

Down With Webster to play prom

Students at Toronto's Malvern Collegiate Institute went wild when they heard the news that Down With Webster, one of Canada's hottest bands, would be playing at their prom.

The school is getting this unique performance after it won the College Sounds Great contest, an online competition that asked students across the province to describe the benefits of a college education.

"When I found out that Malvern had won, it was the most unbelievable feeling," said Haley Coppins, a Malvern student who served as a contest ambassador for her school. "Words can't even describe how happy and amazed I am that all of our hard work paid off and our favourite band is going to be playing at our prom. It will be an incredible way to finish high school."

Down With Webster is a popular rap-rock group known for such hits as Your Man. The band will play at the school's prom on June 24.

The College Sounds Great contest was launched last December and ran until April. Students entered by submitting a photo and a 50 to 250 word paragraph, or by making a video, describing why college sounds like a great idea to them. The contest website had more than 30,000 visits from high school students.



The top 10 high schools with the biggest share of entries were selected May 5 and the entries were judged by Colleges Ontario, the organization sponsoring the contest on behalf of Ontario's 24 colleges.

We're excited to be playing in a school in the city we grew up in
 - Cameron Hunter,
 Down With Webster

Malvern's entries included a video submission set to Down With Webster's song, Time to Win. The students' video focused on some of the key reasons why colleges deliver excellent postsecondary education.

"We're excited to be playing a school in the city we grew up (and graduated) in," said Cameron Hunter, one of the band's MCs. "I think that everyone imagines what it would be like to revisit their high school prom, so it should be a really great night."

Linda Franklin, the president and CEO of Colleges Ontario, announced the final results at a special school assembly at Malvern on May 13.

"You are to be heartily congratulated for winning this contest," she told an ecstatic crowd. "Eighty-two high schools from across Ontario entered to describe why college sounds like a great idea to them. You had 72 articulate and convincing submissions and, I have to say, a killer video, which clinched the deal."

Feds boost applied research at colleges

The federal government has provided about \$3 million in funding to 11 Ontario colleges to boost their applied research activities.

The funding includes \$425,000 to support photonics and mechanical engineering at Niagara College.

"This funding enhances our ability to assist local industries through applied research," said Niagara College president Dan Patterson. "The investment shows that the government recognizes the important role colleges are playing to help industries innovate through applied research."

The new funding for colleges was announced

last month by Science and Technology Minister Gary Goodyear.

The other Ontario colleges receiving funding are Algonquin College in Ottawa, Centennial College in Toronto, Fanshawe College in London, George Brown College in Toronto, La

Government recognizes the important role colleges are playing
 - Dan Patterson,
 Niagara College

Cité collégiale in Ottawa, Lambton College in Sarnia, Mohawk College in Hamilton, Seneca College in Toronto, Sheridan College in Oakville and Fleming College in Peterborough.

Alexander McGlashan, the coordinator of the

Photonics Engineering Technology program at Niagara, said new equipment will give students an opportunity to work with cutting-edge equipment in the lighting industry.

"We will be able to give our students some very good expertise in those areas," McGlashan said.

Ottawa also reaffirmed its commitment to colleges' applied research activities in the 2011 federal budget released earlier this month.

The federal budget included \$80 million in new funding over three years to help small- and medium-sized businesses accelerate their adoption of key information and communications technologies through collaborative projects with colleges. It also announced funding to establish 30 new industrial research chairs at Canada's colleges.

Animation grad finds fame

Jamie Metzger has proven there's more than one route to Hollywood.

After she left high school, Metzger trained to be an actress. She acted for a few years but ultimately decided it wasn't the right career for her.

"Every audition I walked into was full of girls who looked just like me," the 29 year old says. "And looks do matter in the world of film and television."

Metzger ultimately decided to go back to her first love, animation. She enrolled in the animation program at Sheridan College in Oakville and was so successful she will be starting an internship this month at Pixar, the Disney powerhouse animation studio in Emeryville, California.

She says it's a dream job, allowing her to get recognition for her talent, rather than her appearance.

"You can be an 80-year-old man, or a frog. It doesn't matter what you look like to do animation," Metzger says.

"It's the job everyone wants," she says. "It's the icing on the cake...it's every cliché you can think of."

Although she had loved drawing when she was young, Metzger hired tutors and took extra drawing classes to support her animation studies.

"I came in as such an underdog. I hadn't drawn in seven years and I was the worst in my class."

Fortunately, she discovered her acting experience helped her animation work. "You have to bring those characters to life, you



must make them feel and emote. That's all acting."

Metzger has also enjoyed success beyond the Pixar internship. Her thesis film at Sheridan, Paso Doble, was one of six animation finalists at the Toronto International Film Festival Student Film Showcase last month.

"Animation is the right fit for me," Metzger says. "The people are fun and goofy and quirky. And you don't have to go to the gym every day."

Students learn from Disney

There's nothing Mickey Mouse about the professional internships at Walt Disney World.

Twelve first- and second-year business students from St. Lawrence College in Kingston are among an international group that has gone to the Disney resort in Florida to earn university credits while working at the theme park.

"I am so honored to be a part of St. Lawrence College's Disney Dozen," said John Relyea-Voss, a first-year Business Marketing student. "This internship gives me ... the unforgettable chance to gain real-world job experience that directly relates to my chosen career path."

Over the next six months, the students will

work towards earning 12 university credits from Florida State University that will count towards their business program at St. Lawrence. The students will live on campus

at Disney World and work in areas such as operations, merchandise, food and beverage, and entertainment.

St. Clair College in Windsor also partici-

pates in the program.

"I have vacationed with my family in Walt Disney World before and I absolutely loved it," said Rebecca Kirbyson, a first-year student at St. Lawrence who is studying Human Resources. "Everything is larger than life, exciting and memorable."

This internship gives me the unforgettable chance to gain real-world experience
- John Relyea-Voss, student

New president named

The board of governors at Confederation College in Thunder Bay has announced that Jim Madder will be the college's new president.

Madder is the former executive vice-president, academic, at Red Deer College. He replaces Patricia Lang, who is retiring.

Student journalists win

Loyalist College in Belleville was one of the big winners at last month's Ontario Community Newspapers Awards. Meagan Leonard, a print journalism graduate, placed first in the featuring writing category while fellow graduate Steve Pettibone finished third.

Loyalist also had the best college/university newspaper website and graduate Adam Gagnon won in the student photography category. Other graduates and publications recognized at the event were from Algonquin College in Ottawa, Durham College in Oshawa, and Centennial and Humber colleges in Toronto.

New hospitality program launched

Algonquin College has launched a new four-year bachelor degree program in hospitality and tourism management that is designed to help graduates land leadership positions at hotels, restaurants and resorts.

The program starts in September. People who already have a diploma in hospitality are eligible to directly enter the third year.

Video wins at research conference

A video by George Brown College student Edward Wong that describes a wind turbine project created by students at the Toronto college won the \$2,500 first prize at the Ontario Centres of Excellence's Discovery conference last month.

The contest was open to all postsecondary students enrolled at an Ontario college or university. Wong's video (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nWLHGgyi_ks) described a vertical axis wind turbine created in partnership with Green Syndications.

Job centre opens in Kapuskasing

Collège Boréal has officially opened a new Employment Options centre in Kapuskasing. The one-stop centre offers a full range of free bilingual services.

"Finding a job is a challenging and crucial step in a person's life," said Boréal president Denis Hubert-Dutrisac.

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