



What's New!

Steady growth in enrolment numbers reported

Enrolments in courses offered through eCampusAlberta are on pace to reach or exceed the annual target for the fifth straight year.

As of Dec. 31, institutions have reported 3,230 enrolments, approximately 46 per cent of the 7,000 registrations targeted for the 2007/08 academic year (July 1 to June 30). This number is up 39 per cent from the 2,321 reported during the same six-month period last year.

“We are very excited to report that we’re on track for another year of growth exceeding 40 per cent. The continued increase in registrations year over year has shown us that there are many students interested in pursuing their studies online. That interest, accompanied by our members’ commitment to increasing access is validating for all who work with us on eCampusAlberta,” says Tricia Donovan, Executive Director, eCampusAlberta.

Highlights of the first six months of 2007/08 include:

- Twelve of 15 member institutions have reported an increase in enrolments this year
- SAIT has reported the highest enrolment numbers at 1,164, followed by Grant MacEwan College with 843, Bow Valley College with 551, Mount Royal College with 186 and Red Deer College with 162
- Medicine Hat College has reported a 141 per cent increase in enrolments while Lethbridge is up 83 per cent, Keyano 65 per cent and Bow Valley 64 per cent

Year-to-date registrations summary

Bow Valley	551
Grande Prairie	19
MacEwan	843
Keyano	56
Lakeland	Coming Soon
Lethbridge	55
Medicine Hat	77
Mount Royal	186
NAIT	31
NorQuest	5
Northern Lakes	Coming Soon
Olds	42
Portage	39
Red Deer	162
SAIT	1,164
Total	3,230

Quality proposals lead to difficult decisions in awarding supplementary Online Curriculum Development Funds

The exceptional response to a mid-December call for submissions to access \$100,000 in supplementary Online Curriculum Development Funds (OCDF) made the task of determining which projects were funded extremely difficult.

“We were very pleased with the quality of the proposals and the number of extremely worthwhile projects submitted for consideration. What’s disappointing is that so many deserving projects could not be accommodated,” said Tricia Donovan, Executive Director, eCampusAlberta.

“We received requests for a total of \$789,000 but with only \$100,000 available, we were not able to award funds to a number of very interesting proposals. The submissions were filtered for the proposals for projects that supported or led to a completion of a credential as per the criteria,” Donovan said, adding that partial funding was awarded across a couple of program areas in an effort to at least partially fund as many projects as possible.

Sheila Whitmore, OCDF Project Manager, says the fact that there is so much demand for online curriculum development resources shows that eCampusAlberta member institutions share a strong commitment to ensuring the quality of their online programs.

“The success of the Online Curriculum Development Fund is directly related to the drive of our consortium members to develop and deliver high quality online courses. The courses developed with the assistance of the OCDF meet eCampusAlberta’s 28 Essential Quality Standards and ensure course quality and consortium confidence,” Whitmore said.

Institution	Program	OCDF award
Keyano College	Aboriginal Entrepreneurship certificate	\$15,000
Lethbridge College	Bachelor of Applied Arts: Correctional Studies	\$20,000
NorQuest College	Academic Upgrading: Physics 30 or Bio 30 Fast Track	\$10,000
Olds College	Animal Health Technology diploma	\$17,250
Red Deer College	Pharmacy Technician certificate	\$11,000
SAIT Polytechnic	Geographical Information Systems applied degree	\$7,750
Keyano, Medicine Hat, and Red Deer College	Educational Assistant certificate	\$19,000
		Total: \$100,000

Jesal Odedra welcomed as Operations Manager

Jesal Odedra joined eCampusAlberta as Operations Manager in January and brings more than eight years of experience in education and blended learning to his new role.

“eCampusAlberta brings a tremendous opportunity to post-secondary learners. I am keen to see the full potential of this concept surface and evolve to best meet the needs of the province,” Odedra says.

Prior to joining eCampusAlberta, Odedra was an eLearning consultant at National Strategies in the United Kingdom. National Strategies is a British government agency that provides ongoing training for all teachers in England.

Before his work at National Strategies, Odedra was a London agent for the British Educational Communications and Technology Agency, a college manager of learning technology and a lecturer in the field of computing and business.

He has just returned to Canada to assume his new role with eCampusAlberta after eight years in the United Kingdom.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Waterloo as well as several certificates in computing technology related fields. He has also completed modules towards a master’s degree from the Institute of Education, University of London.

Odedra says he looks forward to seeing eCampusAlberta grow through working with staff at member institutions in a supportive and collaborative way.

He can be reached at: jesal.odedra@ecampusalberta.ca



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Jesal Odedra,
Operations Manager,
eCampusAlberta



Featured Program

Mount Royal police studies courses now offered online

Anyone thinking of pursuing a career in law enforcement may want to test the waters by enrolling in one of Mount Royal College's three online police studies courses now offered through eCampusAlberta.

"The three college partners that worked together to develop these online courses – Justice Studies, the Academic Development Centre and the Faculty of Continuing Education and Extension – recognized there was an untapped group of students who are interested in pursuing an education and potentially a career within policing but who are unable to attend a lecture-based course," says Doug King, Chair, Department of Justice Studies at Mount Royal College.



▲
Doug King, Chair,
Department of Justice Studies,
Mount Royal College

"The three courses that are now online are recognized by potential police employers as necessary background and skills for prospective police officers," says King, adding that offering these three courses online is the first step towards potentially offering the entire Police Studies certificate online in the future.

Each course is designed to be dynamic, interactive and relevant with plenty of opportunity for students to interact with each other and with their instructors.

"All of the courses make extensive use of interactive discussion boards, reflective journals and topical video clips. Student assignments are built around the idea that students must not only demonstrate the acquisition of basic course materials but also that they must demonstrate their capacity to critically reflect on the material in their day-to-day lives," he says.

The three courses offered online – *The Canadian Criminal Justice System*, *Human Diversity in Justice and Interpersonal Relationship Skills* – form one half of the Police Studies certificate offered through Continuing Education and Extension. As well, course credits earned in the certificate program can be applied to the Bachelor of Applied Justice Studies degree, provided the student is admitted to the degree program.

King says these three initial courses will appeal to students considering careers in law enforcement as well as those already working in the criminal justice field who want to earn credentials to help them advance their careers.

To learn more, visit: <http://conted.mtroyal.ca/policestudies/>

If you have a project or article you would like to see featured in the eCampusAlberta eZine, please contact Paul Rescanski at (403) 210 - 5863 or e-mail: paul.rescanski@ecampusalberta.ca