

# Postsecondary International Network Newsletter

Spring 2005

## 2005 Annual PIN Conference

Friday, June 24 - Friday, July 1, 2005

Toronto/Oshawa and Ottawa, Canada

By Gary Polonsky, President - Durham College

I'm writing to encourage you to attend the 2005 PIN Conference. I promise you a terrific time, for the two usual reasons.

Most importantly, I have every confidence the sessions will provide potential, strategic learning opportunities for everyone. Remember that our theme is about really big projects that have had transforming impact. Andree, for example, has founded a truly beautiful and unique college. She'll be able to chronicle the entire journey for us.

The planned presentations from Durham College include:

- How my colleagues created a \$70,000,000 business with 2000 staff that's a wholly owned subsidiary of Durham College (and earned a net profit of \$17M for the College over the past 2 years).
- How we created a partnering university on our campus which is emerging at Canada's M.I.T., which provides the best diploma/degree pathways in Ontario and is Canada's second largest construction project (the start-up wave of buildings, over half of which are built, will cost \$800,000,000).
- How we've positioned ourselves for a \$100,000,000 fund-drive (and raised over half to date).
- How we were recently picked by General Motors as its R&D Centre for Canada.

I know from past PIN conferences that each PIN College has its own transformational projects from which we can all learn. I've stolen lots of good ideas from you and they've made a real difference. So, please be sure to submit your conference presentations. The "Call of Presentations" form is located on the PIN website ([www.pinnet.org](http://www.pinnet.org)).

The second reason for coming is friendship and fun. Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal were just ranked amongst the top two dozen cities in the world - safe, clean, diverse, fun, etc., etc. We're going to have a blast - presidents and spouses/partners, alike. Everything is being planned to exceed expectations. As one example, we've just lined up golf at one of North America's leading courses, where each hole is modeled after a signature hole at Augusta, Pebble Beach et al. As another example, we'll spend much of Canada Day being entertained by some

of the country's (and world's?) leading entertainers. Most years, people such as Shania Twain, Celine Dion, Avril Lavigne, Alannis Morissette, Sarah McLaughlin, and Gordon Lightfoot are there along with the Prime Minister, Governor General and similar types.

The tentative conference program is on page 14. Conference Call for Presentation, Delegate Registration, Companion Registration forms can be found at the PIN website: **[www.pinnet.com](http://www.pinnet.com)**.

In addition, hotel information and other conference related information is available on the website. **Please note there is an April 30 deadline for making hotel reservations for the Ottawa hotel.**

## Conference Registration Fees

### Full Registration Package - Delegates:

Oshawa (Durham College) and Ottawa (la Cite Collegiale): □\$1000.00 Canadian (Cdn.)

### Partial Registration Package - Delegates:

Oshawa (Durham College, June 24 - 28) Only: \$500.00 (Cdn.)

Ottawa (la Cite Collegiale, June 28 – July 1) Only: \$500.00 (Cdn.)

**Each PIN member college is provided one free registration.**

**Retired PIN Presidents receive a 50% discount on the basic registration fee. Optional event fees and partner fees will be the responsibility of the retired president.**

### Full Registration Package - Companion/Spouse

Oshawa (Durham College) and Ottawa (la Cite Collegiale): \$850.00 Canadian (Cdn.)

### Partial Registration Package - Companion/Spouse

Oshawa (Durham College, June 24 - 28) Only: \$425.00 (Cdn.)

Ottawa (la Cite Collegiale, June 28 – July 1) Only: \$425.00 (Cdn.)

Registration Fees include all activities as outlined in the Conference Program, and transportation as noted in the Conference Program, but not accommodation.

## PIN Annual Conference Calendar

### 2006 Annual Conference - Minnesota, United States

Northeast Minnesota Higher Education District and Anoka Technical College will co-host the conference. The conference will be held in June/July 2005. Specific dates have not been identified at this time. The location of the conference will be St. Paul-Minneapolis and a Northern Minnesota resort.

## 2007 Annual Conference - The Executive

Committee is exploring interest from New Zealand, Netherlands and Australia. The location will be announced at the 2005 Conference.

## A Message from the PIN President

By Mike Schafer, PIN President

The calendar indicates that springtime is upon us in upstate New York, yet, as I write this letter the temperature has dipped to the mid-thirties and rainfall turns to snow. My dismay with the current weather system is somewhat tempered by the fact that I have just returned from my Florida office where I enjoyed some excellent sun time and some long rounds of golf. It is further tempered by the thoughts of reconnecting with wonderful colleagues and friends who make up the PIN organization.

