



What's New!

Five-year anniversary celebration brings together member institutions online

Advanced Education and Technology Minister Doug Horner joined faculty and staff from 15 Alberta campuses online Dec. 5 to celebrate the fifth anniversary of eCampusAlberta.

“I would like to congratulate eCampusAlberta on five years of serving students around the province,” Horner told the online gathering from his office in the legislature.

“The increase in online learning in Alberta is largely thanks to eCampusAlberta and this will only help our province’s needs in the future, especially online studies in health care,” he said.

Using MegaMeeting, a website offering web conferencing services, the members were able to login at the same time and see each others’ celebrations on computer screens that were divided into 16 boxes, one for each member campus and one for the minister’s office.

Each campus organized an individual celebration. At 2:45 p.m., a DVD produced to showcase the first five years of eCampusAlberta was shown on each campus before the live presentation began at 3 p.m.

Red Deer College President, Ron Woodward, served as the event’s master of ceremonies and welcomed everyone to the proceedings.

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\$100,000 in online curriculum development funds available

eCampusAlberta is pleased to announce it is offering \$100,000 in supplementary funding to assist member institutions with creating new and/or enhancing existing curricula that completes credential offerings.

These are one-time funds that have been returned to eCampusAlberta out of previous awards to members. All dollars must be allocated to member institutions prior to Dec. 31.

Proposals to access these funds must be received by Dec. 21.

Please submit proposals by e-mail to Tricia Donovan (tricia.donovan@ecampusalberta.ca) or Sheila Whitmore (sheila.whitmore@ecampusalberta.ca).

To assist members with submitting proposals, a template has been sent to the operations committee member and senior academic officer at all institutions.

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Five-year celebration continued from page 1

“Through the magic of technology, eCampusAlberta is able to have its first virtual birthday party,” said Woodward before turning the microphone over to SAIT Polytechnic President and CEO and eCampusAlberta Chair, Irene Lewis, who addressed the campuses and introduced Minister Horner.

Lewis reminisced about the success of eCampusAlberta to date and shared a student’s story.

“I am reminded of some of the stories I have heard over the years about students who have chosen to pursue their education this way. One of those stories is about a 39-year-old mother of two who lives in Peace River and is enrolled in the Business Administration diploma program,” Lewis said.

“This woman works full time for the Alberta government and studies online through eCampusAlberta. And she has told us that ‘eCampusAlberta is the only reason’ that she is able to pursue her diploma, work and raise her children all at the same time.”

“It’s stories like this that really demonstrate the impact of what we are doing here. We are empowering people and giving them opportunities to pursue their dreams and realize aspirations in a way that was not even possible only 15 years ago.”

Minister Horner also said he was pleased with the impact that eCampusAlberta has had on the Alberta post-secondary education system, saying that “probably nothing epitomizes Campus Alberta better than e-learning.”

Horner said e-learning is one way the education system ensures it stays a step ahead of student demand for services in the province.

“On behalf of the premier and all my colleagues in the legislature, I congratulate you on five years and wish you many more successful years,” Horner said.

To view a selection of celebration photos from member campuses, go to www.ecampusalberta.ca and follow the eCampusAlberta fifth anniversary celebration logo on the front page.

Online curriculum development fund continued from page 1

Areas of focus

The foremost priority for these funds is to apply them to subject areas that assist with or support the completion of credentials.

They will also be allocated to proposals that align with the Ministry of Advanced Education and Technology’s priorities, which include (in no particular order): apprenticeship, business, health, science and technology.

Tricia Donovan and Sheila Whitmore will be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

Featured Program

Lakeland College emergency services applied degree to be offered through eCampusAlberta

Lakeland College's Bachelor of Applied Business: Emergency Services is the first applied degree level program to be offered online in the field of emergency services and it is coming to eCampusAlberta in January.

The applied degree, which has been offered online by Lakeland College since 2003, is designed to help people working in emergency services develop leadership and management skills to enable them to advance into the top echelons of their fields. These professions include fire fighting, policing, emergency medical services, the military, health care and disaster services.

"This program was designed from scratch to be offered online. It has never been delivered face-to-face," says Acting Director, Extension Services, Mark Butler.

"It meets the learning needs of students by breaking down program competencies into shorter, more intensive online modules, rather than longer courses. This matches the varied work schedules of emergency services workers," Butler says.

