

MOHAWK COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY

SCHOOL/COLLEGE/WORK FORUM

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Final Report

Forum Goal

The goal of the event was that teachers, guidance counsellors, administrators and parents had an opportunity to learn more about Mohawk College facilities and Post-Secondary programming.

Organization

The event was planned and co-ordinated by a committee with representation from:

Mohawk College
Hamilton Wentworth District School Board
Halton District School Board
Halton Catholic District School Board
Grand Erie District School Board.

Program

The event was titled "Destination College" and ran from 9am to 1pm on Thursday, June 5, 2003. The program was as follows:

Session	Times	Description
Plenary	9:00 - 10:30 am	The manager of C101.5 FM, Mohawk College's Radio Station welcomed all guests. As a former Mohawk College radio broadcasting student, he played audiotapes of a radio ad campaign designed by the Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology to broaden awareness of College level Careers and Post-Secondary programming. The emcee then convened a panel of Mohawk College students and graduates, each of whom had arrived at the College from one of several pathways. These pathways were: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Secondary School Graduate- Adult or Mature Student- University Graduate.

		There was also a panelist who had been accepted to University following College Graduation.
E-Learning	10:30 - 11:15 am	The wave of the future in Post-Secondary education is anticipated to be learning which occurs in non-traditional settings, for example using computers, multi-media, Television, satellites and on-line instruction over the internet, rather than in classrooms. This workshop provided an overview of what the Mohawk College Library Resource Centre has done in order to assist Post-Secondary students with independent, on-line learning across multiple fields of inquiry.
Writing Exemplars for College	10:30 - 11:15 am	Last year, the Ontario College System embarked on a project designed to create benchmarks for writing and language skills required for various College Diploma programs, in an effort to familiarize secondary school teachers and guidance counsellors about the writing levels expected of students who enrol in College programs directly after highschool. This workshop highlighted the findings of the study, and provided participants with a copy of the examples developed, for future reference.
Mathematics Skills for College	11:15 am - Noon	Math courses are particularly complicated for parents and teachers to understand when it comes to the variety of College programs (including Apprenticeship) that Mohawk College offers. This workshop proved helpful to those advising students about post-secondary options, to understand the specific math requirements of College programs, as well as the content required in Secondary School to ensure that students don't limit their future choices by selecting the wrong math course in highschool.
Degree Opportunities	11:15 am - Noon	Information about Mohawk College's 3 new Applied Degree Programs, being offered beginning September, 2003. Highlights of partnerships currently in place with a variety of North American Universities to offer Degree Completion opportunities to graduates of Mohawk College Post-Secondary Diploma programs.
Luncheon	Noon - 1:00 pm	The College President addressed the group at lunch and thanked them for attending. The School/College Work Initiative representative was also invited to say a few words about the history of the Initiative and systemic issues.

Attendance

Approximately 50 School Board personnel, and School Council members attended, as well as approximately 20 College faculty and administrators. School Board participation was somewhat lower than expected due to a “work to rule” campaign underway at the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board.

Please provide any suggestions for topics you would like to see covered in future sessions:

An E-Learning session which focuses on courses delivered over the internet

Please organize a “College Dialogue” similar to the “University Dialogue” model. Call it by another name, ie. “College Connection” and hold it every spring for the coming year. All counsellors attend to get up to speed on new programs, requirements, etc.

Offer a session on entrance and exit from Mohawk College. For example, define mature students, foreign students, secondary school graduates, job prospects, post-diploma programs, transfer agreements, other colleges and universities, what courses are required for admission, what offers of admission are based on and alternate suggestions for students who are not accepted.

Programs for special needs students.

We need to know mark ranges from previous years for all subject areas, we need to know changing requirements, we need to know what high school marks are used to get students in to various subjects.

It is important for counsellors to have input from ALL Colleges, because of the rapidly changing system. I would like to see a “Dialogue” similar to the universities to get us up to date.

New programs coming on line, changes to existing programs, processes, new connections to other institutions and combined programs.

I would have liked a little more information on what Distance Education looks like.

The admission process for mature students, the testing they can expect to face, the numbers accepted each year, the hurdles they’ll face, etc., in greater detail than what was discussed at the presentation.

The nature of successful student backgrounds. “Who Ya Gonna Call”, or where can counsellors/students/parents go to find out the most appropriate contact person.

Given what we’re hearing about a shortage in the area, I was hoping to hear something about the trades/crafts and apprenticeships.

Please provide any additional comments or ideas for improvement that you would like to share with us:

The E-Learning Session was not what I expected. The math session was very useful.

Directions and signage from the Parking Lot in “F-Wing” entrance were not visible.

I thought E-Learning would be more involved with Distance Education.

Driving directions and maps available on your website could be much better. Use page 189 from your calendar instead.

The rooms were cold.

I sense that there is little sense of what occurs in secondary school curriculum. Hence, there appears to be a gap between us and what/how we operate. Surely, this can’t be beneficial to either system. For instance, why doesn’t the College system use Rubrics which are in line with the Ontario Public School system? I would suggest that you offer the math and English presentation to secondary school teachers who are delivering the curriculum. You are talking to the wrong audience if your goal is to ensure that your candidates are properly prepared.

Very well done.

The E-Learning presenter was not well prepared.

Improved directions to parking and room locations would be helpful. The E-Learning Session was really a library session.

E-Learning and Degree Opportunities were both great!

Session 1 E-Learning should be E-Learning, not a library sales job. What was the goal of this presentation? Scheduling was a problem. It was advertised to start at 9am, but began at 9:30. This was very frustrating.

Excellent information! I thought the focus of the E-Learning session would be more on distance education through the internet or taking full and part-time courses by electronic means, but the presenter could not even answer questions in this area.

I would have liked Mathematics Skills for College and Degree Opportunities to be offered at different times. I think these two sessions were the most important for secondary school guidance counsellors.

Enjoyable plenary session.

Great to hear from the students and their different pathways. Very important connection to stay current in all aspects of the College.

The E-Learning speaker was excellent, but the topic was irrelevant or not a priority to many audience members. I assumed E-learning would be about taking online courses. The transfer agreement information is very valuable and there were great print materials. Math and degree info. shouldn't have been offered at the same time, as counsellors are interested in both. Printed info. from all sessions should've been made available to all attendees regardless of sessions attended.

If offering something like this again, the time of year should change.

The timing was very inconvenient, in that June is the second busiest time of year for guidance counsellors. Would've been useful to have had this session before the Feb. 1 College application deadline.

Mohawk staff was very gracious in welcoming us, despite not having received notice from our Board rep. that we'd be attending!

Workshop sessions should have been longer.

I'm not sure the "library pitch" session was what we need/want. This is better suited to first semester students.

Parking and directions to the rooms were unclear and confusing!

I was looking forward to attending both the Math and Degree sessions. The student involvement was well done. It was a warm and friendly environment. Thanks for the treats. We do have Sandy Willett in each year, she does a great job with our students.

