

Colleges promote sustainability

Ontario's colleges play a leading role in promoting the province's move to a green economy, developing cutting-edge programs to train people for a greener workplace and promoting sustainability on campuses through energy conservation and other measures.

This month, politicians at Queen's Park will learn just how much colleges are doing when they receive a new report, *Colleges Driving a Sustainable Future*, prepared by Colleges Ontario.

The report describes the contributions colleges are making in four areas: creating graduates with job-ready skills for green energy and the green economy; building partnerships with green innovators; providing green leadership in the community; and showcasing green facilities and equipment.

"Colleges are leaders in the shift towards a culture of sustainability, which requires the rapid introduction and expansion of new



green technologies and behaviours across Ontario," says Linda Franklin, president and CEO of Colleges Ontario.

The report cites 35 new diploma or certificate programs related to the green economy that have come online in the past three years, including 14 new programs being introduced

this fall. These programs include Green Business Management and Renewable Energies Technician.

Laura Formusa, the president and CEO of Hydro One, says she is proud of the partnership Hydro One has with four colleges – Algonquin College in Ottawa; Georgian College in Barrie; Mohawk College in Hamilton; and Northern College in Timmins – to train employees to operate and repair a hydro grid that must deliver energy more efficiently.

"Our experience working with these colleges has been extremely positive," Formusa says in the report. "We commend them for the enthusiasm and dedication they have demonstrated to developing meaningful programs to launch the long and successful careers for our future workers."

The green facilities at colleges that are highlighted in the report include the Suncor Sustainability Centre at Lambton College in Sarnia, and the \$1.1-million smart house being constructed at Fanshawe College in London.

"Environmental sustainability, energy conservation and innovation are core values of our colleges," says Franklin.

Ignatieff warns about "people without jobs"

Federal Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff is among the leaders warning about the unemployment crisis facing Ontario and the country due to an impending shortage of qualified employees.

"We think we're looking at a serious phenomenon – people without jobs and jobs without people," Ignatieff said recently to reporters in Ottawa. "That is, a labour shortage and high unemployment. We would invest much more in training and create incentives for employers to hire."

Ignatieff was referring to the report, *People Without Jobs, Jobs Without People*, prepared by Seneca College president emeritus Dr. Rick Miner. The report, which was prepared for Colleges Ontario and released earlier this year, predicts more than 700,000 people in Ontario will be unemployable by 2021 due to inadequate

skills and education.

The 700,000 who cannot get work will be in addition to the traditional levels of unemployment in the province, meaning more than 1.1-million people will be unemployed.

"The unemployment crisis will be far more severe than the current recession," Miner warned when the report was released in February.

Even worse, those people would be unem-

We're looking at a serious phenomenon
- Michael Ignatieff,
Liberal leader

ployed at the same time that employers are searching for qualified new people. Miner's report predicts about 1.3-million job openings in Ontario won't be filled because candidates for the positions aren't qualified.

Miner has also released national statistics about the jobs crisis. In his report, he says many of the jobs that can be done by unskilled



labour today will require skilled employees in the future due to technological innovations throughout the workplace.

Miner says politicians must develop strategies to increase the levels of education and training provided to the workforce.

Centennial pilot flies to top honour



James Pouget, a student of Centennial College's Professional Pilot Training program, was named the top amateur pilot in Canada after recently winning the 2010 Webster Memorial Trophy Competition in Calgary.

As the regional finalist representing eastern Ontario, Pouget impressed the judges during his 90-minute flight test, two-hour written examination and personal interview, beating out eight other finalists from across Canada.

A resident of Amherstburg, Pouget was going to study business, but the curriculum didn't meet his expectations. After a flying lesson in Windsor, he got hooked on the idea of becoming a pilot. He chose Toronto's Centennial College due to its one-year program.

"I'm a better learner with structure in my courses, and I liked the idea of concentrating

on flying in one condensed year rather than stretched out over three," says Pouget, 20.

Centennial's program includes 330 hours of ground school and 200 hours of flight time from Oshawa Municipal Airport, which is outside of the busy GTA airspace. Students earn a Transport Canada-approved certificate and graduates can go on to become a private aircraft pilot or commercial airline pilot.

Upon graduation, Pouget hopes to earn his flight instructor rating. Eventually, he'd like to become a commercial airline pilot.

Pouget's prizes include a bronze Webster Medallion, an Air Canada pass for two anywhere the airline flies, and a professional development day with the Snowbirds aerobatic team. He will be recognized at the annual general meeting of the Air Transport Association of Canada in Vancouver in November.

Higher education improves earnings

A new report from the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO) confirms that obtaining a college or university education improves a person's earning potential. The report found the gap in earnings between postsecondary graduates and those who completed only high school nearly doubled over 20 years.

Funding for new technology

Training, Colleges and Universities Minister John Milloy recently announced more than \$500,000 in funding for state-of-the-art technology equipment at Mohawk College in Hamilton.

"The world is changing, the needs of the workforce are changing," Milloy said. "You can't train students for tomorrow's jobs using yesterday's equipment."

Online training hits milestone

OntarioLearn.com, a consortium that began in 1995 to provide Ontario college courses online, recently registered its 65,000th student.

OntarioLearn.com ranks as the largest provider of online courses in North America, with more than 1,300 college courses that range from business, health, human services, communication, and technology to recreation and leisure. Twenty-two Ontario colleges are part of OntarioLearn.com.

Chinese leaders learn from Ontario

A delegation of several presidents and vice-presidents from vocational and technical institutions in China recently visited Centennial College in Toronto as part of a tour of Canada. The delegation learned about leadership strategies and governance.

Help provided to skilled immigrants

The Ontario government is providing \$1.7 million to Algonquin College and La Cité collégiale in Ottawa for programs that help skilled immigrants find work in their fields. The support will help immigrants trained in fields such as engineering and construction.

Partnership supports improvements

Collège Boréal in Sudbury has entered a new research partnership to improve productivity, maintenance and safety in mining through innovations in wireless technology. The college and its partner, Symbioticware, will research opportunities to allow more manufacturing to be automated.

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Innovative news site launched

Algonquin College has launched a website that promotes innovative new ways to generate news stories in Ottawa.

The new site, GoJournalism.ca, responds to the realities of journalism today, including less space for news in most print newspapers, the immediacy of all-news TV stations and news websites, the hiring of fewer reporters in mainstream media, and a declining emphasis on investigative and enterprise journalism.

The site invites news publishers, freelance journalists, and the public to share story ideas that may be of interest to Ottawa readers. These story ideas are then posted on the site and will be written once they have received a certain level of donation-based funding, as determined by the author.

"Since the traditional news media are losing revenue and cutting back on coverage, the

journalistic community must find innovative ways to keep the public informed," says Russell Mills, dean of the Faculty of Arts, Media, and Design at Algonquin College, and former publisher of the Ottawa Citizen. "We look forward to telling more stories that are of interest to our communities and we also expect to learn a

We are excited to bring this new brand of news gathering and dissemination north of the border
- Joe Banks,
Algonquin College

great deal about community journalism from this project."

"GoJournalism.ca is the first of its kind in Canada," says Joe Banks, journalism professor at Algonquin College, and GoJournalism.ca project director. "We've seen this model be successful in the U.S., and we are excited to bring this new brand of news gathering and dissemination north of the border."

This site will also allow traditional media outlets to buy exclusive rights to a story, provided they agree to pay 51 per cent or more of the total freelance fee.