



School of Community and Liberal Studies

Child and Youth Worker Program

August, 2010

Dear CYW Students,

Congratulations on choosing Sheridan and we look forward to meeting you in September. We are confident that you will find the **Child and Youth Worker Program** both challenging and rewarding. Your learning will be well supported by our compliment of full and part time faculty who bring diverse and rich experiences from the CYW Field.

CYW FIELD PLACEMENT - The first year of study (September – April) will be intensive course work that is intended to prepare you to enter 2nd Year Field Placement as a “learning professional”. While some Colleges send students into the field in their first year, we have developed our curriculum to build the knowledge and skills necessary in a safe and supported learning environment (the College). In your second semester you will be enrolled in the *CYW Field Placement and Preparation Lab and Seminar* course which will support you in developing the professional and basic helping skills to be successful in the field and in securing your first placement.

CYW ON-LINE VIRTUAL COMMUNITY (OVC) - Once you have a username and password you can log into the *On-line Virtual Community* through **SLATE** which is Sheridan’s course management system (link on top right hand corner of the Sheridan Homepage). This is a unique support that will allow you to network with incoming students and gather information pertinent to the Child and Youth Worker Program.

NO LAPTOP REQUIRED – The CYW Program at Sheridan is not a mobile program. You are not required to bring a laptop to class and there are many computer labs to access on campus including the Learning Commons in the new Library.

TIME-MANAGEMENT – This is probably the biggest adjustment students entering College need to be aware of. In your first semester you will be taking six 3 credit courses (3 hours per week). Your courses may be delivered anytime between 8 am and 6 pm Monday – Friday. In addition to attending class, you will need to build in time for travel (to and from College), assignments, studying and group work. Please be realistic about work commitments in order to not become overwhelmed.

PEER SUPPORT – You will be receiving a welcome phone call, at some point in the summer, from a CYW student mentor. In addition, all incoming CYW students will be assigned a senior level CYW Mentor. What a better support than a student who has just been through exactly what you are experiencing! Mentors can connect you with supports in the College, give you advice around studying and time-management or simply be there as a friend.

We look forward to seeing you at the **College-wide Orientation on Wednesday September 1st** where you will receive valuable information to support your transition to College. The CYW Event will directly follow the program information session and run from 3:00-4:30. This exclusive event will allow you to get to know other students in your class.

Kind Regards,

JANET SHUH (PROGRAM COORDINATOR) & THE CYW FACULTY TEAM