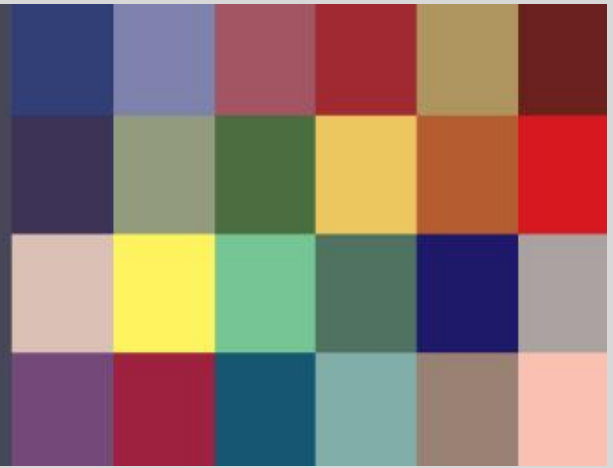


ARUCC

CONTACT NEWSLETTER

ASSOCIATION OF REGISTRARS OF THE
UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES OF CANADA



CONTACT Volume 20, No. 24

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It's that easy to become an ARUCC member

and there's no cost for additional members once a school becomes a member. Contact your Registrar and have them sign you up today. We'll add you to our listserv, get you access to other resources, and support your goals to be a successful strategic enrolment management and student service professional.

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ARUCC 2012 Conference – SAVE THESE DATES!!

The **ARUCC 2012 Conference** will be held at the Ottawa Marriott Hotel, **June 25-28, 2012**. In recognition of Quebec's Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day Holiday and Canada Day celebrations, the main Conference sessions are scheduled Tuesday, June 26-Thursday, June 28 with optional Pre-Conference Workshops on Monday, June 25. Co-hosted by ARUCC, OURA and CRALO, the 2012 Conference is a must-attend event for college and university strategic enrolment management professionals involved in all aspects of recruitment and retention.

The Marriott Hotel is located in the heart of downtown Ottawa, just steps from the Parliament Buildings, the Rideau Canal and the ByWard Market and recently completed multi-million dollar renovations to its bedrooms and public spaces.

Further details regarding program content, functions, exhibits and accommodation will be posted on the Conference [website](#).

Mark your calendars now for June 25-28, 2012! We look forward to seeing you in Ottawa next year for ARUCC 2012!

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EDI / XML Report



By Doug Holmes
ARUCC representative on the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee

When I reported in the fall 2004 issue of CONTACT that I would be stepping down from SPEEDE, I guess that I could have quoted Arnold -- "I'll be back". As reported in the fall 2010 issue of CONTACT I now have the privilege of returning to represent you, the ARUCC membership, by following Barry Billing in this role. For those of you who do not know me, I have been a software developer at the Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC) in Guelph, since 1995. During that time, one of my roles has been on the team which developed and maintains the Ontario university system's EDI-based postsecondary transcript exchange system.

In preparation for writing this article, I browsed through the CONTACT archives where I found my last report in the fall 2004 issue (see <http://www.arucc.ca/documents/contactvol17no11fall04.pdf>). I had just returned from the 1st Annual PESC Technology Summit where it was announced that the PESC XML College (i.e., postsecondary) Transcript schema had just been approved. Since then (as reported by Barry and others in subsequent issues of CONTACT) schools, vendors and other agencies have been working to both deploy and enhance that standard as well as develop other XML-based standards, to increase system and business process efficiencies supporting streamlined student services (see http://www.pesc.org/interior.php?page_id=147).

In today's data exchange landscape SPEEDE now refers to EDX standards, which encompass three different yet complementary flavours of electronic document exchange: traditional EDI, PESC XML and PDF. Due to the number of independent implementations of EDX (i.e., school-to-school, province/statewide and even national and North America-wide) it is difficult to know the exact volume of documents that are being exchanged using approved standards. However, the available statistics from various agencies and the "word of mouth" updates from others, show impressive growth in recent years as well as ongoing initiatives which bode well for the future (see <http://www.aacrao.org/About-AACRAO/committees/speede/who.aspx>).

