

“Upgrading played a crucial role in helping us feel welcomed, supported and equipped to thrive.”

“When my older brother and I arrived in Canada from South Africa, our main objective was to study.

Having the passion to become an engineer, and my brother a nurse, we were referred to Academic Upgrading (Academic and Career Preparation) to meet the requirements to pursue those passions in postsecondary programs at the college.

We are proud to have been welcomed with incomprehensible kindness. I remember entering their office for the first time and being met with a heartfelt smile, which helped lower all guards and nervousness.

They exemplified unwavering commitment to student success through consistent support and care. They made a lasting impact on our lives and created opportunities many of us had never experienced before.

For my brother and me, Upgrading played a crucial role in helping us feel welcomed, supported, and equipped to thrive. Their dedication went far beyond academics — they built a foundation of trust, belonging, and hope that made a real difference.

The compassion and practical help they offered reflect a deep commitment to the success and well-being of every student who walks through their doors.

My instructors helped me build a strong foundational knowledge of computer use and office programs. I have never been exposed to office tools, mainly because I have never owned a laptop or computer in my life.

We are just so very grateful for the journey we had with Upgrading.

After I finished my courses, I found a job in Pond Inlet, Nunavut. My brother is expected to join me soon.” —*Siyabonga*



Siyabonga, Georgian College Upgrading

Experience
 **Georgian**