

Another Pathways to Education First: Regent Park alumni to graduate from college

TORONTO – June 25, 2008 – This year 12 Pathways students have reached an exciting milestone: college graduation. Eight of these students were among the first Pathways Regent Park students to enter grade nine in 2001, while the remaining four are from the second cohort.

Here's their story:

In 2001, 120 Grade 9 students enrolled in the first Pathways to Education program at Regent Park. Of the original group, 87 remained in the community and participated in the program for more than two years. Of these, only 11 dropped out (at 12%, this drop-out rate was less than half of the city average of 28%, and a small fraction of Regent Park's pre-Pathways rate of 56%).

Of the 76 graduates from Pathway's first cohort, over 80% went on to post-secondary programs: 35 at colleges and 29 at universities, while the remainder went directly to work.

In 2002, 168 young people in our second cohort began grade 9. To-date, 133 have completed grade 12 and more than 80% (109+) have enrolled in post-secondary programs, including six who are doing apprenticeships. This year, four of them graduate from college.

When Pathways to Education first started in Regent Park, the program's vision was this: "The children of the community will become the doctors, nurses, social workers, community health workers and administrators of the Health Centre." With this year's post-secondary graduates, we are beginning to realize this vision.

"They are all great young people with wonderful success stories," says Norman Rowen, Director of Research and Evaluation at Pathways Canada and the first Pathways Program Director at Regent Park. "We're quite proud of what they've accomplished."

Pathways to Education Canada is a charitable foundation created to reduce poverty and its effects by lowering the dropout rate and increasing access to post-secondary education among disadvantaged youth in Canada. Pathways launched its initial program in Regent Park in Toronto in 2001 and is now expanding with local partners to five additional locations in Canada.

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List of graduates:

Ruth Brago

Child and Youth Worker Diploma
George Brown College

Iftekhar Chowdhury

Social Service Diploma
George Brown College

Adbiasis Mohamed

Community and Justice Services
Worker Diploma
Centennial College

Na Phan

Graphic Design
George Brown College

Christopher Williams

Arts Foundation Certificate
George Brown College

Adna Ahmed

Business Administration Accounting
Diploma
Humber College

Richard Fung

Film and Television Production
Humber College

Andrew Cheung

Culinary Management
George Brown College

Kim Hong Do

Early Childhood Education
Centennial College

Carena Tran

Fashion Arts Diploma
Humber College

Bianca Brideau

Vocation Program Certificate
George Brown College

Jamal Calder

Law Clerk
Centennial College

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