Plans are very much underway for the June 24<sup>th</sup> – July 1<sup>st</sup> meeting in Canada and our hosts, Durham College in Oshawa and La Cité collégiale in the capital city of Ottawa are working hard to make this another memorable conference. The conference theme “Do you have it **M.A.D.E.?** (**M**eaningful **A**nd **D**ifferentiating **E**xcellence) also begs the important question, have you **made** your reservations to attend? I know you look forward as I do to the wonderful opportunities for educational exchanges and networking that these PIN conferences provide. Our strength truly lies in our connectedness; in our abilities to share innovative ideas and successes as together we strive to internationalize our colleges.

We will get to have this exchange in two wonderful cities, rich in history and culture, complete with a nearby Wonder of the World. Our hosts promise us not only the opportunity to learn from one another about exciting differentiators at our own institutions, but also the time to enjoy a variety of entertainment venues including some great golf, shopping, casinos, wineries, museums and some world class restaurants.

I look forward to seeing you all in June.

## **President Schafer Un-Retires**

It was reported in the last PIN Newsletter that PIN President and Mohawk Valley Community College President Mike Schafer announced plans to retire effective June 30th, 2005. The Mohawk Valley Community College Board of Trustees persuaded Mike to continue as president. That is great news for PIN and Mohawk Valley Community College. That is one of the shortest retirements on record. Welcome back, even though you never left.

### **Rural Community College Conference**

**Submitted by Joe Sertich, President - Northeast Minnesota Higher Education District**

The Northeast Minnesota Higher Education District and President Joe Sertich are pleased to be hosting the national conference for the Rural Community College Alliance (RCCA) and the Rural Community College Initiative (RCCI) September 11-13, 2005. This joint conference for these organizations will bring together college presidents, provosts, administrators and faculty to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing our two-year colleges. Dr. Sertich will become Chair of the RCCA organization at the close of the annual conference.

The Northeast Minnesota Higher Education District is therefore particularly excited about also having the pleasure to host the Post-Secondary International Network conference for 2006. And, if you are so inclined,

please consider yourself invited to the RCCA/RCCI Conference in September 2005.

## **Welcome Aboard!**

### **Fleming College Appoints Tilly President**

The Board of Governors of Fleming College announced the appointment of Tony Tilly as President, effective August 30, 2004. Formerly an educational consultant and Senior Vice-President of Seneca College, the largest college in Canada, Tony brings in-depth knowledge of the community college system and a passion for education to the position.

As a consultant, Tony has worked for a number of Ontario community colleges and, through the Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology of Ontario, on behalf of colleges collectively. This has given him a great appreciation of the many dimensions of the college system. He has worked with colleges to develop their mission, vision and strategic directions, facilitated senior decision-making, analyzed post-secondary trends, conducted organizational assessments and developed E-learning priorities and strategies.

At Seneca, where he also served as Vice-President Academic, he developed support systems to improve student success and led the academic aspect of partnership development with York University, leading to the creation of the Seneca@York Campus and the Technology Enhanced Learning building, which received the largest single grant to universities and colleges under the province's SuperBuild initiative.

He holds a Ph.D. from York University, completing his doctorate in English. Tony plans to maintain strong ties with students because "that contact is the foundation for a real understanding of a college's strengths, needs, and opportunities for development."

## **Access to the Future for Albertans**

**Submitted by Donna Allan, President, Lethbridge Community College**

Recent commitments by the government of Alberta to its citizens promise that the province's post-secondary system will become second to none in Canada. "Albertans have told us now that the debt is gone; they want part of future surpluses directed to higher learning in the province. That's exactly what we're going to do," said Premier Ralph Klein upon tabling Bill 1, the *Access to the Future Act*.