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Across Canada, standardized exchanges continue to grow amongst our universities and colleges. Since my departure in 2005, here are a few examples of things I observed while prepping for this article:

- British Columbia
In addition to the traditional EDI transcripts being exchanged between postsecondary institutions in the province for many years, the PESC XML College Transcript, Transcript Batch and Transcript Acknowledgement standards are now being both sent and received amongst BCCampus, Simon Fraser University, Kwantlen College and Douglas College. Further planning is underway to include all post secondary institutions in the province in the XML exchange.
- Alberta
In 2009, Alberta introduced a central “online application and transcript transfer system” for postsecondary education. The service, called ApplyAlberta, has been built using PESC standards and incorporates the Admissions Application, High School Transcript and College Transcript components. An upgrade to the newest PESC standards version is being planned.
- Ontario
EDI transcript volume continually increases amongst universities and colleges via their respective OUAC and OCAS trading hubs. Nearly all schools in both sectors are fully able to send and receive to each other. The Ontario College of Teachers also receives EDI undergraduate and B Ed transcripts from universities as part of the teacher certification process. OCAS and the colleges use PESC XML standards to receive both Ontario high school transcripts (adding increasing numbers of Ontario high schools and boards into their trading network) and Comprehensive International Assessments from both WES and ICAS evaluation services.

Since re-joining SPEEDE we met face-to-face in Reno, Nevada at the 2011 AACRAO Technology Conference (see <http://www2.aacrao.org/tech11/>) where our committee also presented a number of EDX sessions. “Hi” to my fellow Canadians I met either attending or presenting at the conference. I also discovered we weren’t the furthest travelers by any means ... one attendee came from Turkey!

As during Barry’s time on SPEEDE, we also meet weekly via conference call to discuss current committee initiatives and issues. Many of the SPEEDE members participate on various PESC work groups (the means by which PESC, a volunteer-based, community-driven organization performs much of its on-going standards work) and provide reports on these calls. If you subscribe to the SPEEDE-L listserv you should already be receiving detailed bi-monthly reports of SPEEDE’s activities. If you do not subscribe, but would still like to see the updates, visit SPEEDE’s web site (see “SPEEDE Updates” at <http://www.aacrao.org/About-AACRAO/committees/speede.aspx>). Some recent happenings in the standards-setting arena are:

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- New versions of six PESC XML Schemas and their associated “implementation guides” (i.e., technical documentation) were approved for:
 - College Transcript
 - High School Transcript
 - Admissions Application
 - Transcript Acknowledgement
 - Request for Transcript
 - Response to Request for a Transcript
 and will each be posted shortly on PESC’s web site (see http://www.pesc.org/interior.php?page_id=147)
- A sample is being created to post on the web to compare and contrast a paper transcript with its standardized electronic equivalents (both EDI and XML)
- SPEEDE is planning several webinars, hosted by AACRAO, which will be accessible by AACRAO members. The first (mid-fall 2011; date tbd) will be a panel discussion of the pros and cons of EDI, XML and PDF transcript exchanges (see <http://webinar.aacrao.org/index.html>)
- SPEEDE plans to present a number of EDX-related sessions next April at the 2012 AACRAO Annual Meeting in Philadelphia

Another source to keep abreast of standards initiatives in the broader PESC community is their monthly newsletter (see http://www.pesc.org/interior.php?page_id=96). Several highlights from the most recent issue include:

- InCommon and PESC Announce Strategic Partnership
- PESC Seal of Approval Program
- Shibboleth Workshop Series
- PESC and InCommon Streamline Admissions with AdmitMe Pilot Project
- Recent CEDS Handouts & Information
- What Are Web Services? SOA? Federations? Cloud Computing?

Just getting underway is the formation of a Canadian PESC Work / User group (see http://www.pesc.org/interior.php?page_id=215). The intention of this group would be to promote and encourage discussion and review of PESC, XML and both data and business process standards which affect higher education, all from a Canadian perspective. To date, this group has had one face-to-face meeting and one conference call including interested parties from across Canada. Anyone planning to attend the fall 2011 PESC Summit in San Francisco (see http://www.pesc.org/interior.php?page_id=212) is invited to participate in the next face to face meeting. If you are interested in more information about this initiative or possibly joining this work / user group, please contact either co-chair:

- Bill McKee, Director of Operations, OCAS (mckee@ocas.ca)

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- Shane Aulenback, Vice President of R&D and CTO, Decision Academic
(shane.aulenback@decisionacademic.com)

The group also has plans to present one or more sessions related to PESC and standards at next summer's ARUCC 2012 biennial conference in Ottawa.

