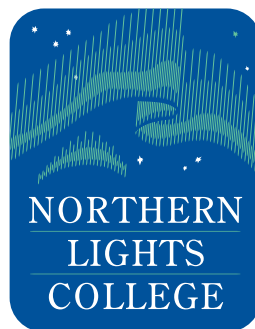




2014

COMMUNITY REPORT



B.C.'s Energy College™

**JIM KASSEN
INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTRE**

SPEAKER SERIES IGNITES DISCUSSION

An exciting new speaker series at Northern Lights College generated entertaining discussions on a variety of interesting topics.

“The Speakers’ Series is intended to share perspectives and encourage debate on a wide range of interdisciplinary topics such as civic responsibility, social justice, health and well-being, culture and the arts, resource sustainability, and much more at the Fort St. John Campus,” said Business Management instructor Nakib Ahmed.

The first speaker in the series was NLC Geography instructor Wim Kok. Kok’s presentation, entitled *Resource Economy of Northeast B.C.*, discussed the development of the resource industry in this region.

Kok also discussed how local and regional development – including boom and bust cycles – is influenced by larger economic trends at the global level, and the challenges that these competing influences can have at the local level for communities such as Fort St. John, Fort Nelson, Tumbler Ridge and Chetwynd.

Approximately 50 people attended the first session in February, and Ahmed planned for future presentations as well.



CHETWYND CAMPUS RESPONDS TO DEMAND

Several programs designed to meet labour demands in the regional job market were offered in Chetwynd, providing local access to programs usually available only at the Dawson Creek or Fort St. John campuses. These programs included Professional Office Skills, Welding Level C, Oil and Gas Field Operations, and Workplace Essential Skills. Each of these programs provided entry-level training in its respective area, allowing graduates the opportunity to step right into the workforce.

It was the first time the Oil and Gas Field Operations program was offered in Chetwynd. Students were trained to be professional and technically knowledgeable individuals for the oil and gas industry. Training included a workplace practicum with local industry.

"I wanted to take this course because the Oil and Gas Field industry requires a vast range of expertise that touches many fields. Without this training, I do not think I would be very successful in the industry," said Lee Grove, a student in the program.

The 28-week Welding Level C program provided students with practical and theoretical training in welding various steel

and aluminium parts in the fabrication, construction, erection, and repair of components or structures using various welding processes.

"Welding is a great trade. I can work with my hands and it provides the job security I am looking for, for my family and myself," said Clorissa Bigfoot, a student in the Welding program.

The Professional Office Skills (POS) program trained students in entry-level administrative skills to be customer service-oriented, computer-knowledgeable. Students learned communication, thinking and accounting skills. POS was a special training program offered thanks to funding under the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training Employment Skills Access program.

"I now feel more confident not only in my abilities to get any office-based job that I want, but also to be able to return to the workforce with relevant and employable skills after a 20-year absence," said Tracy Davis, who added she learned communications, business and computer skills that are essential for a satisfying career in business and office environments.

Workplace Essential Skills was a 30-hour program designed to increase literacy, employability and essential skill levels of people preparing to enter the workforce.

Overall, the programs were a success within the community, with great attendance and many graduates learning the skills they needed to enter the workforce.



IN THE NEWS

Showing their Skills

Skills Canada was held on January 31 in the Aerospace Hangar on the Dawson Creek Campus. Over 210 participants tested their skills before division winners had the opportunity to represent the Peace Region at the Skills BC provincial championships in Abbotsford. Two students, Hayden Stebing and Robert McMullin, won the gold medal in their electrical divisions provincially, moving on to represent the Peace Region at the national level in Toronto.

Donation used for transmission flush unit

Northern Lights College Automotive Service Technician students were dealt a "royal flush" by the New Car Dealers Foundation of British Columbia. The program, based at Dawson Creek's South Peace Campus, applied for funds available from the Foundation. On February 12, Jim Inkster, chair of the New Car Dealers Association of B.C., presented a cheque for \$2,880. The funds were be used to purchase a transmission flush unit for the program.

Career opportunities knock

Eighteen companies and non-profit organizations participated in Discover Careers, a job and networking

opportunity for students and community members, held on February 19 at the Fort St. John Campus of Northern Lights College. Hosted by the Student Recruiters, the event was well-attended, with instructors encouraging their students to ask questions about what types of career opportunities are in the Peace Region.

In March, nearly 100 people attended an education and career fair held at the Sauleau First Nation. The on-location event was open to the public, and hosted by Northern Lights College's Student Recruitment department for Aboriginal peoples interested in pursuing post-secondary training.

