

## Heritage College Early Childhood Care and Education Students get International Work Experience



Jessica Nadon, Stéphanie St-Aubin and Amy Frost

On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, third-year Heritage College Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) students Amy Frost, Stéphanie St-Aubin and Jessica Nadon will be winging their way to Colombia as part of a groundbreaking international work placement experience.

As part of their final semester of studies, these three students will be participating in an eight-week adventure as English Second Language (ESL) guest teachers at *Salesiano San Pedro Claver de Cartagena* school in Cartagena, Colombia, working with four-, five- and six-year-old children. These particular

ECCE students were selected on the basis of their success in previous course work and work placements, their abilities as self-starters, their open-mindedness, sense of responsibility and willingness to commit to a more complex and rigorous workload. Donna Mouzard, an experienced faculty member of the ECCE program at Heritage, also will be travelling to Cartagena. As the work placement coordinator she will be supervising the project on behalf of the College and establishing a liaison between her students and the Colombian teachers.

“This is a first in the history of Heritage,” announced Director General Claude J. Chénier. “It is more experimental now, but the long-term vision is to expand these kinds of international placement opportunities to include other countries and other programs at Heritage.”

Both the Heritage College administration and the Early Childhood Care and Education program have given extra support to ensure the success of this initial venture. Many months of planning and development went into devising the special program for this experience, not to mention the work that has gone into making creative adaptations to some aspects of the work placement in order to fit the specific conditions and requirements of the host school in South America.



Pre-school-age children at Colegio Salesiano San Pedro Claver school in Cartagena, Colombia.

The students plan to keep in touch with the Heritage community by means of newsletters, blogs and information updates that will be posted throughout the College.

For more information about the innovative Early Childhood Care and Education program at Heritage, visit [www.cegep-heritage.qc.ca](http://www.cegep-heritage.qc.ca).

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