I would like to close my article by saying that if your school or region participates in an EDX initiative which either I have not mentioned here, or is not represented by the most up-to-date information on the "Who's Doing SPEEDE?" web link (see <http://www.aacrao.org/About-AACRAO/committees/speede/who.aspx>), I would be glad to hear from you! If your institution is not yet involved in EDX and would like to be, or you are involved but have questions or concerns, please also contact me (holmes@ouac.on.ca) and I will get you connected with the information or people you need.

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NEW Initiative –Committee on Research

By: Kate Ross, EdD
Registrar & Executive Director
Student Enrolment
Simon Fraser University

Last January, The ARUCC Executive commissioned a Research Task Force to investigate the feasibility of establishing a Committee on Research. The Task Force completed their work in June 2011 and tabled the report with the ARUCC Executive for approval. As a result the Executive will be moving forward with creating the committee. To learn more read the [report](#) and if you are interested in being a member of the committee, please submit your name or nominations to Joanne Duklas @ jduklas@yorku.ca by Friday, October 21, 2011.

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On-line resources:

AUCC launches online resource to help universities improve quality of undergraduate education: The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada has revealed an new online resource called Great Beginnings: Enhancing quality and innovation in undergraduate education, which was developed after an AUCC-led workshop on transforming undergraduate education held in March. The resource features case studies of good practices in undergraduate education, a report on the workshop, a bibliography of related articles and publications, and news items on the subject. [AUCC News Release](#) | [Great Beginnings](#) | [Add/Read Comments](#)

In case the links aren't live, here is the direct link to the report: <http://www.aucc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/the-revitalization-of-undergraduate-education-in-canada-2011.pdf>

New Leadership Development Web Resource Center :
<http://www.educationadvisoryboard.com/default.asp>

Employment opportunities
<http://www.arucc.ca/advertisements.htm>

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Upcoming professional development activities:

- **CBIE is pleased to offer two English webinars in October 2011:** “Consular Services and Emergency Management” and “Immigration 101: Study Permits, Visas and More”. [Click here](#) to learn more and to register.
- **Registrar 101 Online** – Great news for new Registrars November 17
<http://www.aacrao.org/meetings/online-courses/registrar-101-online.aspx>
- ACCRAO webinars: <http://webinar.aacrao.org/index.html>

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Education at a Glance 2011 (EAG)

Today marks the release of *Education at a Glance 2011 (EAG)*, the flagship education indicators publication of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and Canada's companion report, *Education Indicators in Canada: An International Perspective 2011 (EIC)*. Canada's report provides provincial-and-territorial-level data on a number of EAG's key indicators and facilitates the comparison of education systems in Canada's provinces and territories with those of OECD member countries. EIC is produced by CMEC and Statistics Canada, through their joint body, the Canadian Education Statistics Council (CESC).

Both reports offer a wealth of education-related data and underscore the ongoing commitment of provincial and territorial ministers of education to the collection of accurate and timely information on education.

CMEC's longstanding work at OECD and in other education-related international bodies ensures that Canada has access to the best the world has to offer in education data, theory, policy, and practice.

[Education Indicators in Canada: An International Perspective 2011](#)

[Education at a Glance 2011](#)

Need more information? Visit our site at www.cmec.ca or contact Colin Bailey, Director, Communications, at 416.962.8100 .259 or c.bailey@cmec.ca.

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Report of the CMEC Working Group on Credit Transfer 2011

CMEC has just released the latest report of its working group on postsecondary credit transfer. *Report of the CMEC Working Group on Credit Transfer 2011* provides a summary of the latest actions undertaken by provinces and territories to align credit-transfer practices with the principles agreed to by ministers of education and embodied in their [2009 Ministerial Statement on Credit Transfer in Canada](#).

[Report of the CMEC Working Group on Credit Transfer 2011](#)

Need more information? Visit our site at www.cmec.ca or contact Colin Bailey, Director, Communications, at 416.962.8100 .259 or c.bailey@cmec.ca.

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Quebec Report



Submitted by:
Heidi Emami
Quebec Representative
McGill University

People on the Move

ARUCC Vice President **Hans Rouleau** was appointed Registrar at **Bishop's** University on June 1. He replaces **Yves Jodoin**, ARUCC Past President, long standing member, and valued colleague.

Concordia University has a new Registrar; **Laura Stanbra** replaced **Linda Healey**, effective July 1.

