

# PRESS RELEASE



CÉGEP  
VANIER COLLEGE

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

March 1, 2007

## **A fact-finding mission in Africa looks into International Partnerships for Vanier College**

In early February, Gilbert Héroux, Director General of Vanier College returned from a fact-finding mission in Africa where he spent six days in Ghana and five in Malawi. Under the banner of the Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC), and accompanied by colleagues from Vancouver Community College in British Columbia, Bow Valley Community College in Alberta and Fanshawe Community College in Ontario, Gilbert Héroux met with health and education representatives of both countries and visited local teaching hospitals and nursing schools.

In fact, the trip touched on the broader issue of technical training of all sorts. “We explored what kind of help we might be able to bring to these types of institutions in both countries,” says Héroux. “And we laid the groundwork for defining the sort of involvement we might have with them in the future.”

Vanier College was the only Cégep from Québec to take part in these meetings whose ultimate goal was to look for opportunities for eventual partnerships and exchanges between Canadian community colleges and Ghana and Malawi. Such international exchanges could be very beneficial for both Vanier College and the country which might become its future partner. “First of all, we put our expertise at the service of other countries, but at the same time we acquire means and opportunities for improving and enhancing our own knowledge,” says Gilbert Héroux. “Such partnerships offer the possibility of foreign exchanges for our students and at the same time mean that Vanier can welcome students from Africa. Teachers can also benefit by going on exchange visits and becoming involved in international cultural projects.”

Gilbert Héroux thinks that such exchanges add an international dimension to education and training. “According to surveys,” he says, “seventy-five percent of community college graduates indicate their jobs are linked to globalization, either directly or indirectly.” He believes that Vanier College should therefore prepare its students for working in a global context. “In our case it’s even more important because Vanier students are already so representative of the world we live in. We even have several students who are originally from Ghana and Malawi. So why don’t we celebrate who and what we are.”

Vanier College is a public Cégep located on 20 acres of beautiful tree-shaded campus in the Montréal borough of St. Laurent. Vanier College offers more than 25 two and three year programs leading to university studies or directly to the workforce. Vanier College has enjoyed an enviable reputation for excellence in education for over 30 years. For more information visit [www.vaniercollege.qc.ca](http://www.vaniercollege.qc.ca)

-30-

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