



October 22, 2008

Keyano College and Northern Lakes College host Mobile Crane & Hoist industry reception

Fort McMurray, AB

Keyano College and Northern Lakes College signed a Memorandum of Understanding on October 21 for a Mobile Crane & Hoist Apprenticeship Program. The event celebrated the collaboration between the two colleges, industry and government. The Government of Alberta contributed approximately \$1.4 million to help make this type of training in Northern Alberta a reality. Staff, faculty, and Governors from both colleges, as well as representatives from government were on hand for the occasion.

The Mobile Crane Operator program will be offered through Keyano College while the Boom Truck Operator program will be offered through Northern Lakes College. The Mobile Crane operator program features first and third-year technical training and two cohorts of 12 apprentices each. Northern Lakes College is developing the curriculum for the Boom Truck program and will begin the first of 6 program offerings in the spring. Students in the Boom Truck program will complete 5 weeks of technical training and minimum of 1200 hours of on the job training taking place over the course of one year.

"The expansion of crane and hoisting equipment operator apprenticeship technical training will give Albertans living and working in northern Alberta an opportunity to train closer to home and help meet employer demands for more apprenticeship technical training across Alberta," said Brian Bickley, Chair of the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board.

Cindy Amerongen, Keyano's Vice President of External Relations relayed a message from Doug Horner, Minister of Advanced Education and Technology that congratulated Keyano College and Northern Lakes for making this program a reality. "Helping Alberta apprentices access training opportunities in high demand trades is a priority for our government," said Horner. "We're thrilled with the collaboration between Keyano College and Northern Lakes College to deliver this technical training and applaud their commitment to Campus Alberta.

Rick Neidig, President and CEO Northern Lakes College said he was pleased with the partnership and impressed by the work of the employees involved from both institutes, the support from Apprenticeship & Industry Training, and industry. "Getting a program like this up and running is no simple task," Neidig stated. "We are excited about this opportunity to meet the demand for trained operators."

Keyano College Board Chair, John Wilson echoed similar sentiments. He said Mobile Crane & Hoist is a perfect example of collaboration between industry, government and both colleges. "We responded to and understood industry need for this Program which is in high demand locally. This is also a perfect model of collaboration for future programs," Wilson enthused.

For more information

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