

# new home in Hamilton



Niagara College President Sean Kennedy, left, Rebecca Nicholls (Associate Dean, School of Academic and Liberal Studies), Jessica Berecz (Associate Director, Workforce Development), and Vice-President, Academic Fiona Allan, cut the ribbon to officially mark the grand opening of NC's Academic Upgrading - Hamilton Campus. Photo supplied by Niagara College

On Nov. 24, representatives from the College celebrated the grand opening of its new Academic Upgrading -Hamilton Campus with a ribbon cutting event. The new site, located at 225 King William St., offers local residents aged 18 and older the chance to complete their grade 12 equivalency (ACE), upgrade essential skills or complete specific courses – such as English, Mathematics, Science or Computer Software Applications — to prepare for post-secondary or apprenticeships free of charge.

“At Niagara College, we know that accessibility to vital educational pathways transforms lives, and we are proud to bring our student-focused and welcoming approach to Hamilton,” said Niagara College President Sean Kennedy.

“This new academic upgrading site underscores our College’s commitment to partnering with the community and driving inclusive economic growth across the region.”

While NC successfully runs Academic Upgrading at its campuses in Welland and Niagara-on-the-Lake, this additional location was made possible by over \$757,000 in funding from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training, and Skills Development, intended to fill a service gap created when a similar program offered by another post-secondary provider closed earlier this year.

“Expanding Academic Upgrading into Hamilton reflects our deep belief that education should meet learners where they are,” said Rebecca Nicholls, Associate Dean, School of Academic and Liberal Studies at Niagara College. “We know that adult learners bring resilience, ambition, and diverse experiences, and we are committed to providing the support and flexibility they need to take their next steps with confidence.

This new site allows us to work even more closely with community partners and ensure Hamilton residents have clear, accessible pathways into post-secondary education, apprenticeships, and meaningful employment.”

— Niagara College Press Release