

PRESS RELEASE



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VANIER COLLEGE

821 Ste-Croix, Montreal, QC H4L 3X9 Tel: 514.744.7500 Fax: 514.744.7505 info@vaniercollege.qc.ca www.vaniercollege.qc.ca

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Vanier College Dean Applied Technologies appointed to CoARTE

Vanier College is pleased to announce that George Archer, Dean of Applied Technologies was recently appointed to the Council on Accreditation for Respiratory Therapy Education (CoARTE) as Senior Education Administrator. CoARTE is the national accrediting body for respiratory therapy.

Seven members sit on the council: three respiratory therapists, a senior educational administrator of health science programs, a physician who works with respiratory therapists, a public representative with awareness of issues relating to education and healthcare, and a representative from the National Alliance of regulated provinces.

CoARTE accreditation provides a tool to assist respiratory therapy schools and regulatory bodies in assuring the public that the national educational standards for entry-level respiratory therapy have been met. All 19 respiratory therapy programs in Canada have been either approved for accreditation or accredited by CoARTE. The Vanier College Respiratory Therapy and Anesthesia Program received its accreditation in 2006. “The CoArte members were so impressed with the program” says Archer, “that the accreditation was granted unconditionally for the next six years.”

Archer is impressed with CoARTE. “Canada has a very interesting accreditation approach for Respiratory Therapy,” he indicates. “It’s not a confrontational approach, but rather a supportive process that allows an institution seeking accreditation to evaluate themselves and prepare a self-study of their program for the council which then reviews the documentation and visits the facilities.” Such an approach means that a given program is judged on what it proposes to deliver and its ability to carry out that self-defined mandate. Archer also says that the Canadian approach to accreditation is very popular worldwide and Canadian expertise and accreditation is sought by institutions all over the world. “In Great Britain, for example, Canadian accreditation is highly valued.”

“Being on CoArte is very useful” suggests Archer. “As the Dean of Applied Technologies responsible for the Vanier Respiratory Therapy and Anesthesia Program, knowing what kinds of questions are put to applicants seeking accreditation, and knowing how other programs solve certain problems can help the Vanier program remain at the forefront of its field.”

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For information please contact:
Marguerite Corriveau, Vanier Communications Officer
Telephone: (514) 744-7500, ext. 7596
Email: marguerite.corriveau@vaniercollege.qc.ca