Since the fall, when the government conducted a province-wide consultation on how to best spend the monies saved on debt service, it has become clear that post-secondary education will be the prime beneficiary. After more than a decade begun with drastic cut backs followed with meager advances, evidence of systemic deficiencies demanded quick and radical action. That is all about to change with exciting news for Alberta's would-be learners and institutions of learning:

- A total of 60,000 new post-secondary spaces will increase today's 140,000 seats to 200,000:
  - 15,000 over the next three years;

- 30,000 after the next six years; and
- 15,000 by the year 2020.
- This fall, tuition fee increases budgeted by the institutions will be compensated by government, saving students approximately \$43-million.
- The department of Advanced Education will conduct a comprehensive system review of post-secondary education in Alberta with primary focus on:
  - Access,
  - Affordability, and
  - Quality.
- An *Access to the Future Fund* will be set up to provide a new \$3-billion endowment and expansion of current endowments and scholarships of \$1.5-billion.
- The new Fund will provide seed money for innovations in the post-secondary system as well as matching grants to stimulate privates, industry, corporate and other public contributions that establish and support:
  - Improved learner outcomes;
  - Faculty, staff, graduate student development;
  - Attraction and retention;
  - Knowledge and technology transfer; and
  - Affordability.

On top of this good news, last fall colleges and technical institutes in the province were granted legislative authority to offer baccalaureate degrees in addition to the applied degrees already being offered. Currently, Grant MacEwan College is developing three baccalaureate degrees for introduction in less than a year.

## **Changes, Challenges and Opportunities for the Australian Vocational Education and Training Sector**

**Submitted by Peter Veenker, Director - Canberra Institute of Technology**

Canberra Institute of Technology has started the year on a positive note with increased enrolments and students and staff excited about the year ahead. Since the PIN Conference in Canberra last year, vocational education has been under the spotlight with a Federal Government election and State Government election placing it high on the agenda. Australia has one of the strongest growing economies in the world and while this brings with it many positives, we are struggling to keep up with the amount of skilled labour needed to sustain some of our most productive industries.

Skill shortages and ageing populations are global phenomena for mature economies. There is critical need in the building and construction; metals and

engineering; automotive; electrotechnology; and commercial cookery industries for skilled workers and CIT and the tertiary vocational education sector in general are under pressure to combat these shortages. Australian tertiary vocational education institutions will need to continue to find new ways to adapt to the changing environment in which we are operating, we need to play faster and smarter and work more closely with stakeholders to ensure we are providing the right training and education for the right industries.

Tertiary vocational education in Australia has traditionally been seen as 'second choice' to university. Progressively however, people are starting to realise that a vocational qualification can lead to a challenging, diverse and lucrative career. The challenge for CIT is to continue to educate the community on the benefits of tertiary vocational education and to be in a position where we can move quickly to regenerate our capability so we can continue to support our fast growing economy, which relies heavily on the high-level skills of its workforce.

The Federal Government is introducing various changes into the vocational education environment – namely 24 technical colleges (years 11 and 12) that will focus specifically on the trade areas with the largest skill gaps. However, an important part of alleviating the skill shortages crisis in Australia is partnering with business and industry. Education needs to take place with industry input and investment and it is essential we consult businesses on what needs to be taught and encourage them to participate in workplace experiences. Solving the skill shortages problem in Australia is going to rely heavily on education, industry and employers working cooperatively together to produce a new system of education and training that will benefit all stakeholders.

Globalisation, increased competition and technological innovation have caused dramatic changes to the tertiary vocational education and training environment over the past few years and staff must have access to professional development opportunities to ensure they understand these changes and continue to provide relevant information to students. CIT staff equipped with relevant skills and knowledge will ensure students graduate with the right training they need to participate in industries with skill gaps. As part of ongoing reforms and further increasing the capability of our staff, we need to continue to encourage them to be on top of their profession and maintain their professional development at a local, national and international level.

CIT will continue to innovate and adopt new technologies and practices to reach out to existing and new learners. We need to make sure our people are globally competitive so that they have the opportunity to work internationally. Networks such as PIN have demonstrated to us that it is not difficult for institutes to form partnerships and strategic alliances with providers in other parts of the world. We are able to complement one another in terms of sharing information and experiences for both staff and students so that they gain the further experiences and enrichment.

There are undeniable changes and challenges facing Australian vocational education and training over the next few years and as education providers, we must be ready for them, as they will influence the way we do business. The Australian Department of Education, Science and Training is working cooperatively and collaboratively with education providers, industry and the community to continue to build on the world class, forward looking education system we have to sustain us now and in the future.

## **Olds College Invited to Work on China-Canada Project**

## **Submitted by Tom Thompson, President - Olds College**

Olds College is participating in an intensive project that will expand agricultural industries in China over the next five years.

Agriculture and Agri Food Canada requested Olds College's assistance in developing and delivering key components of the new 'China-Canada Cooperation in Agriculture' program. Pat Bidart, Associate Vice-President of Academic Services, traveled to Kunming and Beijing, China last week for an inaugural planning meeting and program workshop for agricultural extension professionals, university professors and ministry of agriculture officials.

