

# BAHA'I-INSPIRED SCHOOL

Nancy Campbell Collegiate Institute (NCCI) offers a unique educational opportunity, providing students with a top-notch academic program that includes emphasis on moral and spiritual development. We uphold the inherent dignity of all individuals, and recognize their intrinsic worth and capacity.

## **The Imperative for Moral Education**

The NCCI education team works with the understanding that as educators it is imperative to offer our students a moral education as well as an academic education. We respect the right of everyone to determine his or her own values, and seek to empower individuals to develop their own moral conscience.

Emphasis in learning about moral leadership is placed on the individual's moral responsibility to search and recognize truth, and then apply that truth in all aspects of his or her own life. Students are encouraged to commit to beliefs and values that can serve as the basis of the betterment of their own lives and the lives of others.

## **Education with a World Embracing Vision**

NCCI's motto is Unity in Diversity. Our students come from many different cultural and religious backgrounds; we strive to learn and grow from these many differences. By learning to appreciate the differences of race, culture, ethnicity, and religion, we begin to understand each other more deeply, and learn that unity in diversity is a source of strength.

A Baha'i-inspired education at NCCI sets forth the idea of religious oneness – as well as the reality of human oneness – as a matter of fundamental belief. From these concepts flow other important ideas that must become a mainstay in any program of moral development in our age. These ideas include the following concepts:

- > Rectitude of conduct, trustworthiness and honesty are essential elements in the foundation of stability and progress in the world.
- > Purity of motive offers a guiding light for all human endeavor, inasmuch as sincerity of purpose is a trait that can be recognized and practiced by any soul, regardless of his or her culture, education or background.
- > Service to humanity is the source of happiness, honour and meaning in life.

We work to break down the barriers of prejudice between all the peoples of the world. This involves collaborating with other like-minded groups to promote the model of a global society. At the heart of our belief is the conviction that humanity is a single people with a common destiny. As Baha'u'llah, the Prophet Founder of the Baha'i Faith wrote more than a century ago: "The earth is but one country, and mankind its citizens."

## The Moral Framework

NCCI is a multi-faith and non-denominational school. We uphold a moral framework adopted from the University of Nur in Santa Cruz, Bolivia (South America). This university is currently at the forefront of moral leadership training in the world. The university has provided us with a way to teach spiritual principles while respecting the diverse belief systems of each student. This framework is consistent with the values set forth by the United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Underlying this approach to moral education is the belief that the mere transfer of information and knowledge will not raise up people who can bring about personal and social transformation. Academic education alone is not enough; we teach young people that a good character is more important than merely becoming a good scholar. Students have many opportunities to demonstrate their leadership skills while at NCCI. For example, our students participate in Workshop Performances dealing with important issues facing today's world, learn and use a decision making process called Consultation to solve problems, and demonstrate individual initiative by developing and implementing Service Projects for the benefit of others.

Moral leadership training is a need that has been identified and clearly articulated by global organizations such as the United Nations. NCCI emphasizes ethical and moral education. Our young people become aware of how they can make a difference in the world. We strive to inspire young people to make a contribution to the world's peace building process. Moral leadership training gives us the tools to overcome the challenges of abuse, racism, political corruption, prejudice, environmental destruction, and inequality of all kinds. Our moral leadership framework was adopted for the purpose of overcoming these challenges. We inspire the development of healthy attitudes and the cultivation of virtues in action, which will prepare our students for the world of the future.

## Social and Economic Development

NCCI is a complex social and economic development project and its vision recognizes the deep and inseparable connection between the practical and spiritual aspects of daily life. Hence, our teams of dedicated staff view their involvement in the social and economic development activities of NCCI as a fulfillment of a spiritual and moral obligation to serve humanity.

Creating a desire for social change and instilling confidence that it can be achieved must ultimately come from an awakening of the human spirit. While pragmatic approaches to problem solving play a key role in development initiatives, tapping the spiritual roots of human motivation provides the essential impulse that ensures genuine social advancement.

Individual and community development require both the “light” of spiritual awareness and the “lamp” of material resources. Material advancement should not be viewed as an end in itself, but rather as a vehicle for moral, spiritual, and social progress. We consider qualities such as trustworthiness, sincerity, and self-sacrifice to be the invisible infrastructure for development, and try to organize our efforts in ways that foster these qualities. Meaningful social change does not simply result from the acquisition of technical skills, but more importantly from the development of qualities and attitudes that foster cooperative and creative patterns of human interaction.

To carry forward an ever-advancing civilization and the creation of a peaceful global society that fosters both individual and collective well being is at the heart of our vision for the future. Youth are mines rich in gems of inestimable value, and the purpose of life and society is to generate creative processes that serve to bring forth those gems of human potential. It is our belief that the efforts of the staff and students of NCCI in the social and economic development field will serve to promote a model of capacity building, ultimately resulting in the moral and peaceful advancement of our planet.