

eCampusAlberta

eZine - October 2007



What's New!

Minister Horner to participate in fifth anniversary celebration

Preparations are underway to celebrate the fifth anniversary of eCampusAlberta at all member campuses Dec. 5 and Advanced Education and Technology Minister Doug Horner has agreed to participate online from his office in Edmonton.

“We are honoured to have Minister Horner attend our fifth anniversary celebration and we are looking forward to a province-wide celebration via the member institutes. We are inviting everybody to join the celebration using Internet webcast technology,” says Tricia Donovan, executive director, eCampusAlberta.

Each institution will host a celebratory event on Dec. 5 to view a DVD and then join MegaMeeting for a word from the honourable Minister Doug Horner at 3 p.m.

“It’s hard to believe it’s been five years since we began building eCampus. We passed the 5,000 registrations in a single year milestone in 2006/07 and we’re now looking at five complete years of operations as well as close to 30 credentials and 300 courses offered online,” Donovan says.

Registrations in eCampusAlberta courses total 11,490 for the first five years of operation.

“The increased access for learners is a real tribute to the support from member institutions to make eCampusAlberta successful,” she says.

The MegaMeeting website will enable all 15 member institutions and the minister’s office to see and speak to each other online. Following the minister’s address, each institution is invited to have an individual celebration of its own.

For more information about the fifth anniversary celebration, please contact Paul Rescanski at (403) 210-5863 or e-mail: paul.rescanski@ecampusalberta.ca

ACCESS offers funds to secure digital rights for online courses

ACCESS television is offering to help eCampusAlberta members acquire rights to broadcast copyrighted materials for use in their online courses.

“eCampusAlberta and ACCESS television have enjoyed a wonderful partnership over the past few years which has included the development of public service announcements as well as the development and acquisition of content for online courses,” says Tricia Donovan, executive director, eCampusAlberta.

continued

“ACCESS’ offer to help acquire digital rights for materials for online courses is an extremely helpful opportunity for our members,” Donovan says.

The Ministry of Advanced Education and Technology has allocated \$300,000 to acquire usage rights for copyrighted materials for eCampusAlberta courses, says Eric Rice, manager of Creative and Production Services with ACCESS.

However, there is a deadline of March 31, 2008 for submitting expenses related to this project, Rice says.

Currently, ACCESS is working with SAIT, Mount Royal College, Red Deer College and Grant MacEwan College to acquire materials for courses, he says.

Anyone interested in working with ACCESS to obtain resources for a course, should call Eric Rice at (780) 440-7750 or e-mail: eric.rice@chumtv.com

How the process of acquiring digital rights works

Acquisition of existing resources

If you would like to acquire the rights to resources that are already produced – television programs, print media and multi-media productions – and permission to use them must be obtained, ACCESS will work with you to obtain the rights to use the materials for courses.

If you think you would like to include copyrighted materials in a course but you’re not sure what’s available, ACCESS can provide descriptions of potential materials to help you make a decision. They can also provide preview materials for you to watch and help you with obtaining the rights to use the materials, once a selection has been made.

Producing original materials

The other option is to produce original materials, such as video or multi-media productions, for courses.

Rice says ACCESS will work with instructors to determine their needs, develop a production budget and, upon approval by Advanced Education, procure the resources using contractors in Edmonton.

Joanna Budd,
eCampusAlberta’s
designer extraordinaire,
created some
Halloween
atmosphere in the
office late in October
by carving the
eCampusAlberta logo
into this pumpkin.



Fall 2007 registrations show more students are choosing online courses

Hot on the heels of a record breaking 2006/07, this fall's numbers indicate that a new record for registrations in courses offered through eCampusAlberta is likely to be set again this year.

"We are very pleased that eCampusAlberta continues to provide increased access for learners," says Tricia Donovan, executive director, eCampusAlberta.

"New courses and programs offered online by the member institutions continue to attract more learners and the flexibility offered through online learning enables students to work on their studies at a time and in a location that is most convenient for them. Many work full-time and online learning provides them with access to post-secondary education that might not otherwise be available to them," Donovan says.

With 12 of 15 institutions reporting, fall registrations are already up 40 per cent over last year. As of Oct. 23, registrations totaled 2,225 compared with 1,593 reported by the same institutions last year. Fall registrations reported to date already account for 32 per cent of the 7,000 projected registrations for 2007/08.

As well, the final registration numbers for 2006/07 have been tallied and the total exceeds the target of 4,000 registrations set for the year by 30 per cent.

Total registrations in eCampusAlberta courses soared past the symbolic milestone of 5,000 in a single year to reach 5,189 last year.

2006 - 2007 eCampus by the Numbers

	Number of Registrations	Number of Courses on eCampus
Bow Valley	823	59
Grande Prairie	2	1
MacEwan	973	60
Keyano	56	5
Lakeland	Coming Soon	
Lethbridge	106	10
Medicine Hat	98	11
Mount Royal	411	20
NAIT	42	1
NorQuest	18	5
Northern Lakes	4	4
Olds	74	13
Portage	98	3
Red Deer	333	28
SAIT	2151	64
Total	5,189	284



Featured Program!

Animal Health Technology students offered online option

Increasing demand for graduates of Olds College's Animal Health Technology diploma program has led the institution to begin offering some theoretical components of the program online.

"With a desire to meet industry's shortage of animal health technologists while avoiding increased class sizes, the college decided to provide the theoretical components of the program in an online format and to provide hands-on clinical training outside of the normal academic years when our facilities were often unused," Bullock says.

Twenty-one students began online studies in animal health technology in July, which is in addition to the 30 who began traditional studies in the program in September, says Dalin Bullock, chair of the School of Animal Science at Olds College.

"We received significantly more applicants than can be accommodated within Olds' training facilities and offering aspects of the program online is a great way to meet employers' demand for these graduates and meet the needs of more students who want to pursue this career," he says.

The hands-on training components of the online delivery format are identical to those offered to students that select the on-campus delivery option and the program is certified through the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association.

"The program works well for students who are unable to attend college for eight consecutive months. The workload is similar to that of students pursuing on-campus studies but the online students enjoy a great deal of added flexibility."

Program graduates are eligible to complete the Veterinary Technicians National Exam, which they must pass to become registered animal health technologists, a requirement to practice in Alberta and all other Canadian provinces. Licensed practitioners typically find employment in veterinary clinics, animal production centres, research organizations and pharmaceutical companies.

For more information about the Animal Health Technology program, please contact Dalin Bullock at (403) 556-8347 or e-mail: dbullock@oldscollege.ca

Olds College also offers an online Agricultural Finance certificate program.




Dalin Bullock
Chair, School of Animal Science

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