Starting in August 2011, **Stéphanie de Celles** became the new Registrar at Montreal's **École Polytechnique**, replacing **Robert Vinet**.

Danielle Fleury, Registrar of Laval University, is the new President of the Quebec Registrars' Subcommittee. She replaces **France Myette**, Registrar of the University of Sherbrooke, and past ARUCC Executive Committee member and Secretary-Treasurer.

A brief overview of student mobility across Quebec universities

As of winter 2003, the mechanism for Quebec university students to apply for course approval at another university in the province has been an online system set up by the Conference of Rectors and Principals of Quebec Universities (CREPUQ). This system was put in place following an agreement by Quebec universities to facilitate student mobility and the granting of transfer credits across institutions.

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Upon implementation of the online form in fall 2003 the number of course approvals and registrations increased by 32% and continued to augment gradually until the fall of 2007. Since fall 2008, requests have stabilized at about 5,000 students each term, representing 2% of the total Quebec university student population. In the past eight years, nearly 72,000 students (effecting approximately 115,000 course registrations) have taken advantage of the mobility agreement at least once.

In the fall of 2010, 6,748 students applied for course approval at a Quebec university; of these, 5,134 were approved and allowed to register. A total of 5,051 students - nearly all the students who obtained approval - confirmed their registration at the host institution. This total represents 1.8% of the entire Quebec university population in this term (just over 282,000 students).

The evolving demand illustrates clearly that easier and streamlined access encourages more students to take advantage of the benefits of inter-university transfers.

Quebec Medical Residents suspend teaching activities

Quebec medical residents suspended their teaching duties on July 11. With negotiations underway to renew their collective agreement, the residents aim to convince provincial authorities to recognize their contribution to the teaching of medicine and the need for a salary increase.

Quebec's faculties of medicine are urging the government and the Fédération des médecins résidents du Québec (FMRQ) to resolve their differences quickly so that training objectives for medical students and residents can be met. Medical faculties and teaching hospitals have been making every effort to minimize the impact of these pressure tactics on students. For the time being, teaching is being maintained by clinical faculty as negotiations continue between the FMRQ and the government.

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Acceuil Plus: a warm welcome for new international students

From August 5 to September 3, new international students arriving at the Montréal-Trudeau Airport received a personal welcome as they embarked on their college and university studies in Quebec. The province's universities and 42 colleges and institutes participated. The program, now in its second year, is coordinated jointly by the Conference of Rectors and Principals of Quebec Universities (CREPUQ), and the Conférence régionale des élus de Montréal (CRÉ Montréal).

Students were greeted by a team of international and Quebec students who guided them through the [Acceuil Plus](#) process.

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ARUCC Atlantic Update – September 2011



Submitted by:
Wayne Paquet
Atlantic Representative to ARUCC Executive
Nova Scotia Agricultural College

News

Early enrollment figures suggest a year of mixed results in Atlantic Canadian universities. Some universities have had significant increases while others have had slight declines in enrollment. It will be interesting to review the results on October 1 when officially released by the Association of Atlantic Universities. <http://www.atlanticuniversities.ca/>

In June the Association of Atlantic Universities released a study on the impact of universities on their local communities entitled: "*Thriving Together: Universities and Community in Atlantic Canada.*"

<http://www.atlanticuniversities.ca/thriving-together>

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One of the major news stories in Nova Scotia higher education is about my own institution, the Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC) which is currently part of the Nova Scotia Provincial Government. On May 20th the Provincial Government announced its decision to enter into formal discussions with Dalhousie University on a potential merger of the two institutions. The two institutions already have a long standing partnership, with Dalhousie Senate conferring NSAC's bachelor and graduate degrees. The potential merger is being framed as a unique opportunity to share the strengths of two distinct institutions with different but complementary academic and research programs.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20110520003>

The Université Sainte-Anne won the second prize in CAUBO's 2011 Quality and Productivity Awards. "Since 2009, Université Sainte-Anne has implemented three sources of renewable energy on its main campus in Church Point: a solar thermal system for domestic hot water, a gasification biomass furnace, and a 50-kW wind turbine", said Allister Surette, President and Vice-Chancellor of Université Sainte-Anne. "We are proud to see that our commitment to sustainable development and environmental protection has been recognized by the CAUBO and we hope that many other institutions will adopt a similar approach."

Atlantic Universities are busy working on their second annual "Atlantic Common University Data Set" which is similar to regional data sets in other parts of the country. "The Atlantic Common University Data Set is an initiative intended to provide an online tool for students, parents and the public that complements the extensive information which universities already make available through other published surveys as well as their own websites."

