

MEDIA RELEASE

10215 – 108 Street NW
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5J 1L6



Sept 18, 2013

New bursary will assist students with mental health challenges

Edmonton – Recognizing that education is a part of meaningful recovery for those who suffer from mental illnesses, NorQuest College announced today the creation of a new bursary.

The Catherine & Austin Mardon, C.M. Schizophrenia Award has been made possible thanks to an anonymous donation.

“It’s wonderful to see programs like this bursary in place for Alberta students dealing with mental health concerns,” said Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Donald S. Ethell.

“Austin Mardon was an early, valued member of the Lieutenant Governor’s Circle on Mental Health and Addiction and both he and Catherine are sterling examples of all that can be achieved in the face of challenges.”

The annual bursary will be worth \$1,000 and available to NorQuest College students who:

- Are entering their first or second year of studies
- Demonstrate financial need
- Can provide a statement of marks showing an academic standing of 65%/C/2.0 or higher
- Provide a written confirmation from a certified health professional, priest, or pastor, that he or she has (in order of selection priority): schizophrenia, bi-polar disorder or has an immediate family member with schizophrenia, or an immediate family member with bi-polar disorder; and
- Can provide a letter outlining challenges and obstacles overcome

“NorQuest College is a diverse and inclusive institution,” says President & CEO Jodi L. Abbott. “We are proud to be able to offer this bursary to deserving students on a continuing basis.”

Application deadline is April 1st.

About Austin Mardon: Austin Mardon was born in Edmonton in 1962 in Edmonton, Alberta. He was educated at Lethbridge, Alberta and also attended South Dakota State University, Texas A&M University, and Greenwich University. He holds two Masters degrees and a PhD. He was the first Canadian to go on a NASA sponsored meteorite recovery expedition to the Antarctic southern polar plateau. He is a scientific author of the book *Thriving with Schizophrenia* and has published 200 articles. In 2007 received the Order of Canada for health advocacy on behalf of the mentally ill.

For more information on NorQuest College, visit www.norquest.ca.

Richard Wright
Communications
NorQuest College
Office: 780-644-5924
Mobile: 780-288-3813
richard.wright@norquest.ca



About NorQuest College: NorQuest College is the Edmonton region's community college serving 8,500 students annually throughout the province in full-time, part-time, distance learning and regional programs. NorQuest College helps learners with diverse educational backgrounds complete or further their studies through foundational and continuing education programs. Our post-secondary diploma and certificate programs offer career paths in health, community studies and business. By collaborating with business, industry, government and communities, we ensure our post-secondary education is necessary and workforce relevant. With 95 per cent of NorQuest College graduates employed or enrolled in further education, we contribute significantly to Alberta's growing economy. College operations and student spending contribute more than \$450 million annually to the regional economy.