



NEWS RELEASE

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WORLDSKILLS 2009 LEGACY DONATED TO NORTHERN LAKES COLLEGE

Every two years, hundreds of the best young professionals from trades, service and technical programs around the world gather to showcase their talents and abilities. This thrilling, high-performance, four-day WorldSkills Competition is the biggest event of its kind in the world, with over 51 member countries/regions represented.

This year, a part of the legacy of the WorldSkills Calgary 2009 competition will be left in the hands of Northern Lakes College.

The Government of Alberta is a proud supporter of the WorldSkills Calgary 2009 competition, and has selected Northern Lakes College as a donor recipient of equipment for IT Software Applications and Web Design. This aligns with Northern Lakes College strategic direction to provide quality programs and support relevant community needs

President Rick Neidig says "We're pleased that the Government of Alberta was the sponsor of such a high caliber event. The benefit to our Alberta high school students was immense and now that it's over institutions like ours benefit from the redistribution of the equipment." The increased availability of state-of-the-art equipment will provide Northern Lakes College students with access to high-quality education opportunities that will help them become more knowledgeable with the latest technology and techniques used by employers.

"Students will have more opportunities to try their hand with world-class equipment, just like the equipment used in today's workforce," said Doug Horner, Minister of Advanced Education and Technology. "Our students, who are our next generation workforce, will gain real-world experience in high-demand careers."

As a legacy from the international competition, the Government of Alberta has distributed \$16 million in equipment to upgrade trades and technology classrooms and labs in schools and post-secondary training providers across the province.

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Northern Lakes College offers Information Technology Analyst (ITAP), a program that will likely benefit the most from the donation. The ITAP program trains students in the practical knowledge of computer systems necessary to support and maintain their use in business and industry. There are several areas that students may choose to specialize including network support, multimedia design, security and information management. This equipment will be located in labs across the region.

Northern Lakes College has campuses in over 30 communities across north-central Alberta. Programs range from upgrading to careers, from university to apprenticeship trades. Flexible learning opportunities include full time or part time options. As well many classes are offered to students online or using various technologies including video conferencing.

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