"Based on our extensive work with different projects in China, they were very interested in involving Olds College," said Bidart. "We have a 20 year history, and a very good history, with China. Our most recent success was the completion of a seven year extension training and business development project through Northeast Agricultural University in Harbin, China. That project resulted in technology advancements and training opportunities for over 11,000 farmers and other agricultural specialists."

The new project involves several elements; each delivered through different agencies and institutions. The project will cover five provinces in China and include training and technical support in project management, farmers' associations, livestock, food safety, grassland and natural resources management, integrated crop production and the status of Chinese agriculture in the World Trade Organization.

Olds College will be involved with both the 'Small Farmers Adapting to Global Markets' and 'Sustainable Agriculture Development' projects. Each is funded through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and directed by Agriculture and Agri Food Canada. Training in production and business is paramount for the success of agriculture in China, now that the government has lifted restrictions on what farmers can grow and how their products can be marketed.

"Olds College will be responsible for designing and implementing programs to train personnel who work in China's agricultural extension at the county and provincial levels. Over 100 people from China will come to Olds College for training and theory, and Canadian specialists will then mentor them back in China. This will ensure a smooth transition between theory and practise, as the trainers reach out to farmers throughout their home provinces.

## **Central Community College Receives \$1.6 Million Training Grant**

**Submitted by LaVern Franzen, President, Central Community College**

A \$1,639,404 million grant awarded to Central Community College will help Nebraska industries remain competitive in a global market.

The grant will be used to establish a Mechatronics Education Center (MEC) at CCC-Columbus. The center will provide the entire state with the latest training in mechatronics, said Doug Pauley, director of business and industry training at the Columbus Campus. He described mechatronics as a field that combines electronics, pneumatics, hydraulics and automation into a single manufacturing process.

“The Mechatronics Education Center will make extensive use of computer simulation software, online learning and professional workshops to provide training in the latest automated manufacturing technology to high school and college students and faculty, business and industry employees and displaced workers,” Pauley said.

The training will be included as part of CCC’s industrial technology program, which offers associate of applied science degrees, diplomas and certificates at the college’s campuses in Columbus, Grand Island and Hastings and online. “People in other communities will be able to access the software to develop simulated robotic or assembly line control processes and then download those processes to actual equipment,” Pauley said.

The project grew out of CCC’s contacts with Festo Corporation, a German company with U.S. headquarters in Hauppauge, N.Y. A world leader in developing and manufacturing automated industrial equipment, Festo officials have worked with CCC to develop the MEC concept, and the company earlier donated \$100,000 to the college to purchase equipment needed to support the project.

CCC President Dr. LaVern Franzen said that in addition to providing mechatronics career preparation education for students, the MEC also will provide professional development training for industrial technology instructors from community colleges throughout the state. “It is too expensive for all of Nebraska’s community colleges to stay current with this type of technology,” Franzen said. “The Mechatronics Education Center will be able to provide the training needed in this field by community college faculty throughout the state, who also will be able to access the center’s learning lab.”

Nebraska Labor Commissioner Fernando “Butch” Lecuona said the grant will allow Nebraska to increase the pool of skilled technicians and upgrade the skills of existing technicians in this state. “It will be greatly beneficial to our economic development efforts and it will help our workers achieve greater career success,” Lecuona said. “We are proud to be a partner in this effort. It wouldn’t have been possible without the tremendous work of Central Community College and the Festo Corporation. In receiving this grant, we have shown what can be done when employers, educators and government entities work together.”

## **Centre of Excellence in Process Manufacturing - Lambton College**

### **Submitted by Tony Hanlon, President Lambton College**

On September 15, 2004, Lambton College opened the doors to its Centre of Excellence in Process Manufacturing. Joseph Cordiano, Minister of Economic Development and Trade, and Mary Anne Chambers, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, attended and were impressed to see first-hand the innovative computer workshops and robotics laboratory that make up, in part, Lambton College’s Centre of Excellence.

The state-of-the-art centre, made possible through \$2.9M funding from the provincial Strategic Skills Investment (SSI) program, will enable Lambton College to increase the number of graduates from its process operations and industrial maintenance programs, addressing an impending skills shortage in Ontario’s process industries.

