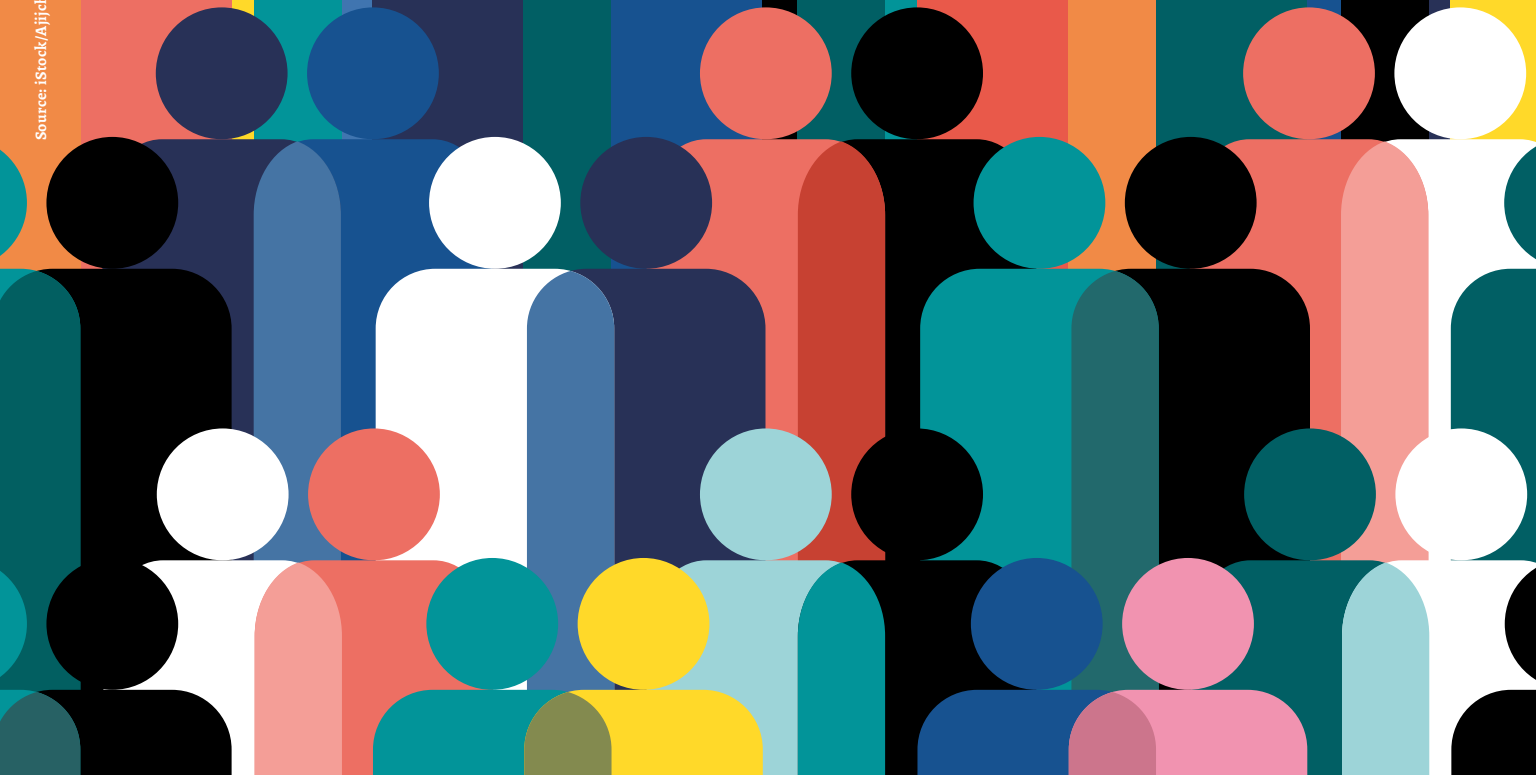


# Taking Care of Our Village



One of the most famous villages is undoubtedly that of the *indomitable Gauls* in the *Asterix and Obelix* series. Its inhabitants, united and cavalier, relentlessly resist the invaders. Closer to home, there is this small village in Mauricie where magic has been at work for a long time—though not always without hiccups, you might say. You guessed it: Saint-Élie-de-Caxton, home to the elves crossing and the peppermint candy tree.

Each in its own way, these two villages are reminiscent of our *collegiate village*.

It, too, has been resilient in the face of turmoil over its 50-odd years of existence. It's a village whose survival is periodically called into question: "Tuer les cégeps?" [Killing off CEGEPs?, Ed.] (*L'Actualité*, 2017); "Le débat sur les cégeps refait surface" [The debate on CEGEPs crops up again, Ed.] (*La Presse+*, 2014); "Pour l'abolition des cégeps" [For the abolishment of CEGEPs, Ed.] (*Le Devoir*, 2003). These are but some of the headlines that have been published in Quebec media over the decades. Yet, not only does the college network resist its multiple invaders, but it also renews itself, innovating and striving to meet its many educational challenges.

Of course, our village is far from perfect; elves and peppermint candy sometimes give way to exhausted staff and bitter decisions, but that being said, CEGEPs and colleges occupy an enviable place in higher education. The collegiate village is not magical like the one in Fred Pellerin's stories (it would be a bit of a stretch to call it that), but we can certainly say that the people who occupy it make magic—or at least small miracles—happen on a daily basis, with limited resources.

A village is said to be an agglomeration large enough to have an administrative unit, a form of life of its own. It is exactly this *college life*, unique in the world, that we explore in the thematic issue *It takes a village*. This theme reminds us of the importance of community in education. It highlights the fact that we should turn our backs on individualism to celebrate the power of living—and acting—together in the college network.

As educators, we recognize that learning is not limited to class. Students acquire knowledge and develop skills through contact with realities or people beyond the walls of the classroom. This is why it is essential to promote a culture of collaboration that allows learning across disciplinary boundaries, professional status, and ideologies. This is perhaps one of the best ways to care for our collegiate village and to extend a shared desire for deeper roots to an entire community.

In this issue, we present inspiring examples of collaborations between educators, learners, support staff, administration, local communities, and even the natural world around us—with education as the anchor point, always. We end our village tour by looking at technology through a series of articles on generative artificial intelligence in higher education, the latest *maelstrom* to shake up our collegiate village. Once again, if we are careful to face it together, our village will successfully overcome it! —



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'A' and 'P' intertwined.

Anne-Marie Paquette  
Editor-in-Chief, *Pédagogie collégiale*  
revue@aqpc.qc.ca