

Network Portraits

Layout and illustrations by Douangmanie Laphengphratheng

Given that a village is not really a village without the people who live in it, let's take the time to discover some of the individuals who make the college system a vibrant living and learning environment rich in its people.



Douangmanie Laphengphratheng

Student at Cégep Marie-Victorin and intern at the AQPC

Douangmanie Laphengphratheng crossed my path at the AQPC while doing her internship as a Cégep Marie-Victorin graphic design graduate. Like many other high school students, the young artist enrolled in graphic design at college level somewhat by chance, without really knowing if this field suited her. For Douangmanie, it was a case of serendipity; she immediately felt at home in this program where creativity and image-based communication come together. She is particularly interested in product packaging techniques and illustration. In fact, as part of her internship, she created the illustrations in these pages presenting Network Portraits. Just like she learned to do in her courses, she thought about the concept and the visual treatment, and then proposed different mood boards to the journal's team, who welcomed them with enthusiasm. With only a few weeks to go before completing her DCS in Graphic Design, what are Douangmanie's takeaways from her time at CEGEP? The many things she learned in graphic design, but also about herself and her relationship with art and creation. "You can't be too hard on yourself, and above all, you can't compare yourself to others," says the student. "I've learned to accept each project as it is, and I've come to understand that each one becomes, in some way, part of a larger learning experience."

By Anne-Marie Paquette

Sophie Desnoyers

Recreation technician at Collège Montmorency

Sophie Desnoyers has always had an unconditional love for dogs as well as a desire to contribute to the well-being of the people she meets. In 2018, she welcomed Sandy, a two-month-old female golden retriever, into her family to help her become a service dog. Sophie dove headfirst into this project and with her canine expertise, she offered Sandy a choice education and all the tools allowing the two of them to intervene with the Montmorency community. Through the deployment of the project, Sophie was a privileged witness of the positive effects of Sandy's presence at the college. With her great sensitivity, she was able to identify the needs of the community and thus create the first institutional service dog project at the college level. Sophie now has release time to work on the implementation of this institutional project. She and Sandy form a valuable duo within our community. Sandy is an integral part of our team. She has her own mandate, work plan and specific tasks. Sophie is currently pursuing a master's degree in Communication at the Université du Québec à Montréal, and she wishes to document the benefits of service dogs in the college network. The college is proud to highlight her commitment, and thanks her for her contagious passion and dedication.

By Marie-Eve Dupuis-Roussil

Christine Marquis

Teacher, researcher and interim vice dean
at the Cégep de Saint-Jérôme

In an effort to provide students at the Cégep de Saint-Jérôme with a highly enriching education, Christine Marquis has rethought the science disciplines as we know them in order to incorporate new virtual reality technologies into biology, chemistry and physics courses. Her research project not only explores innovative teaching practices at the college, but also enables science learning in a much more engaging way for the student population. A pioneer in educational research here at the Cégep de Saint-Jérôme, she holds a doctorate in Psychopedagogy and has developed a passion for research that she passes on through mentoring to those who want to learn more. Christine now positions herself as a teacher, researcher, mentor and interim vice dean. Her many hats illustrate her commitment and willingness to work with the various communities that make up our CEGEP. In the context of this thematic issue, we could not fail to mention her desire to propel science teaching to the forefront and to contribute to the training of tomorrow's scientists.

By the Research Office

Gilbert Forest

Student life recreation technician
at Cégep André-Laurendeau

Set up in a small room overflowing with keepsakes of various events, where a small window allows him to keep an eye on what is happening in the *Salle des pas perdus* as well as on all those who stroll through it, Gilbert Forest has been imagining, planning and organizing sociocultural activities at Cégep André-Laurendeau for 34 years. He doesn't stay hidden in his office for long. He convinces a colleague to get involved in a fundraising activity for the CEGEP's Foundation. He answers questions from a student who is interested in the theater group. He sets up the tables and panels for the writing marathon. He rehearses with the student life team for the local edition of *Cégeps en spectacle*. He is here; he is there. During all his years at the CEGEP, Gilbert has been able to respond to the needs of young people in search of a listening ear, self-expression, cultural openness and social opportunities. He has been a committed and passionate colleague. This involvement is necessary to build a caring community for all students, regardless of their interests and talents. Gilbert will have allowed dozens of cohorts of young people to dream and to live new experiences in order to become fulfilled citizens. That's also part of student success at the college level! Happy retirement, Gilbert.

By Sonia Blouin

PAIRE Teachers Contributing to Inclusion and Student Success

At Cégep Édouard-Montpetit

It all began in the winter of 2021, in the midst of the pandemic. The Comité d'inclusion des étudiants et des étudiantes en situation de handicap [Disability and Inclusion Committee, Ed.] realized that it was imperative to support the increased activities of the adapted services and to respond to the many needs of our student population—obviously more vulnerable—and our faculty. To address this need, the idea of appointing a resource person per program of study emerged, and the Profs aidants à l'inclusion et à la réussite étudiante (PAIRE) project was born.