<http://www.atlanticuniversities.ca/atlantic-common-university-data-set>

People

The Université Sainte-Anne have welcomed a new President and Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Allister Surette and a new Vice-President, Academic and Research, Dr Kenneth Deveau.

The University of King's College also welcomed a new President, Dr. Anne Leavitt. Dr. Leavitt was formerly Dean of Arts at Vancouver Island University.

The Nova Scotia Community College has appointed Don Bureaux to the position of President. Don previously worked for year in the Acting President role and previously as a Vice President and Principal. Don began his term in May.

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Mount Saint Vincent University has moved Admissions and Institutional Analysis under the Registrar's Office. With this change the MSVU has hired two new Admissions Officers, Michelle Ball and Heather Standing, and an Associate Registrar, Admissions and Registration, Martine Staatsen-Kintzinger.

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Ontario report



Submitted by:
Richard Levin
Ontario OURA representative
University of Toronto

- In May, the provincial government released its plan for postsecondary education called *Putting Students First*. The plan envisions initiatives in areas including growth, institutional mandates, innovation, accountability, quality and transfer credit.
- A number of Ontario institutions have received funds for capital construction to support an increase of 60,000 spaces by 2015-16.
- Provincial funding is being extended to [Pathways to Education Canada](#) to continue to provide active mentoring, tutoring, and financial support to students in Grades 9 through 12 from low-income communities in Ottawa, Kitchener, Hamilton, Kingston and Toronto.
- Registrars and Financial Aid officials continue to work with OSAP to address highly manual and labour intensive processes.

Institution reports

York

- York, has just launched "YU Connect," a co-curricular record that includes the ability to tie learning outcomes to volunteer and job opportunities.
- York has also expanded its array of Work/Study programs to include "York engaged students" (YES) positions. These positions are paid at a higher level and specifically focused on creating job opportunities that enhance student mentorship and leadership capacity. Previously introduced Work/Study innovations include "RAY" (Research at York positions) and "CLAY" (college life at York positions - similar to YES but specifically focused on higher level roles to enhance college life and leadership opportunities).

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Carleton

Innovative work on Student Mental Health framework recognized at Annual Meeting of Canadian Association of University Business Officers

Carleton University was awarded first prize in the national category of the CAUBO 2011 Quality and Productivity Awards Program.

The award was presented in recognition of the work done for the “Student Mental Health Framework: A Guide for Supporting Students in Distress.” The comprehensive, integrated framework outlines a consistent approach to responding to students in distress. It describes the university’s approach to supporting students, articulates a set of guiding principles and provides specific guidelines for dealing with a range of situations involving students.

Carleton’s Suzanne Blanchard Recognized as Community Leader

Suzanne Blanchard, Associate Vice-President (Students and Enrolment) and University Registrar, was honoured with a Leading Women Building Communities award from the Ontario government. While at Carleton, she has been a leader in fostering support for students. Her accomplishments include spearheading the development of Carleton Complete—a package of initiatives designed to promote a culture of academic success and ensure students participate in meaningful activities outside the classroom, leading the implementation of the Student Mental Health Framework, overseeing the creation of student-led initiatives to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health and initiating a dialogue with students on racism and prejudice that makes everyone a part of the solution.

Canal building open for occupancy

This fall, Carleton University opens the doors to the Canal building, the new home to programs in biomedical, energy, environmental and aerospace engineering. Along with room for these programs, there is also space for graduate student growth and common public spaces. This building has been designed to meet a high level of sustainability, by incorporating a green roof, and sustainable design and construction practices.

Construction continues on new residence building

Construction continues on the Lennox and Addington residence building—a ten floor building which will provide 434 additional rooms to the residential precinct. Construction of the new residence building is expected to be completed by September of this year.

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Carleton receives provincial infrastructure funding for MacOdrum Library facelift

Having recently been provided \$16 million of funding from the provincial government, Carleton University's MacOdrum Library will receive a new, light-filled and transparent façade into the Tory quad, as well as an addition onto the east side that will add two floors to part of the building. The additional space will provide additional classroom and library study space, as well as a digital media centre and a new aboriginal centre.

