

New Westminster's Douglas College receives award

NEW WEST RECORD JUNE 7, 2011

Douglas College has been recognized for its effort to be a truly international institution.

The Association of Canadian Community Colleges awarded Douglas with its inaugural Internationalization Excellence award its annual conference in Edmonton on Tuesday.

The Association set up the award to honour colleges that both welcome foreign students and have programs and services outside of Canada.

"Internationalization is an integral part of the college's teaching, research learning and service functions," said Guangwei Ouyang, associate vice-president of international education at Douglas. "Global citizenship and intercultural competence are key indicators of a student's success."

Students from more than 40 countries now account for roughly 10 percent of the full-time student body. And every year, more than 100 Douglas students participate in overseas programs such as practicums, field schools, internships, work experience and cultural and academic exchanges in countries including China, Hungary and Uganda, the press release states.

Beyond that, Douglas has also run the largest offshore award-winning dual-degree program for a college in the history of Sino-Canadian educational cooperation. More than 1,800 students have graduated from the program in China, and close to 100 percent receive successful job placements.

Douglas faculty are also known to participate in international conferences, research, and publications.

Scott McAlpine, president of Douglas College, says the association's recognition of Douglas is both exciting and gratifying.

"We have focused our energies on forging strategic partnerships with foreign institutions," he said. "We have taken a business approach with an academic focus. I am confident that with this model the college, our students and faculty will continue to reap rewards."

© Copyright (c) New West Record