At the Opening Ceremony for the Centre of Excellence, provincial ministers acknowledged that the centre would give students a leg up in the global jobs race.

They further indicated that the opening of this centre was an indication of where their government was heading with education and economic policy working together. Cordiano went on further to say, "We have to recognize the roles colleges and universities play in building the future of this province."

Lambton College is excited by the opportunity this Centre will provide to graduates who will be well trained and prepared to step into the vacancies created by the generation of baby boomers who are set to retire in the near future.

With the SSI funding from the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, and the tremendous financial support of industry and local communities, Lambton College will be able to increase the number of students accepted into four programs: the three-year Chemical Production Engineering Technology program; the three-year Instrumentation and Control Engineering Technology program; the two-year Mechanical Technician-Industrial Maintenance program and the Environmental Health and Safety, Bachelor's Degree program.

To further meet industry's needs, Lambton College has launched a number of the courses from its Chemical Production Engineering Technology (CPET) program on-line. This unique program provides students with the ability to understand and operate the complex equipment used in today's processing industries. The course offerings will also assist employees wanting to upgrade their skills to keep pace with the changing technologies. E-learning presents a part-time flexible, anytime, anywhere solution to the access issue related to full-time employment.

"On-line courses cover the same material as the "on-ground" classes and will be facilitated by Lambton College's CPET faculty," said Judith Morris, Vice President Academic and Student Success, who recently launched the college's Learning Innovation Centre (LInC). The new Learning Innovation Centre is a high-tech resource area designed to provide college staff with the tools and training to become actively involved in E-learning. Courses with lab components will be completed at Lambton College, where lab time will be available to suit students' schedules. In the future, the college expects that on-line simulations and demonstrations, with minimal on-site labs, will support courses.

## **Mohawk Valley Community College Makes a Difference:**

### **A World Away and Next Door**

**Submitted by Mike Schafer, President Mohawk Valley Community College**

Incorporated in the mission statement of Mohawk Valley Community College, in Utica, NY, USA, are commitments to "a global view," and "excellence in career... preparation." Two relatively recent developments at MVCC have helped us put those philosophies to work in very positive ways.

#### **"A Global View" – Assisting Kien Giang Community College, Vietnam**

Certainly, our "global view" has been brought to life by the work of Dr. Sandra Engel, Humanities Department Head. Dr. Engel has been part of a team of American community college educators, supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), assisting in curriculum development at Kien Giang Community College in Vietnam's Mekong Delta.

Starting with a five-month stay in Vietnam in 2003, as a Fulbright Scholar, and later as part of a USAID team, which visited Kien Giang Community College in

2004, Dr. Engel has contributed substantially to that institution's development. As a Fulbright Scholar, she taught English as a second language, and consulted with Kien Giang faculty and administrators on a wide range of educational topics. Later, joining with colleagues from Richland College in Texas and the Kentucky Community & Technical College System, she has assisted with development of the Kien Giang CC information technology curriculum. In this latest endeavor, Instructor William McGowan of the MVCC Business & Information Technology Department joined her.

As part of the project, Mr. Do Quoc Trung, the Rector of Kien Gang CC (their equivalent of President/CEO) visited the MVCC Campus, experiencing snow for the first time, but also visiting many classes and meeting with local organizations serving immigrants to our area. Last summer, three members of Kien Giang CC's faculty came to our campus for intensive training in network programming, Web development and curriculum design.

Along the way, Dr. Engel has shared her experiences with the entire community here in Utica, as author of a series of 13 columns in the *Utica Observer-Dispatch*, entitled "Postcards from the Delta." In her columns, she related her experiences as one of very few westerners in Kien Giang Province, including colorful descriptions of food, culture, climate, language and other observations.

### **Career Preparation for Those with Development Disabilities - Through a Unique College-Agency Partnership**

On an entirely different front, MVCC's commitment to excellence in career preparation for all students who can benefit has led us to a new partnership with The Arc (Oneida-Lewis Chapter), a non-profit human service agency that provides a full spectrum of services to people with developmental disabilities.

In a joint project called "CollegeWorks," unique in New York State, young people with disabilities will be assisted with transition from high school to employment.

Non-credit instruction will be provided in career fields where local opportunities exist, including those of caregiver, food service worker, industrial/maintenance worker and retail/office worker.