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Report from the West



Submitted by:
Neil Marnoch
Western representative
University of Manitoba

WARUCC

The Biannual Meeting of the Western Association of the Registrars of Universities and Colleges (WARUCC) was held in Saskatoon June 21- 24. The meeting marked the transition to a new executive group.

President

Neil Marnoch, University of Manitoba

Past President

Susan Husum, University of Regina

Vice-President

Karen McCredie, Capilano University

Secretary

David Wood, Mt. Royal University

Treasurer

Wesley Toews, Canadian Mennonite University

British Columbia Member-at-Large

Mark Johnston, University of British Columbia

Alberta Member-at-Large

Ada Schmude, University of Alberta

Saskatchewan Member-at-Large

Barb Elich, Briercrest College

Manitoba Member-at-Large

Carol Girling, University College of the North
Newsletter Editor

Meghan Sired, University of Saskatchewan

Website Editor

Sue Butler, University of Victoria

Western Representative to ARUCC

Neil Marnoch, University of Manitoba

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Manitoba

The University of Manitoba has created two new leadership portfolios within Student Affairs. Student Life has been created as an area separate from that of the Residences portfolio. Brendan Hughes has moved to the U of M from Lakehead University as the first Director of Student Life. For many year students in Health Sciences programs offered at the Bannatyne Campus have been under-served. Student Affairs has responded to this need by creating a cross disciplinary student services office at the Bannatyne Campus. Heather Paterson, who has held key advising positions over her career at the U of M is the units' first Director.

The Navitas International College of Manitoba (ICM) continues on its path of success. The ICM pathway program has reached an enrolment of 511 students. In 2011, 276 international students completed their first year of university studies through the ICM program. The U of M has benefited from this success, as approximately 90% of ICM graduates go on to U of M degree programs.

Saskatchewan

This fall, the University of Regina welcomed 350 new students into our newest Faculty, the Faculty of Nursing. The University, in conjunction with SIAST, offers the Collaborative Bachelor of Science in Nursing program in Regina and Saskatoon.

The student awards and financial aid office welcomes a new team which includes Donnell Schoenhofen as the Manager, Karen Barton as the Coordinator and Tracey Eckland as the loans assistant.

The University of Regina welcomed a new Vice-President Academic & Provost this June. Dr. Thomas Chase returned to the University of Regina from Royal Roads University in Victoria.

On February 7, 2011 Briercrest College and Minot State University signed a partnership agreement in which students will receive a Bachelor of Arts (BA) from Briercrest and a Bachelor of Science in Education (BSE) from Minot State in five years. The first three years are spent at Briercrest and the remaining two at Minot State. This fall 41 students are enrolled in the program.

Briercrest College and Seminary welcomes Tom Berekoff as Executive Lead, Development and June Clark as Vice-President, Enrolment.

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In response to a study launched by the Saskatchewan provincial government last spring, education consultant Alex Usher recently released a report recommending that degree granting powers be expanded to institutions beyond the province's two universities. A working group with representatives from the government, University of Regina, University of Saskatchewan, SIAST and Briercrest College and Seminary will now be set up to consider the recommendations.

To read the press release go to <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=8e2def96-65cb-422a-a763-82a1b2dc838a>

To read the report go to <http://www.aeei.gov.sk.ca/expansion-degrees-granting-status-consultations-recommendations>

British Columbia

As part of Premier Christy Clark's 'B.C. jobs plan', the BC government has announced plans to double international student enrolment (secondary and post-secondary) in BC by 2015. It is estimated that international students in B.C. currently generate 22,000 jobs and bring an estimated \$1.25 billion into the provincial economy. No specific strategies have been outlined for how post-secondary institutions will adapt.

Enrolment highlights for the 2011-12 academic year.

Enrolments remain strong across BC with record enrolments at UBC's Okanagan campus, the University of the Fraser Valley, Kwantlen Polytechnic University and UNBC.

In August 2011 the Student Transitions Project (STP) published a research report for the British Columbia Council on Admissions and Transfer (BCCAT) to help education planners and policy makers gain a better understanding of student mobility from research-intensive universities (RIU) to other BC public post-secondary institutions. The study found that the BC institute of Technology, University of British Columbia and Langara College were the top three destinations for students moving from a RIU to another post-secondary institution. View the full report here:

<http://www.bccat.bc.ca/pubs/footsteps.pdf>

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Information regarding collaboration, transfer, and admissions in Quebec

By Kathleen Massey
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The Quebec postsecondary system facilitates collaboration among its institutions on a number of levels. These include the existence of committee structures to facilitate collaboration, the use of new technology, collaborative academic programming, policy development, and some shared admission practices. Further, the postsecondary education system (CEGEP to university) is structured in an integrated way, facilitating transfer from one level to the other; students receive a full year of university credit and complete just 3 years of university. It is a system-wide 1+3 arrangement.