To be accepted into the program, applicants must be working full-time as emergency services professionals with a minimum of five years' experience in one branch of emergency services. They must also have either a diploma in an emergency services discipline from an accredited college or an equivalency, which means 1,200 hours of education and training in emergency services related fields.

"Successful learners must be self-motivated and leaders in their specific fields. This education will enable them to advance their careers into higher management/leadership positions," he says.

The Lakeland program has also gone international. Through a relationship Lakeland College has with Swinburne University of Technology, in Australia, the Bachelor of Applied Business: Emergency Services program has opened up to a group of Australian emergency services professionals. The first group of students will begin studies in February and join their Canadian counterparts online to truly internationalize the learning.

To learn more, visit: http://www.lakelandcollege.ca/programs/fire_emergency/ba_emergency/



◀ An applied degree program offered through eCampusAlberta will help emergency workers, including police, fire, emergency medical services, military, health care and disaster services professionals develop skills to enable them to move into leadership positions within their fields.

Third ACCESS public service announcement promotes eCampusAlberta

ACCESS television has partnered with eCampusAlberta to create a third public service announcement (PSA) to promote course and program offerings.

“I would like to thank Eric Rice and his staff at ACCESS television. We are very fortunate to have their support. The PSAs they have created for us are promotional tools that we would otherwise not be able to produce,” says eCampusAlberta Marketing and Communications Coordinator, Paul Rescanski.

The 30-second PSA began running earlier in December and will continue airing several times a week until December, 2008.

The spot can also be viewed through the eCampusAlberta website at www.ecampusalberta.ca by selecting eCampusAlberta Video Clip on the front page.



Canadian e-learning conference planned for June

The Alberta Distance Education and Training Association is holding its sixth annual conference at the University of Calgary June 17 to 20 and the organization is calling for proposals for presentations.

The 2008 theme will be *Enhancing Learning with Technology: Is IT Working?*

Anyone interested in presenting at the conference or assisting with organizing the event is asked to contact conference chair Rod Corbett at rodcorbett@adeta.org or call 403-440-6220.

The deadline for presentation proposals is March 3, 2008.

Three keynote speakers have been confirmed for next year's conference, including: Stefan Sikora, Clayon R. Wright and Karen Gage.

More information about presentation submissions can be found at: <http://adeta.org/C08cfp>

More conference details can be found at: <http://adeta.org/conference>

eCampusAlberta celebrates five years!

Here is what the celebration looked like on some member campuses.



▲ Jim Foote, President of Keyano College; Ron Woodward, President of Red Deer College; Irene Lewis, President and CEO of SAIT Polytechnic and Chair of eCampusAlberta; and Tricia Donovan, Executive Director, eCampusAlberta celebrate at Red Deer College.



▲ Grant Wilson, Coordinator, eLearning and Instructional Technology at Grant MacEwan College in Edmonton cuts the eCampusAlberta birthday cake, alongside colleagues Leanna Price, School of Business Outreach Supervisor; Ilona Ryder, Coordinator, English Distance and Online; and Michael Cenknar, Instructional Designer, Instructional Media and Design.



▲ A few members of SAIT's Distance Education Council. From left: Audrey Beadling, Adam Romano, Ted Lobley, Susan Brayford, Nancy Flood, Judy Adams, Bev Grigo, Eunice Andrews, Melanie Derbyshire, Rinni Reubens-Alege, Diane Rohleder.



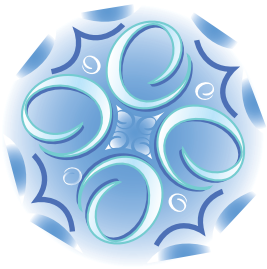
▲ The eCampusAlberta birthday cake didn't last long once hungry folks at Red Deer College got ahold of it.



▲ Lethbridge College staff view the DVD created to commemorate eCampusAlberta's fifth anniversary. Chuck Payne from Medicine Hat College is on the screen.

eCampusAlberta would like to publish photos from every member campus on the website. Please send your celebration event photos to: paul.rescanski@ecampusalberta.ca for inclusion on the fifth anniversary celebration page.

Holiday Wishes!



To everybody at our member institutions:

May we take this opportunity to extend our warmest wishes to you and your family for a wonderful holiday season and all the best in the New Year!

Thank you for all you have done to ensure the success of eCampusAlberta. And we look forward to accomplishing many more great things together in the year to come.

Your eCampusAlberta Team,

Tricia, Paul, Joanna, Craig and Sheila



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