They will also benefit from job matching and cooperative work experiences. Work readiness and social skills will be emphasized. Participants in the program, which begins in September with an initial group of 10-12 students, will be individuals with learning disabilities, mental retardation, hearing or visual impairments and emotional disabilities. Classroom instruction will take place Monday through Friday, and participants will have complete access to the full range of campus social and cultural activities as well as athletic facilities, computer laboratories, library, and dining hall, to help them fully participate in campus life. Students will pay a modest tuition.

Through the years, many of MVCC's greatest contributions to individuals in our community have come when we have partnered with other organizations to meet special needs. We are confident that CollegeWorks will be another successful collaboration.

## **Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in Motion Hits the**

# Highway

**Submitted by Sam Shaw, President - Northern Alberta Institute of Technology**

What do you get when you mix \$1.4 million in private sector funding, a whole lot of work and a great idea? Two new NAIT in Motion mobile education units. With more than 18,300 full-time students and apprentices, demand for a NAIT education has never been higher - but not everyone can get to one of NAIT's nine campuses. The solution – find a way to put the value of a NAIT education right into the hand of the people who need it most.

Officially launched on October 4, 2004, the two tractor-trailer units have been equipped to function as classrooms on wheels and are outfitted for programs ranging from business to trades-related programs such as electrical, pipe trades and welding. Each unit weighs over 80,000 pounds, contains over \$200,000 in equipment and expands to nearly 1,100 square feet.

“These two mobile classrooms will make a huge impact in remote communities across Western Canada,” says Jason Lagimodiere, NAIT part-time Welding student and MC for the event. “They are already making a big impact in my life. I’ve been working in Nisku for the last four years as a welder, but I have no formal welding training. Getting my journeyman ticket and opening my own welding business has always been a dream of mine. Then I saw an ad in the newspaper for a five-month introductory pipe trades program here at NAIT. It was offered through Tribal Chiefs Business Ventures. It was to be offered in one of the new mobile classrooms – which are parked outside. It seemed like a good opportunity, so I applied, was approved, and it’s been very beneficial to the line of work I’ve chosen.”

The NAIT in Motion units were created as part of NAIT's \$4 million Aboriginal Educational Success Initiative. Dr. Colleen Klein, Honourary Chair, and Mel Benson, Chair leads the campaign cabinet. The initiative has three other components:

- \$1 million for program development.
- \$1 million for an Aboriginal Student Centre.
- \$1 million for student awards.

NAIT in Motion will bring NAIT training to remote communities anywhere in western Canada where there is a demand for technical education, especially Aboriginal communities, says NAIT President Dr. Sam Shaw. “Aboriginal communities make up the fastest growing segment of Canada's population. By 2015, the Aboriginal population will account for one in five young Albertans,” says Sam. “The NAIT in Motion units will bring training and employment opportunities to communities where the possibility had never existed before. We’ve already had interest in the units from as far north as Tuktoyuktuk and Inuvik, and I’m sure they will be a huge success for us.”

“My classmates and I agree that these units are excellent classrooms,” Jason says. “The equipment is top-notch and the instruction has been excellent. I was able to get the academic training I needed. And in six weeks, I am going to challenge the journeyman welding exam.”

NAIT is one of the largest institutes of technology in Canada with more than 18,300 full-time and apprenticeship students and 43,000 continuing education registrations. The institute offers more than 200 programs leading to certificates, diplomas and applied degrees plus 1,200 continuing education courses.

## **Community Learning Campus Takes Major Step Forward**

**Submitted by Tom Thompson, President - Olds College**

Alberta Infrastructure has allocated \$500,000 to begin initial design plans for a proposed Community Learning Campus (CLC) in Olds. Also, Group 2 Architecture Engineering Interior Design has been selected by the Community Learning Campus steering committee to guide and develop design plans.

The steering committee, comprised of representatives from Olds College, Chinook's Edge School Division, and Olds High School, has been working since the spring of 2003 to develop the concept. It was at that time when Alberta Infrastructure approved the high school for a \$6.7 million modernization and community members encouraged the School Board to consider an alternate site. The committee is now set to begin drafting plans.

"The Community Learning Campus will be great for learners, and it will benefit the Town of Olds and all residents of Central Alberta," said Jim Gibbons, Superintendent of Chinook's Edge School Division. "Our plans have grown substantially over the last 15 months and we now share a vision for a centre of learning excellence whose magnitude is unmatched. This has been a very rewarding experience and it shows the importance people of this region place on education."

The CLC vision involves building a facility for high school students on the Olds College campus. Beyond the facility, the vision's emphasis is on programs and creating opportunities. CLC students would essentially see a seamless transition between high school and post-secondary education.