Organizational structures:

CREPUQ, a university-led organization which includes representation from every university in the province, helps to coordinate collaboration among the universities. There are a number of committees, many also with broad university representation, which deal with matters addressing the above themes. The registrars' subcommittee is one such group. There are equivalent committees in the realm of vice presidents academic, principals/rectors/presidents, medical admissions, recruitment and so on. For details about CREPUQ, please visit this site: <http://www.crepuq.qc.ca/>

The educational system within Quebec is designed to facilitate transfer between the CEGEPs and the universities. High school ends at the conclusion of grade 11 in Quebec. Student then enter CEGEP. Students who have completed two years of CEGEP may proceed toward the completion of three year university degree programs as a matter of normal practice. While not wanting to oversimplify the issue, it is worth noting that the recognition of CEGEP studies as being equivalent to one full year of university study is not wide-spread across Canada and yet it should be.

Four year university programs, where they exist, are designed primarily for students who have studied outside of Quebec. For the most part, students who have graduated from grade 12 in Quebec (ie from private K-12 schools) are not admitted to universities in Quebec. Students from outside Quebec with Grade 12 completion are admitted to four-year programs at Quebec universities. Some universities which have exclusively 3 year degree programs require students to complete one year of university or one year of CEGEP before being admitted to the degree program.

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Technology:

One of the single most effective means that has been put in place to facilitate transferability is the following:

Inter University Transfer (IUT) or the 'Authorisation d'études hors établissements':

The goal of the agreement underpinning this system is to allow students registered as regular students in one Québec university (the home university) to follow, within the framework of their program of study, one or more courses of their choice, for valid reasons, at another Québec university (the host university). The agreement does not supersede institutional regulations, which the student is subject to at both the host and home institutions. For information about this system, which has replaced the paper-based 'letter of permission' process, please visit this site: <https://dbs.crepuq.qc.ca/mobilite-cours/4DSTATIC/FRAccueil.html>

In using this system, students authorize the universities to transfer their credits after the completion of their studies. No paper is exchanged. The system has been well-received by students and the universities.

Electronic Transcript Sharing/Transmissions électronique des relevés de notes:

In addition, in 2008 Quebec universities agreed to pilot the introduction of a transcript-sharing system, with CREPUQ acting as the hub. Transcripts are shared in a secure manner using PDF formats. This eliminates the need for mailing paper copies among those institutions. Some institutions are considering using this new system as a means to manage inter-university collaborative degrees.

Collaborative Academic Planning:

Various types of university partnerships have been established to develop and offer joint degree programs, regional extension programs, collaborative and associated programs within the province. In addition, many exchange and some cotutelle programs exist or are being developed with international universities, including with partner institutions in France. Some universities and CEGEPs have developed DEC/Baccalaureate options for students which essentially allow the students to complete both credentials in a compressed period of time.

Policy Development and Admission Practices:

Quebec universities use the 'R-score' as a means to consider the CEGEP pool of applicants for undergraduate admission, rather than using an average of the earned grades. This score was designed as a means to 'level the playing field' for the evaluation of applicants. The formula is reflective of several factors beyond just an average of the students' grades. A similar score is in development for Quebec university applicants (to other Quebec universities). It is planned that this score will be use for admission to the province's medical schools and it may be used for a variety of other programs in future.

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McGill University recently announced a policy change that has created MD program spaces for international medical graduates who are residents of Quebec:

<http://www.mcgill.ca/medadmissions/channels/announcements/173648>. Described as a pathway to practice for international (non-North American) medical graduates, admitted students will receive advanced standing for prior, recognized studies.

Bologna Accord: Work continues at many institutions to do more to implement the principles of the Bologna Accord in both graduate and undergraduate admission and credit recognition.

Centrally developed exchanges:

The universities, through CREPUQ, have developed over 500 exchanges with institutions in many countries around the world. Details of the program are available here:

http://echanges-etudiants.crepuq.qc.ca/Accueil.php3?id_article=202

In addition to the centrally developed exchanges, each institution has bilateral agreements with universities world-wide.

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