



## Implementing Eportfolios at Mohawk College

Academic Plan 2013 Fall Term Project Team Status Report (December 2013)

Mohawk College's 2012 [Academic Plan](#) is a thematic accumulation of responses from both external and internal stakeholders when asked these three questions:

1. **What might make students want to come to Mohawk over the next ten years?**
2. **What core capabilities and skills might students need for the future?**
3. **How might we enable high-quality learning over the next 10 years?**

Stakeholder responses included:

- Develop a technology-powered learning platform linking content management, assessment tools, eportfolios, collaboration and social networking applications p 3.
- Implement a co-curricular transcript p. 5.
- Integrate development of key 21<sup>st</sup> century skills into all programs p.7.
- Implement a skills-assessment framework p. 7.

### Project Team Members & Task

Julie Aumais, Peggy French, Kathy Hicks, Jenn Horwath, James Humphreys, Leah MacCharles, Alexia (Lex) Neziol, Cathy Ozols, Valerie Parke, Lisa Pegg, Dawn Pielechaty, Jeffrey Rankine, Joanne Smith, Margaret Thomson met Wednesday mornings, 9-11:00AM, September 25 to December 4 in Rm i-208 of the Fennell Campus.

The Team's task was to fully explore the use of eportfolios to demonstrate course, program and institutional learning outcomes and develop an implementation plan for 30% of students to use eportfolios during the Winter 2014 Semester.

### Project Team's Objectives

1. Action Board approved Priority Project by March 31<sup>st</sup> 2014: [Eportfolios: Assessment and Demonstration of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills.](#)
2. Understand the implications of newly adopted [Institutional Learning Outcomes.](#)
3. Understand that eportfolio development and assessment was one of the [Recommended Measurement Techniques](#) of the 2012-2013 Institutional Learning Outcomes Project Team.
4. Understand the alignment of [Mohawk's ILOs to Ministry of Trades, Colleges and Universities' Essential Employability Skills.](#)

5. Review eportfolio products available in the marketplace and identify a product(s) that would best illustrate the achievement of MTCU mandated Essential Employability Skills (EES) and Mohawk's Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOS.)
6. Understand how eportfolios are used in all levels of education as well as in the workplace. Durham College: Essential Employability Skills and Eportfolios

### **Project Team's Findings**

1. The RFP process conducted by the Project Team, as well as PIF-grant funding criteria identified the Desire2Learn's ePortfolio Tool as the single product to be used by 30% of students in the Winter 2014 Semester. In November Mohawk was identified as one of the participating institutions a 5M PIF funded project: Multi-institutional strategy to assess and track programmatic learning outcomes November 2013-May 2019.

**Mohawk College** enters this partnership in a strong position as their Board of Governors recently adopted five Institutional Learning Outcomes. Their goal is for their students to graduate as capable communicators, collaborators, critical thinkers, who are capable of becoming both lifelong learners and responsible citizens. Their institutional approach for tracking these learning outcomes includes the use of e-portfolios. Because of the flexibility of the learning outcomes assessment system developed at the University of Guelph, Mohawk College will be able to capture their outcomes using this approach. Mohawk contends that the success of the e-portfolio implementation depends on the capacity to capture the complete range of student growth, from academic achievements, to experiential learning, to extracurricular involvement resulting in a full demonstration of what students have achieved and learned. p 6 of Project Terms

2. PIF-funding could be used for training and release time for employees to increase their knowledge of eportfolio use.
3. PIF-funding could be used for release time for CTL staff so that they could engage in training students and employees in the use of eportfolios.
4. PIF-funding could be used to develop communication channels to inform internal stakeholders on eportfolios.

### **Project Team's Recommendation**

That PIF-funding be used to support the use of D2L's ePortfolio Tool by students to demonstrate the development of their skills as Communicators, Collaborators, Critical Thinkers, Responsible Citizens, and Continuous Learners.

That in April 2014, at the end of the Winter 2014 Semester, a full review be initiated to determine if eportfolios are a reliable method of measuring the achievement of the [College's Institutional Learning Outcomes](#) and [MTCU mandated Essential Employability Skills. Alignment of ILOs to EESs](#)

### **Project Team's Key Human and Digital Resources**

All members of this project team researched and presented evidence of best practices in eportfolio use in both postsecondary and employment environments.

[EDUCAUSE Literature Review Article on Eportfolios](#). 2005.