One of the major goals of the CLC steering committee is to encourage rural students to remain in rural Alberta if they wish. Whether a student's choice is entry into the workforce, apprenticeship, college or university, the CLC would set out to provide guidance and support for all choices. The plan includes advantages for learners of all ages, including parents and community members. In addition, the steering committee welcomes the idea of partnering with the public, voluntary, community, health, children's services and private sectors to further enhance programming. If the provincial government approves the plan, the Community Learning Campus will be unique in Canada.

"We want to pioneer a truly seamless delivery system that will take high school students smoothly into the challenges of post-secondary programming," said H.J. (Tom) Thompson, President and CEO of Olds College. "This type of collaboration among educational service providers and the community has been proven to substantially increase student success. From helping to clarify career goals to improving student retention, the CLC concept delivers excellence and relevance in learning. We want our community neighbours to be infected by the enthusiasm we all feel."

The \$500,000 provided by Alberta Infrastructure will cover initial designs for the structure, determine programming content, and develop financial and governance models. A large part of the development phase, which will be completed by March 15, 2005, is a community consultation process.

If approved, the CLC would be designed to accommodate a range of secondary, post-secondary and community services for a large number of Central Alberta residents. As Olds College will also be the host of the Point of Presence for the Alberta SuperNet, the potential reach of CLC programs is virtually unlimited.

# **Olds College School of Innovation Granted \$600,000 in Research Funds**

**Submitted by Tom Thompson, President - Olds College**

The Olds College School of Innovation (OCSI) has been approved for \$600,000 in funding over the next three years through the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada.

The successful proposal for an “Agri-Health Innovation Centre” was one of six selected from a total of 31 submissions. Focusing on Central Alberta producers and industry partners, OCSI plans to research and strategize a method to refine dark berries for a growing market.

“We will be working with industry to develop an agronomic and research-based foundation to differentiate and commercialize dark berry products from Central Alberta,” said Dan Fullerton, Olds College Dean of Business Development.

“Global consumers are interested in lifestyle food products that are safe, convenient and appealing, and there are exciting market opportunities for this type of product. We are going to focus on functional and nutraceutical food products by working with the dark berry industry in Central Alberta. We will help the industry translate market challenges into market opportunities and develop sustainable competitive advantages. By using the agronomic science and technology resources at Olds College, we will assist the industry to address current and emerging consumer requirements. Our students will benefit from this research and domestic and foreign consumers will benefit from the health benefits of these unique products.”

OCSI has existing facilities and land, along with well-established community relationships, to proceed immediately with the necessary research. The second and third years of the funding schedule are contingent on OCSI leveraging an equivalent amount from other sources. The funding was made possible through a new College and Community Innovation Pilot Program. The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada awarded over \$3 million in funding through the new program.

## **Faculty/Staff Exchange-Visit Program**

Applications are currently being taken for the Faculty/Staff Exchange Visit Program. The exchange and visit program is designed to facilitate faculty exchanges and visits among PIN member colleges. The exchanges and visits are designed to enhance the professional development of faculty and to further international understanding of two-year colleges. The colleges are expected to support and facilitate the exchange/visit process. The college and the faculty members develop the exchange or visit to meet their institutional and individual objectives.

PIN will award two \$500 (US) stipends to facilitate faculty exchanges and visits to each country for the academic year. It is expected that the college will match the dollar amount of the stipend. The match will be cash or an in-kind contribution.

### **Process**

1. The Faculty Exchange and Visit Program Application Form should be used.
2. The program criteria must be addressed in the application.
3. The narrative should be no longer than 1000 words.
4. The college president/principal and the faculty member must sign the application form.
5. If there is a need for assistance in identifying a host college, PIN will assist in identifying appropriate host colleges.
6. Faculty Exchange and Visit Program Application are submitted to Executive Director, Bill Warner.
7. The Executive Committee reviews all applications at the annual meeting.
8. The Executive Committee will identify the award recipients.
9. The PIN Executive Director will notify the successful and unsuccessful applicants.
10. The \$500 (US) stipend check will be sent to the college president, who will make the award to the faculty/staff member.

Forward your Faculty/Staff Exchange and Visit applications to Bill Warner, Executive Director.

