

# ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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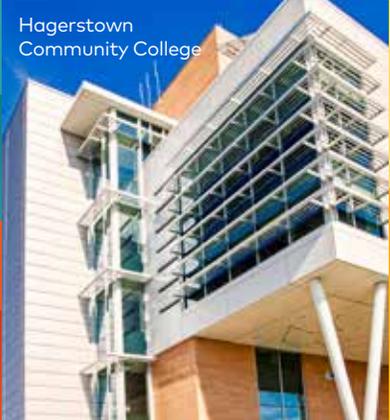


**NACCE 2017 Entrepreneurial  
President of the Year Ben Dillard**

**2017 Entrepreneurial College of the Year  
Hagerstown Community College**



Hagerstown  
Community College



Ben Dillard



CONFERENCE  
HIGHLIGHTS



# An Entrepreneurial Drive to Be Better

By Bree Langemo, J.D., president, The Entrepreneurial Learning Initiative, Mentor, Ohio

Algonquin College in Canada is home to over 20,000 full-time students, and the guiding principle of the college is student success. Algonquin's mission is to be a global leader in transforming the hopes and dreams of students into lifelong success. With a significant focus on experiential learning, students receive personalized, hands-on learning experiences.

By the time students graduate, they are ready to take on the work world and are sought out by employers in every industry. In fact, 90 percent of graduates have jobs within six months of graduation, and 90 percent of employers report satisfaction with Algonquin programs.

Algonquin is also an institution of employee success having been voted Top Employer in the region for several years in a row and recently receiving the City of Ottawa's highest honor, the Key to the City. Recently celebrating a 50-year milestone, the college has grown significantly over the decades with tremendous success under its belt.



## Embracing Change

It's clear that the foundation of Algonquin's success has been the college's entrepreneurial spirit and willingness to embrace change. In Algonquin's 2016-2017 Annual Report, President & CEO Cheryl Jensen places much emphasis on the college's openness to change and its entrepreneurial drive. The report makes clear that the future of Algonquin will focus on empowering its people to drive innovation.

"An entrepreneurial mindset is critical to preparing graduates for the future of work as well as empowering existing employees to innovate in the rapidly changing environment of higher education," said Jensen. To that end, the college will be opening a new Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Learning Centre as well as an Institute for Indigenous Entrepreneurship intended to transform the campus. In addition, the college is moving entrepreneurship education from the perimeter to the core with a commitment to implementing entrepreneurial mindset curriculum.

## Transforming Hopes & Dreams

In the fall of 2017, over 400 Algonquin students engaged in the Ice House Student Success Program, a course focused on empowering students with an entrepreneurial mindset at the onset of their academic journey. Sherryl Fraser, chair of General Arts and Sciences, led the implementation. "After training faculty to become Ice House Certified Facilitators, we embedded the Ice House Student Success Program in our curriculum and strove to instill the persistence and determination of an

entrepreneurial mindset in students," Fraser said.

Implementation goals are focused on shifting mindset, engaging students, and improving student persistence. However, the program also ties to the heart of Algonquin's mission of transforming the hopes and dreams of its students.

In the Ice House Program, students begin by articulating the future they would like to create. Using their vision as a guide, students are then

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immersed in entrepreneurial experiences that encourage them to take ownership of their education, seeing – perhaps, for the first time – how engaging in their academic experience can directly contribute to the lives they endeavor to create.

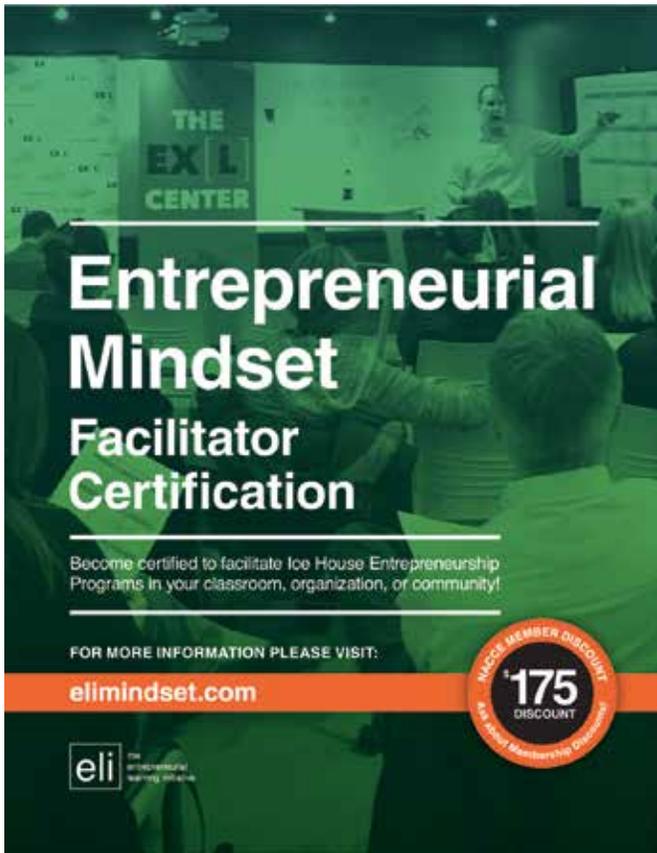
Reinforcing the belief that the future can be better than the present, Ice House students engage in video case studies featuring a variety of unlikely, real-world entrepreneurs as well as community college students – relatable social models who have overcome adversity by embracing an entrepreneurial mindset. The socially relatable models also contribute to a growth in self-efficacy, where the student begins to believe that they too, can achieve their dreams.

Students arrive at college with a dream and in search of a better life. By instilling an entrepreneurial mindset at the onset of students' academic experience, we inspire and empower, cultivating hope – the belief that the future will be better than the present and that they have the power to make it so.

Algonquin College's entrepreneurial drive to be better than the present will continue to impact tens of thousands of students in transforming their hopes and dreams into reality. ●



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