Since then, there are about thirty PAIRE who:

- support students in need of punctual help by directing them to the right resources;
- help their colleagues better understand the special needs of some students, and the assistance measures available to them;
- work in collaboration with the adapted services and other services to discuss and reflect on how best to support the student population.

By the fall of 2023, the PAIRE mandate will be more geared toward inclusion, and those involved in this project will become ambassadors of inclusive pedagogy so that everyone can more easily adapt to the growing diversity in our classrooms.

By Danielle Cloutier





Francis Leroux

Gardener at the Cégep du Vieux Montréal

Francis Leroux considers himself "one soldier among many" in the fight against environmental impacts. His garden at the Cégep du Vieux Montréal, where he has created a garden bed with lots of biodiversity, serves not only as a source of respite for the college community, but also as a refuge for insects and birds in the heat island that is downtown Montreal. He tries as often as possible to give his time and attention to students and to build relationships with them, either by providing basic knowledge such as how to grow their own food, or by giving advice to members of the Ser-O-Vieux urban agriculture club. Most importantly, Francis believes that this knowledge helps them become more caring and environmentally conscious humans, and that gardening brings a bit of joy and harmony while provoking a sense of wonder at nature. "You never know what might sprout a seed in their minds."

By Danielle Viens

Marie Ouellet

Social work technician at Collège Rosemont

Marie Ouellet, better known as "Marie la Boussole" [La Boussole—The Compass—is the name of the college's student success service, Ed.], is magnetic. She arrived in Rosemont after the pandemic as a hallway social worker and quickly attracted the students who needed to talk to her the most. All she has to do is walk around the college—her calm demeanour, her smile and her disarming nature suffice to get them to tell her about their lives. Marie elicits confidences because she manages to be in tune with the student community without losing sight of their academic success. Whether it's through her stress and time management workshops, her individualized follow-ups or her caring presence, Marie leads those who spend time with her to take small steps in the right direction—students and colleagues alike. She is so personable that she makes others more sympathetic (to the needs of the students). What better guide for our student guides? What better resource for our teachers? What better role model for our staff members? Compasses like Marie are few and far between... but we'd be happy to find a few more.

By Louis Dugal and the Programs and Pedagogical Innovation Services team

Matthieu Vallière St-Amant and Catherine Veilleux

Laboratory technicians at Cégep Beauce-Appalaches, Sainte-Marie campus

Any laboratory technician must be versatile. At college, they are always present early in the day, whether it is to lead or to assist. They are always ready and temperate; they are among the hardest working and most patient. They are talented and passionate about both their everyday and creative tasks; they are indispensable. As lab technicians in Animal Health Technology, Catherine Veilleux and Matthieu Vallière St-Amant are such an invaluable duo to us. From the very beginning of the creation of the new program and its implementation, Matthieu has been a load-bearing wall, a keystone; Catherine joined the team a little later in the same spirit, adding her contagious energy in order to consolidate the program in the practical execution of its pedagogical content. Without these people, the quality of the program would certainly not be the same. Their ideas continuously improve the content and are always extremely relevant. We love them for their skills and versatility, but also for their good hearts and their reassuring and invigorating presence. This fantastic pair knows how to constantly support the teaching team so that together, we can meet all the challenges and pitfalls that arise. It is a pure and genuine pleasure to work closely and trustingly with these people toward the success of the students in our program.

By Johane Paradis and the Animal Health Technology teaching team

Marion Mathieu

Administrative assistant at the Direction des études of Cégep André-Laurendeau

Marion Mathieu arrived from the south of France a few years ago, characterized by her lilting accent and her studies in environment, completed both in France and in Montreal. She works at Cégep André-Laurendeau as an administrative assistant for the Direction des études and the Bureau de la recherche et de l'innovation. Marion welcomes people who come into her office with a smile and a real desire to help the desperate! In my case, Marion does everything possible to save my life as a teacher-researcher. How many times have I gotten frustrated while trying to get to grips with Astuces, the Ministry of Higher Education's portal for researchers? Marion was there to save me, by Teams or in person. Same thing with the Excel spreadsheets for the implementation plan. Same thing with hiring the students who will assist me in my research. Same with tracking my budget. Same thing with establishing contacts with other services within the Cégep. Same thing with... everything! Did I tell you? Marion is a lifesaver! Thank you, Marion Mathieu!

By Julie Roberge

Jean-René Mondésir

Supervisor at Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf

For almost 20 years, Jean-René Mondésir has been a supervisor at Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf. During all these years, Jean-René has demonstrated a great deal of tact in his interventions to ensure that the college's code of conduct is respected and thus contributes greatly to student life conditions. His presence helps to maintain a healthy environment. Jean-René, who is empathetic and endowed with a prodigious visual memory, is extremely appreciated by our students. He is able to be complicit with them (especially when talking about sports) while also being able to make them reflect on their attitudes or behaviours. For our students, Jean-René is also a confidant, a person they can trust and whose reassuring presence has often proven to be relevant to prevention in all areas. On numerous occasions during public events, such as graduation ceremonies, welcome activities or shows, current and former students have demonstrated their attachment to and satisfaction with Jean-René and his work: "a notable and positive presence." Well beyond his role as a supervisor, Jean-René is an educator at heart who contributes to passing on life skills and values to young adults. He is a gentle and respected authority figure.

