

eCampusAlberta

eZine - January 2007



Welcome to the First Edition of the eZine

Welcome to eCampusAlberta's (eCA) first eZine. As the eCA project continues to grow, it has become evident that communication with the institutions must also grow. Our hope is that we will be able to better inform all levels within the member institutions through monthly newsletters.

The eZine will be posted on the website for your convenience. If you have any questions, comments, or items you would like featured in the eZine, please contact Joanna Budd at joanna.budd@ecampusalberta.ca.



What do we do?

eCampusAlberta (eCA) is a consortium of fifteen of Alberta's publicly funded colleges and technical institutes established in 2002 to facilitate increased access to high quality online learning opportunities. The consortium is a collaborative online learning initiative that spans the Province of Alberta.

The efforts and direction of eCA are guided by four key objectives. This year, we have introduced a fifth objective - that of increasing awareness of eCA and the work associated with each objective that drives the activities of eCA and its member institutions.

Access

Increase access to online courses, programs and services across member institutes.

Capacity

Build provincial, community and institutional capacity by increasing the quantity and workforce applicability of online courses, credentials and student services.

Quality

Increase quality across course offerings, learner support services and accountabilities for online learning activities.

Collaboration

Strengthen the eCA collaborative in ways that enable and engage member institutes.

Awareness

Build awareness of online learning opportunities, to ensure all Albertans can access flexible learning opportunities to help reach their full potential.



Shared Services

eCA provides a portal to a shared course and program inventory from the member institutions on its website. Prospective students can search and register for courses or programs online or at a local campus. Active students access their WebCT courses through the website. Students participating in courses offered via Blackboard access their courses at the home institution. Through eCampusAlberta, students, faculty and administrators have access to 24x7 technical support to support their online learning experience.

The work of member institutions and eCampusAlberta continues to inform best practices in online learning and learner support services. Collectively, consortium members are exploring ways to increase resource efficiencies through joint program development, shared practices and the development of system-wide solutions.



The eCA Team

The eCampusAlberta administration team consists of Tricia Donovan, the Executive Director; Shohil Kanji, Coordinator of Finance and Operations; Joanna Budd, Executive Assistant; and Sheila Whitmore, OCDF Project Manager. eCampusAlberta works with through a dynamic network of committees, organizations, and North American consortia groups.

Below, we have provided you with our contact information. We encourage you to contact us with your questions and comments regarding eCA and eCA activities.





Tricia Donovan

Executive Director

Tel: 403.210.5638

e-mail: tricia.donovan@ecampusalberta.ca

You may contact Tricia for the following:

-  Strategic Directions
-  Inter-Institutional Collaborations
-  Student Service Issues
-  College Liaison




Shohil Kanji

Coordinator, Finance and Operations

Tel: 403.774.4656

e-mail: shohil.kanji@ecampusalberta.ca

You may contact Shohil for the following:

-  Monthly Remittances
-  Lead/Partner Reporting
-  Accounting and Finance







Joanna Budd

Executive Assistant

Tel: 403.284.8777

e-mail: joanna.budd@ecampusalberta.ca

You may contact Joanna for the following:

-  College Liaison
-  eZine
-  Website Edits/Updates
-  eCARRS, Catalogue Troubleshooting
-  Elluminate Scheduling & Troubleshooting
-  Calendar Inserts, Brochures, etc.




Sheila Whitmore

OCDF Project Manager

Tel: 780.581.4440

e-mail: sheila.whitmore@ecampusalberta.ca

You may contact Sheila for the following:

-  OCDF Development
-  Elluminate Developers Sessions
-  Faculty Development

The Online Curriculum Development Fund (OCDF)

eCampusAlberta is very pleased to be able to provide this funding support. The one million dollars awarded from the Ministry of Advanced Education for 2005/06 and \$500,000 for 2006/07 will provide Albertans with more than 150 additional courses (new or converted) to the eCampusAlberta inventory.

Under the leadership of eCampusAlberta Executive, Sheila Whitmore has been contracted as the project manager for the OCDF.

Sheila will monitor the processes and progress of OCDF partners as course development and/or conversion proceeds.

Sheila hosts monthly sessions for course developers to share their experiences, solutions and challenges via ElluminateLive! (audio graphics system). These sessions are hosted on the [first Tuesday of each month from 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.](#) In addition, these sessions will provide a forum to introduce course developers to the Essential Quality Standards which are tied to the disbursement of funds.

For more information on this exciting new project, please contact the eCampusAlberta office at [403.284.8777](tel:403.284.8777), contact Sheila directly via e-mail at sheila.whitmore@ecampusalberta.ca, or visit our website at www.ecampusalberta.ca.



Alberta-Based Hosting Solution





In May, 2006, MacEwan College began hosting eCampusAlberta WebCT course offerings and Technical Support was contracted to Presidium Learning.

MacEwan staff have developed a web application for institutions that enables them to upload their student data to the WebCT server. In addition, their technical team is working with eCampusAlberta to develop a plan for migration of courses to WebCT 6.0.

The Alberta based hosting solution has been very successful due to the diligence of the MacEwan team. Monthly utilization reports are regularly distributed to campuses.

Presidium Learning was contracted to provide 24x7 technical support. eCA was successful in dropping the cost from \$50 per registration to \$25. In addition, the quality of technical support is much improved.

Students and faculty can access the eCA Technical Support Help Desk in the following ways:

-  Phone Support: [1.866.548.8544](tel:1.866.548.8544)
-  Web Support: <http://www.ecampusalberta.ca/support>
-  Real-Time Chat: provides a direct online link to a certified Support Representative
-  Knowledge Base: a robust knowledge database with many useful resources for eCA students

IlluminateLive! Provides 100 Seats to eCampusAlberta for 1 Year

Illuminate Live! is a state of the art audiographic system for live elearning and collaboration.

IlluminateLive! will be used to bring together curriculum development teams from across the province to discuss OCDF project development, issues or challenges that the teams are experiencing, and to share valuable expertise.

eCampusAlberta is looking forward to discussions held using this useful, collaborative tool thanks to the generosity of IlluminateLive!

If you are interested in using IlluminateLive! for your eCA meetings or for your eCA class, you may contact the eCampus Administration Office.

Enrollments on the Rise!

- 🕒 A 56% increase in registrations was realized in the 2005/06 fiscal year. The total number of registrations increased from 2279 in 2004/05 to 3541.
- 🕒 The number of courses with registrations increased from 144 to 237, an increase of 65%.
- 🕒 The number of credentials available fully online grew from 18 to 25 and includes certificates, diplomas and applied degrees.

In the News!

eCA in Spotlight in Stockholm

On December 10th, 2006, Irene Lewis, Chair of the eCampusAlberta Executive Board and President of SAIT, presented in Stockholm at The Public Services Summit at Nobel Week.

The summit focused on how the Internet and networking technologies are applied in education and health care. This was the perfect opportunity for Irene Lewis to present on the eCampusAlberta initiative.

Irene Lewis' presentation was very well received and sparked many questions and positive remarks on how the institutions were able to achieve such success in such a short time. Her presentation highlighted the benefits for students as well as the province-wide system.

“ We think this is how students want to learn . . . Students can access knowledge from all corners of the province ”

Irene Lewis,
eCA Board Chair
and SAIT President

Coming Soon!

Future eZines will feature courses, programs, and student success stories.

If you have a project or article you feel should be featured in the eCampusAlberta eZine, please contact the eCampusAlberta Administrative Office at 403.284.8777 or e-mail us at info@ecampusalberta.ca