GBC Research Labs awarded NSERC funding

A special event on February 25 at the ACCC Applied Research Symposium brought good news for research at George Brown College. The announcement, made on February 25, declared that the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) College and Community Innovation Program (CCIP) has granted funding for the GBC Research Labs proposal.

In brief, the proposal details how GBC Research Labs will develop applied research, innovation and commercialization capacity at George Brown College by directly addressing the needs of industry and community partners. Currently, our core areas of research are health & information technologies and health promotion, which are well-aligned with GBC's Strategic Plan and the needs of these significant local sectors. Continuing and proposed projects emphasize multidisciplinary problem-solving and opportunity development for industry in our region, and investigate: health systems change management, utilization and human services; health promotion, healthy recipe creation and nutrition; medical devices, prosthetics and aids; and, prototyping for health technology development and health informatics. We conduct research in collaboration with Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), larger companies, health care and community agencies and other research institutes. Our services help foster adoption of new devices and systems, better patient outcomes as well as adaptation and integration of new technologies/practices into health care and health promotion.

Most importantly, the CCIP funds will enable us to help faculty dedicate more time to existing and new projects, and to engage with industry partners. It will also provide for student stipends, the development of a Research Partnerships Portal and the implementation of our SME Engagement Plan. Our motivated faculty and students, various unique facilities, strong industry partnerships and leadership in applied research capacity development at the national and provincial levels position us well to strongly leverage CCI program support to further the growth of applied research, innovation and commercialization at George Brown College.

We are looking forward to initiating the projects as outlined in the proposal, and continuing our capacity development for applied research in the college and the Toronto region.

George Brown College, with 30,000 full- and part-time students and more than 900 faculty in more than 150 programs, aims to be a top community college of choice for applied research investment by industry and other partners. Its applied research strengths include advanced engineering and microelectronics; nursing and the social sciences; health informatics; IT; and design and new media. George Brown is currently allied with nine other Ontario colleges in the Colleges Ontario Network for Industry Innovation, started with a $3.5m grant from the Ministry of Research and Innovation. CONII is building college capacity to bring research to the marketplace.