

Cégep Heritage College Honours Six Perseverance Superheroes

Gatineau, February 15, 2017 – Cégep Heritage College, is joining **School Perseverance Days** activities by honouring six perseverance superheroes. The goal of this event is to actively encourage the community to support our students, to prevent them from dropping out of school and to convince them of the advantage of obtaining a diploma or qualification.

Jocelyn Blondin

Mr. Jocelyn Blondin has embraced the cause of education for many years. Commissioner on the Board of Commission scolaire des Portages-de-l'Outaouais (CSPO) from 1994 to 1998, he was elected President in 1998 and remained in the position until 2013. He is a founding member of Table-Education Outaouais and an active member of the Fédération des commissions scolaires du Québec. In 2013, he was elected municipal councilor and is looking after education related matters for the city of Gatineau.

Jeremy Howard

He is very active organizing intramural sports activities for students and employees at the College. He engages students in both sports and recreational activities, on and off campus. He encourages participation in activities sponsored in the Quebec network of colleges and universities such as McGill Fest and the RSEQ. He also helps mentor students in Heritage's Student Association and participates on many college committees that benefit the promotion and visibility of the College. He gives a lot of his time on many weekends and evenings not only in the fulfillment of his duties, but to assist students in their holistic development. He is passionate about students and their accomplishments and can always be counted on to promote their interests. He is a valuable member of the Student Services team at Heritage College.

Jean Scott

She is very active initiating Aboriginal student engagement in the College. She invites Aboriginal spokespersons, elders, professionals, artists, community leaders and educators to participate in activities with students in the college and in the classrooms. Additionally, she is active participating in and promoting Aboriginal partnerships in the community at large and with other colleges and universities. She coordinates the College's Aboriginal Education Council and encourages student membership; she has organized and participated in Pow-Wows on and off campus; she participates in Aboriginal events such as the Honoring Ceremonies for all graduating Aboriginal students in the region; and she has attended numerous Canadian conferences on Reconciliation, Residential Schools, Inclusion, Leadership and Socio-economic development. All the while she shares her experience and knowledge with various partners in the Heritage community in the hope of inspiring and engaging students in their educational pursuits and in improving the College's offer of service--not only to Aboriginal students but to all students.

James Shea

Mr. Shea has always been associated with the education sector. He was teacher, principal and superintendent of a school board. He currently is President of the Western Quebec School Board and he sits on the Board of Governors and the Executive Committee of Cégep Heritage College. He is also the liaison between the Board of Directors of the Foundation and Cégep Heritage College Board of Governors. He is a defender of student interests and promotes teaching of the French language in English schools.

Christine Smyth

In her 32 years of service at the College, Christine always goes above and beyond to help students at Heritage. Her compassion, empathy and patience shine through when advising students how to navigate through the financial maze at what can be a difficult time on the road to success. Students invariably leave her office feeling lighter, wiser and, above all, heard. Her ability to organize events such as Graduations and the Awards Evening makes students feel that their work is valued and will be rewarded through student success. Students always feel comforted by her presence, whether it is in her office or in her Zumba class.

Nick Strachan

Nick has been spearheading the drama club (directing, producing, building sets, etc.) every year since 2006, focusing on introducing students to serious theatre (classical theatre including Greek tragedies and works by Shakespeare as well as contemporary and modern theatre)). He organizes the annual creativity writing contest and publishes *The First Edition* (the journal of student literary works that arise from the contest). His involvement with students makes him a true hero of perseverance.

School Perseverance Days is organized by *Le Comité d'amélioration de la persévérance scolaire (CAPS)* de la *Table Éducation Outaouais (TÉO)* whose goal is to develop and implement a regional strategy to improve student retention and contribute to the success of students in the Outaouais.

Photos of the event are available of the [College Flickr page](#).

About Cégep Heritage College: Cégep Heritage College is one of 48 CEGEPs (Collèges d'Enseignement Général et Professionnel) in the province of Quebec, the only English CEGEP in Western Quebec. The College offers four pre-university programs, and eight career programs. What's more, its Centre for Continuing Education offers full-time programs leading to Attestations of College Studies, part-time courses and workshops, and made-to-measure programs for businesses out of its Gatineau and Pontiac campuses.

Quality education, small classes, a friendly atmosphere, and dynamic extra-curricular and social activities make Cégep Heritage College the perfect place to study and meet new friends. The College's modern facilities in Gatineau feature a gymnasium, fitness centre, dance studio, comprehensive library, and 156-seat auditorium. Our spacious campus grounds include a large soccer/rugby field, beach volleyball courts, and is close to biking and hiking paths.

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