



Highlights from 2009-2010 Executive Director's Report

Ontario Association of Career Colleges. By Paul Kitchin.

Government Relations – Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities

- In response to OACC's request, the Deputy's Advisory Committee will be re-convened in May/June 2010
- The OACC Board received Ministry updates at 7 of 8 meetings. OACC Executive Committee met with the Superintendent of Private Career Colleges in July and December 2009 and February and March 2010

Training Completion Assurance Fund (TCAF)

- OACC continued to press TCAF's prime focus must be training completions for as many students as possible for the lowest possible cost rather than tuition refunds in. OACC's TCAF Committee developed the "Start Team" concept – to create a proposed early intervention approach known as the REACT team that would provide a roster of training completion experts to help a college in financial distress make an action plan to prevent a sudden closure and hits to the fund

Student Protection

- OACC has stored in excess of 62,000 student transcripts in its STEPS application (Student Transcript Electronic Storage Protection System). OACC is planning modifications to STEPS that would allow career colleges to electronically store contracts, diplomas/certificates

Program Standards

- OACC met with Ministry officials to discuss the Ontario Qualifications Framework. The Ministry indicated they would be open to re-looking at OACC's previously submitted proposal to provide program assessment services
- OACC held information meetings with different regulatory bodies around program accreditation. The dental hygiene program accreditation meeting took place on June 11 and brought together four regulators and the Ministry. OACC held an information session for PCCs on dental hygiene program accreditation on June 24. On October 15, OACC held a joint OACC/MTCU/Law Society of Upper Canada meeting on paralegal program accreditation. OACC participated in two focus groups in November and December to help establish standards for esthetician programs delivered by PCCs.

Committees

- OACC's Apprenticeship Committee reviewed Bill 183 and prepared a submission for the Standing Committee on Justice in September 2009, making recommendations that would ensure PCC representation
- OACC created an Online Programs and OSAP committee to pursue OSAP approval for online programs
- Student Services Committee met several times to discuss a high school outreach campaign, student cards and an alumni association. The Conference 2010 Committee worked throughout the year to plan Blue Mountain 2010. The Marketing and PR Committee met several times to discuss launching an awareness campaign
- The Employment Ontario Committee provided feedback to MTCU in regard to the impact of the Second Career tuition caps on PCCs offering high-capital, short duration programs. It resulted in the caps being raised for Heavy Equipment, Transport Driver and Welding programs, with a meeting scheduled in April for the review of the \$10,000 cap on other PCC programs
- OACC's active membership grew to a total of 249 registered private career colleges

Financial Aid Office

- OACC processed more than 12,200 OSAP applications. OACC held regular training sessions for FAAs.

Quality Initiative (Quality Career Colleges Committee)

- QCC Committee issued an RFP in fall 2009 to recruit a firm to build a web-based application that would accommodate a self assessment survey, student satisfaction surveys, faculty satisfaction surveys, standard admissions testing, facility/equipment surveys and testing for standard course modules
- Committee given authority to promote service by OACC Board at the November meeting pending a \$30,000 prepaid commitment by OACC members. Promotion postponed to allow for discussions with MTCU about the potential overlap of the Quality Initiative and the Ministry's collection of performance accountability measures

OACC Communications

- After taking on a communications coordinator, OACC: distributed monthly newsletters, made major website improvements and began to update online content regularly, created accounts on Facebook and Twitter, issued three news releases and wrote articles for a variety of publications.