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**buildingC O N N E C T I O N S**

**School/College/Work Initiative Phase 6 Report  
June, 2003**

**Project Partners:**

**Durham College  
Durham Catholic DSB  
Durham DSB  
University of Ontario Institute of Technology**

**Submitted by:**

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*June 27, 2003*



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### PROJECT SUMMARY

*Building Connections* is a demonstration project in which a model will be developed for a system of interactions and exchanges among college professors, secondary school teachers, teacher candidates, and faculty/school of education faculty which could then be replicated across the province. A unique feature of the exchange model is the participation of teacher candidates. The demonstration project will involve teacher candidates attending the School of Education, University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT). The intent of the project is to foster awareness of programs and instructional procedures in new secondary school teachers and the school of education faculty, as well as seasoned teachers and college faculty.

The original proposal was for a two-year term. The major outcomes in year one were the development of a draft exchange model and completion of the required preparatory work to pilot the exchange model in the Durham Region in year two. The initial exchanges are scheduled for the fall semester of 2003, and their expenses will be covered by money received in Phase VI. This proposal seeks funding to test and refine the model, develop an implementation guide, and conduct necessary in-service sessions in the second half of the year to facilitate replication of the exchange model by all colleges and school boards in the province.

### PROGRESS TO DATE

Two objectives were identified for Year One of the project:

1. To plan, implement, and evaluate a two-day in-service workshop, to be held in the spring 2003, for approximately 50 associate teachers, 25 guidance teachers, 20 college professors, and 2 School of Education faculty to
  - a. Provide relevant information to orient and prepare the participants for the short-term exchanges
  - b. Design the format, and processes for planning and evaluating the short-term exchanges, and determine the implementation schedule.
2. To develop an exchange model by June 2003, for a system of short-term exchanges involving secondary school teachers, teacher candidates, college professors, and faculty/school of education professors.

The following outlines our progress to date and plans for fall 2003:

- **Participant Recruiting:** Beginning in March, Management Committee members provided project information to principals, curriculum chairs, and math, science, and technological education teachers from the Durham and Durham Catholic District School Boards.
- **Project Promotion:** A brochure was prepared for wider distribution (see Appendix A). Because of a delay in hiring the Practicum Coordinator for the UOIT School of Education, a decision was made to involve any interested secondary school teacher

rather than limiting the project to only those who would serve as associate teachers. The concept was received with enthusiasm from the two school boards.

- **Professional Development:** After reviewing the proposed content for the two-day in-service training, the Management Committee decided a one-day session would be of more benefit to project participants. Consequently, a one-day session was held on Friday, June 6 at Durham College. Approximately 100 secondary school representatives, including principals and superintendents attended, with approximately 20 college and university representatives. An agenda for the day is attached (see Appendix B).

Feedback from the session indicated that secondary school teachers are very eager to receive information about college programs and that establishing ongoing communication between the two panels is a priority. Following the session, 41 secondary teachers and 8 college faculty members indicated a willingness to be involved in the program. The project coordinator will conduct a direct recruitment campaign for additional college faculty in late-August.

- **Research Report:** Prior to the June 6 session, permission was sought from the UOIT Ethics Committee, as well as the two district school boards, to conduct research pertaining to the project. The Application for Ethics Review can be found in Appendix C. Consequently, pre-involvement data was gathered from the participants on June 6.
- **Identification of Exchange Teams:** A half-day session is scheduled for Wednesday, October 1, 2003 to introduce the participant teams and lay out the framework and expectations of the exchanges. Based on feedback received from the June 6 session, the proposed exchange model will involve three exchanges in the fall semester with two visits to the college and one visit to each secondary school involved. Scheduling of the exchanges will be at the discretion of the participant teams. Participants will be asked to set objectives for their individual exchange teams, and feedback will be gathered at the end of the semester.
- **Inclusion of Teacher Candidates:** Teacher candidates will join the exchange teams beginning in January 2004. The UOIT School of Education will have approximately 80 teacher candidates. As this is a consecutive program, all will have already completed a minimum of an undergraduate degree plus one semester of teacher preparation, including one extended block of student teaching. The distribution of the students according to teachable area (each has two teachable areas) is:

Mathematics	50
Physics	35
Chemistry	25
Biology	22
General Science	08
Computer Science	20

The block placement for practicum in the second term will have the students in secondary classrooms where they will be more likely to be teaching in their area of specialization. Associate teachers, then, are also more likely to be specialists in the same area as the students.

