

# Executive Summary

## A College to College Pathway Partnership Seneca College & Cambrian College

March 2017

This project set out to establish an ongoing, permanent academic relationship between Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technology in Toronto and Cambrian College of Applied Arts and Technology in Sudbury, for the purposes of facilitating student movement between the two institutions. In place of occasional, ad hoc, individual transfer agreements, a formalized academic partnership structure would be established with the purpose of assessing institutional strengths in respective academic programming to determine a strategic approach to transfer agreements.

A new pathway between Cambrian's Physical Fitness Management Advanced Diploma and Seneca's Bachelor of Recreation Therapy has been developed as a pilot project. This opportunity for students provides a new degree option, recognizing the maximum number of transfer credits and further explores opportunities for students in Sudbury to begin their degree studies at Seneca while still living in Sudbury. The pilot will allow faculty to share experience and expertise.

Cambrian College has significant experience using technology to connect students and faculty through virtual and on-line modes. Both Cambrian and Seneca are prepared to test the technology in the coming months. This will also provide an opportunity for Cambrian to share expertise related to the pedagogy of teaching in a virtual environment.

Seneca has a well-established Degree and Credit Transfer Office with highly successful internal protocols in place. Cambrian will benefit from this expertise in the newly opened Pathways Office.

### Successes:

- A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed which formalizes the Seneca-Cambrian partnership and provides a platform for ongoing evolution of the partnership. This agreement establishes a foundation for a new relationship that is student focused (considers access, affordability and the student experience) and encourages collaboration rather than competition
- A Leadership Steering Committee has been struck and regular meetings held to identify new transfer arrangements, to encourage the development of innovative methods of delivery and to support the coordination of academic infrastructure which will simplify the exchange of student information. This regular contact between institutions ensures that the momentum of discussion and progress is maintained in spite of geographical distance and competing priorities at each institution.

- The new Physical Fitness diploma to Recreation Therapy degree pathway provide Cambrian graduates with admission directly into year three after completion of a one semester bridge. This will be available for students beginning in January 2018.
- The initial pathway development process has led to the beginning of a second pathway from Cambrian's Computer Engineering Technology Diploma to Seneca's Bachelor of Software Development and Bachelor of Applied Technology- Informatics and Security.
- The partnership experienced several changes of leadership throughout the year and processes have been established to ensure the learning curve of new players is successfully managed.
- This highly successful project provides a glimpse into how the system can evolve from a spirit of competition between a large college and a small college to a spirit of collegial collaboration which supports students' journey through post-secondary.