By François Morissette

Marilyn Cantara

Pedagogical counsellor, student success,
at the Cégep de Saint-Jérôme

Marilyn Cantara is a committed and caring professional. She is the go-to person when it comes to student success, retention and graduation. We can see the sparkle in her eyes when she talks about student success. Her teaching experience at the college level and at the university level in the Performa program, as well as her involvement in the Réseau des répondants et des répondantes de la réussite (Repcar), give her a holistic view and a good understanding of the issues at stake. She is always well prepared for her various meetings and is a professional of choice when we observe a challenge in connection with student success. She is rigorous and uses data to target the needs of our students. Marilyn is open, available, and facilitates exchanges between colleagues through her kindness and her reflections. She often brings new ideas and dimensions to student success-related activities. She is an exceptional colleague who is bright, inspiring, appreciated and recognized by her peers.

By Karine Turmel and Marie-Claude Pelletier

Hazar Garbouj

Director of material resources
at the Cégep de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue

A college is not just a place of learning, it is an environment where ideas, dreams and encounters flourish. Like the community that evolves within their walls, the buildings are constantly evolving and developing to adapt to new realities. These changes, however, do not happen on their own and, at the Cégep de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue, they are essentially the work of Hazar Garbouj and her team of coordinators, technicians and specialists whose talents she never ceases to praise. As an architect and director of material resources, Hazar believes that the environment in which we evolve plays an important role in our experience of life, and for her, every detail counts: from the colour of the walls to the furniture she selects with stakeholders, to the more permanent arrangements she designs in collaboration with the college's management and teaching departments. Some of her most recent accomplishments include the refurbishment of the historic facade to preserve its essence, the redesign of the arts pavilion to create a museum-like look, and the renovation of the residence halls to make them more enjoyable for students. Hazar and her team are not short on exciting projects. Their next challenge is the science building on the Rouyn campus, where they will be able to boldly bring the building into the modern age. With such a experienced team, there is no doubt that they will succeed.

By Patrick Mainil



Dominique Doré

Social worker specialized in the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) at Cégep Garneau

Dominique Doré is definitely the colleague that everyone wants to have on their work team. Good-humoured, smiling, committed, and professional, she always volunteers to give a helping hand or, if she is not able to do it herself, makes sure to find someone who is available to help. You have a good idea, but you don't know how to bring it to life? Ask Dominique! She'll find the perfect approach and, what's more, she'll spend some time helping you get it off the ground. This exceptional colleague is also in charge of the SGBV file at the CEGEP. She takes this mandate to heart, among other things by offering various awareness workshops, which she always carefully prepares for the audience she is addressing. During the open house, she is a human billboard for the college's Point de signalement [Reporting service, Ed.], because Dominique is also a creative colleague who always has her own way of presenting something new to the college community. It's fun to be around Dominique on a daily basis: her ideas and positive, rallying energy really make a difference in everyone's lives.

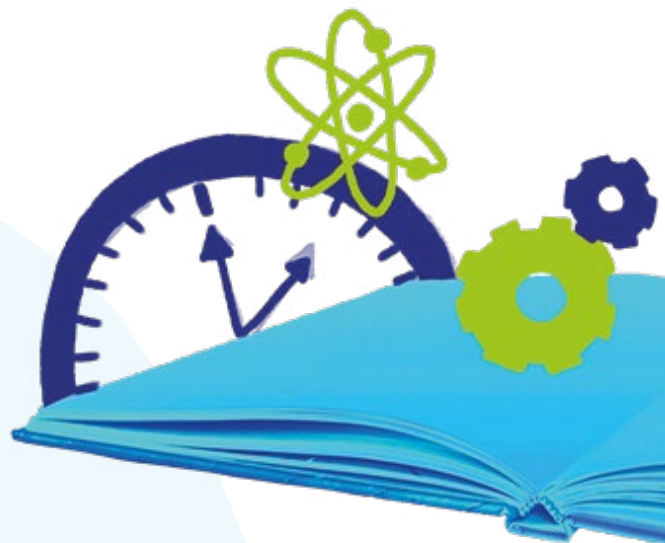
By Mélanie Chouinard

Francis Côté

Cafeteria chef at the Cégep de La Pocatière

Today, we were lucky enough to eat a delicious tomato pie for lunch. A generous pie, just salty enough, with a nice balance of fine herbs. A dish signed Francis Côté. The Cégep de La Pocatière community can enjoy excellent dishes every day thanks to Francis, the cafeteria chef. For years, he has been offering exquisite and healthy dishes with pride and enthusiasm. He doesn't like to brag about it, but he has already won an award for the quality of his cooking. On Fridays, if you're lucky, you'll be able to feast on his tofu, which draws a crowd. But get there early, because it's not uncommon for a long line of hungry people to form to enjoy this divine dish. The aroma from the chef's kitchen permeates the entire college. Francis contributes to the quality of life at our institution and to the health of all of us, one plate at a time.

By Sylvie Dionne and Marie-Hélène Gagnon



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