Let's Talk Energy

Energy conservation was the hot topic to celebrate during "Let's Talk Energy Week" in February. Visiting students took part in tours of Energy House on the Dawson Creek Campus, and other energy-related activities that taught them about energy conservation. NLC instructors provided demonstrations on various ways to save energy. At the end of the event, the students got to take part in a fun scavenger hunt designed by one of the Student Recruiters.

Awards for students

Over \$70,000 in awards were presented to students between the Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort Nelson and Fort St.

John Campuses in April and June. Many of the awards are memorial awards, while other awards are sponsored by community groups, businesses, and individuals. The awards are administered by the NLC Foundation, and were received by over 150 students between the four campuses.



Programs to be proud of

Two programs at Northern Lights College stood out this year. The first was the Professional Cook program, offering its Level 2 portion, allowing students to refine their skills from the entry-level portion of the trade. The second was the 20-week Plumbing Foundation (Enhanced) program, which allowed students to complete Levels 1 and 2 Plumber Apprenticeship technical training, and start towards a career as a Plumber and a Gasfitter. Most institutions offer these levels separately, but with NLC, students can get a head start on their career.



Partnership in safety training

In May, more than 80 Dawson Creek Secondary School students had the opportunity to benefit from a partnership between industry and education partners in the South Peace, and the Dawson Creek Chamber of Commerce. Grade 10 students were given a chance to complete Occupational First Aid Level 1 and H2S Alive training offered through the Workforce Training/Continuing Education department at Northern Lights College, helping the students prepare for employment in the area over the summer.



A "concrete" training opportunity

When it comes to getting "concrete" training as a carpenter, there literally is no better option than the Carpentry Foundation (Enhanced) program at Northern Lights College. For the sixth consecutive year, the students completed a house built with Insulated Concrete Forms, giving students a significant advantage – as the whole house is concrete, the students get to see a new type of structure. The students were involved in every aspect of the construction process, except the plumbing, electrical and drywall, before it was cleaned up and listed through a local realtor in April.

Support from industry

Students in three programs at Northern Lights College have benefited from a special \$7,500 award provided by the Spectra Energy Foundation to support trades programs. The funds supported students in the following programs: Wind Turbine Maintenance Technician – exam fees not included in regular program tuition were covered for seven students; Electrician: Skills Canada – competitors Robbie McMullin and Hayden Stebing received funds to help cover travel expenses to the national Skills Canada championships in Toronto; and Industrial Instrumentation Mechanic Level 3 Apprenticeship – a student's accommodation was covered while attending at the British Columbia Institute of Technology to complete a component of the Level 3 program.

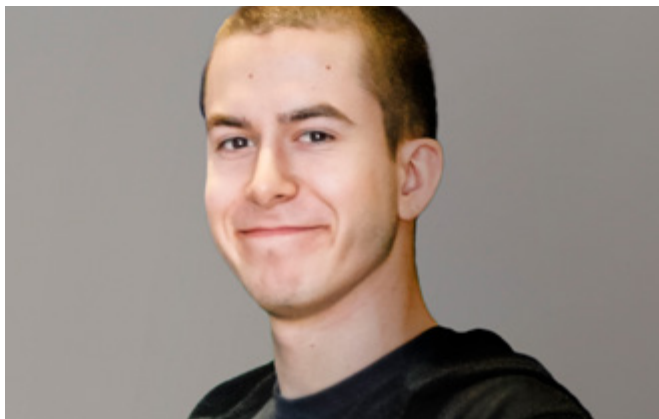


CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES

Convocations across the region

Dawson Creek, Fort Nelson and Fort St. John campuses held their convocations in June, seeing more than 850 graduates across the region. Chetwynd and Tumbler Ridge campuses took part in the Dawson Creek ceremony, while online students attended in Fort St. John.

Three special awards presented at convocation ceremonies were:



Lieutenant Governor's Silver Medal

Presented to David Hill, a graduate of the Aircraft Maintenance Engineering (AME) program at the Dawson Creek Campus. Hill achieved 89 per cent in the AME program, which he completed in January. In addition to his academic achievements, he served as president of NLC's Student Council, taking the lead in organizing many student events. Hill also regularly assisted other students, often serving as class representative.



Honorary Associate of Arts Degree

Allan P. Markin, a longtime philanthropist who played a significant role in the construction of the Jim Kassen Industry Training Centre, was conferred with an Honorary Associate of Arts Degree.

The Honorary Degree was conferred by Board of Governors chair Karen Simpson and NLC Vice President Academic and Research Dr. Peter Nunoda during Convocation ceremonies on June 20 at the North Peace Cultural Centre in Fort St. John. Markin became the 17th individual to receive an Honorary Degree from NLC.



Governor General's Collegiate Bronze Medal

Presented to Angela Dokken, a graduate of the Criminology Diploma program at the Dawson Creek Campus. Dokken achieved an overall Grade Point Average of 4.164.

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