



- Resources for Academic Excellence –  
2004/2005

### **RAE in the Present: In a Perfect World...**

Resources for Academic Excellence (RAE) is an organization that is devoted to the immigrant communities in Edmonton. RAE is a registered student group with APIRG and the Student's Union. RAE promotes growth in immigrant communities through:

- tutoring and mentoring sessions
- fundraising activities
- special interest forums
- partnerships with special interest groups
- extra curricular activities with youth
- training sessions and career planning resources for the working community

#### Tutoring and Mentoring Sessions

Our volunteers work with the immigrant community in two ways:

- Volunteers work directly in the tutee's school
- Volunteers work in an out-of-school environment, be it within a community centre environment, or on the University campus (with mature students).

#### Fundraising Activities

RAE enthusiastically supports fundraising for the sake of the immigrant community. Past projects and projects currently being implemented include hamper drives, clothing and money collection for international causes and music concerts featuring and benefiting members from immigrant communities. Fundraising is an important aspect of the RAE identity.

#### Special Interest Forums

RAE organizes and supports forums regarding international issues, and issues of particular interest to the immigrant community.

#### Partnerships with Special Interest Groups

With the above categories in mind, RAE strives to work with other like minded interest groups on and off campus.

#### Extra Curricular Activities

With the help of the Edmonton Immigration Services Association (EISA), RAE will coordinate general extra curricular activities for immigrant youth.

#### Training Sessions / Career Planning Resources

RAE is continually compiling resources for those individuals in need of career planning advice and also developing training programs and general information sessions that aid in successful job placement.

### **RAE in the Present: Tangible Results**

RAE has successfully completed the fall 2004 semester with approximately 50 volunteers completing nearly 500 hours of in-school involvement.

RAE has partnered with the Sudanese Community of Edmonton, whereas 3 volunteers have completed about 50 hours of community service.

RAE created and distributed 15 food hampers for families in need during the Christmas season. Additional food was donated to the campus food bank.

RAE has developed a Saturday program open to all youth. The program consists of 1 hour of mentoring and 2 hours of extracurricular activities for youth.

RAE has partnered with various organizations to raise money for international aid (tsunami), raising nearly \$700.

RAE has been involved with HIP by sponsoring, and aiding in the execution of various general interest forums and discussions. (99 Problems and Sexism is One)

RAE has undergone a restructuring as a result of a partnership with EISA. EISA has agreed to oversee the operations of RAE, while allowing RAE to maintain its autonomy. This agreement allows the following:

- RAE will receive resources from EISA such as ESL teachers who will train new volunteers.
- RAE will gain the opportunity to coordinate extra curricular activities for immigrant youth
- RAE will receive valuable advertising for the programs through EISA and the Government of Alberta

### **RAE in the Future: Where it's Going**

RAE plans to implement the following changes to the in school tutoring program:

Upon approval of the school district, current volunteers will be allowed to continue tutoring in school, but will no longer be in a one-on-one environment.

Teachers from partner schools may request new volunteers for the classroom environment. These volunteers will work with groups of newcomer youth in a group setting.

Volunteers for this program will be recruited and utilized on an 'as needed' basis.

The reasons for this change in structure are due to a lack of ability to communicate with each volunteer/student/teacher pairing on a regular basis, and because of this lack of communication, the success of the program is hindered. Also it is difficult to effectively schedule regular sessions between the student and volunteer that can be easily executed.

Finally, Resources for Academic Excellence recognizes that it should produce services and opportunities that do not emulate already available services.

One of RAE's focus will be within the Sudanese Community of Edmonton. Volunteers can visit the community centre during a designated time period to work with community members with any academic problems/issues.

This new program will allow for more flexibility on the part of the volunteer and therefore a greater overall effectiveness of the RAE program. We will no longer require that volunteers be university students, but we still require a security clearance check.

New community partnerships will be created as demand for RAE's services increases.

RAE will undertake more community projects, as specified above, in order to promote academic and non academic growth in immigrant communities.