established. Students and coaches meet for about 20 minutes every two weeks. This is a research-based project. Of the 250 students involved in the program, 107 are part of a research project designed to evaluate the effects of the program with General Arts and Science students.