### **PIN Executive Committee**

The current PIN Executive Committee membership includes:

**Australia:** John Maddock, Box Hill College

Peter Veenker, Canberra Institute of Technology

**Canada:** Donna Allen, Lethbridge College

Irene Lewis, SAIT (PIN President-Elect)

Gary Polonsky, Durham College

**Netherlands:** Ricardo Winter, ROC van Amsterdam

**New Zealand** John Scott, Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology

**United States:** LaVern Franzen, Central Community College

Richard Greene, Western Piedmont Community College

Mike Schafer, Mohawk Valley Community College (PIN President)

The role of the Executive Committee is to:

and develop objectives and activities for the organization;

ate policies and implement policies of the network;

re recommendations regarding annual membership fees;

iew, in context, the participation of PIN members and make decisions about continued memberships;

rmine the budget for administrative tasks of the organization;

mmunicate the decisions taken at its meeting to the membership in semi-annual newsletters; and

litate the securing of external resources for PIN projects and encourage members to do the same.

## **PIN Presidency**

Mike Schafer, President of Mohawk Valley Community College, Utica, New York, USA was installed as PIN president for a two-year term in March 2004.

Irene Lewis, President of Southern Alberta Institute of Technology is the president elect and becomes PIN President at the 2006 Annual PIN Conference.

Peter Veenker, CEO of Canberra Institute of Technology, Canberra, Australia, is the immediate past president of PIN, completing his term as PIN president at the 2004 Annual Conference. Peter's term as president was from June 2002 to March 2004.

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For more information about this Newsletter or PIN contact:

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**PIN Website**

[www.pinnet.com](http://www.pinnet.com)

## 2005 PIN Conference Program

### Tentative Schedule - Summary

June 24 – July 1, 2005

|                              | <b>DELEGATES’<br/>SCHEDULE</b>   | <b>COMPANION<br/>PROGRAM</b>                                  |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Friday,<br/>June 24</b>   | <p>Pre-Conference Activities during the day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Golf</li> <li>• Port Perry – shopping, sightseeing, and casino.</li> </ul> <p><b>Registration will take place at Durham College in the late afternoon.</b></p> <p><b>Opening Conference Dinner</b> at Parkwood (historic mansion).</p> | Same  |
| <b>Saturday,<br/>June 25</b> | <p><b>Mix of conference sessions – followed by tour of Toronto</b></p> <p><b>PIN Executive Meeting and Conference sessions all morning</b></p> <p>Toronto Tour - a combination of city tour and free time.</p> <p>Dinner - Lively restaurant in downtown Toronto</p>   | Afternoon and evening - Visit to Toronto                      |
| <b>Sunday,<br/>June 26</b>   | <p><b>Mix of conference sessions – followed by Niagara Falls/Niagara on the Lake</b></p> <p>Conference sessions all morning</p> <p>Tour: Niagara Falls and Niagara on the Lake, with</p> <p>Dinner at a winery</p>   | Afternoon and evening – Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake |
| <b>Monday,<br/>June 27</b>   | <p><b>Conference sessions all day</b></p> <p>Dinner - A fun, on-campus event</p>   | Free time<br><br>On-campus dinner event                       |
| <b>Tuesday,<br/>June 28</b>  | <p><b>Conference sessions and travel to Ottawa</b></p> <p>Conference sessions all morning</p> <p>Bus to Ottawa (approximately a 4-hour drive)</p> <p>Check into the hotel - Chateau Laurier</p> <p>Dinner at the Rideau Club in Ottawa</p>   | Free time in the morning<br>Travel and dinner                 |

|                               |   |   |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Wednesday,<br/>June 29</b> | <b>Conference sessions and Ottawa tour</b><br><b>Conference sessions for most of the day</b><br><br>Ottawa City Tour, followed by free time and dinner on your own  | Free time in Ottawa, or arrangements as per request.<br><br>City tour in the afternoon. |
| <b>Thursday,<br/>June 30</b>  | <b>Conference sessions and Montreal tour</b><br><b>Conference sessions for most of the day</b><br><br>Montreal City Tour and Dinner at Gibby's Restaurant, Montreal   | Tour of Montreal  |
| <b>Friday,<br/>July 1</b>     | <b>Conference Sessions and enjoying Canada Day on Parliament Hill</b><br><br>Conference sessions for the morning<br><br>PIN Annual Business Meeting may be held this morning<br><br>Canada Day on Parliament Hill - unscheduled time<br><br>Closing Reception after the fireworks | Unstructured day of touring Ottawa on Canada Day  |