



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Northern Lakes College - student numbers continue to climb

**April 1, 2014** – Northern Lakes College has seen a sharp increase in student enrolments for the 2013/2014 academic year.

Higher student numbers this year follows a trend at the college over the past few years. The increase in full-time student equivalents for this academic year is between five to seven percent, with a total of over 1,300 students enrolled in credit programs. The Power Engineering, Social Work and Crane and Hoisting programs are showing the fastest growth this year. This is not the first year that these programs have seen significant growth; the Power Engineering program grew from 220 students in the 2011/2012 academic year to 316 in 2012/2013. This year, the Power Engineering program has 384 students. The Social Work program has almost doubled since 2011/2012, from 37 students to 62 in the current academic year. In the same time frame, the Crane and Hoisting program has grown from 76 students to 96.

Last year, the largest increase was in the Survey Theory and Calculations Program. This program grew from 387 students in the 2011/2012 academic year to 487 students in the 2012/2013 school year, including many students from outside of Canada.

The student enrolments in the health care and business programs have increased steadily over the last few years and are maintaining those strong numbers. During the last academic year, the Medical Receptionist program grew from 55 to 85 students, and the Emergency Medical Responder program grew from 54 to 75 students.

Part-time learning continues to grow, making up 55 per cent of this year's fall enrolment. The increasing numbers related to part-time learners are directly related to an increasing number of people looking for greater flexibility in pursuing their educational goals.

"Northern Lakes College has seen annual increases in student enrolment over the past several years," said Ann Everatt, President and CEO of Northern Lakes College. "As we examine the enrolment pattern of programs reporting exceptional growth, we see a direct correlation to skills shortages and employment opportunities in our region and beyond. Northern Lakes College continues to focus on providing regional access to relevant programs to meet this demand. We are expecting to see a continuation of this trend over the next several years."

Typically, program enrolments are not strong in times of economic growth, as many potential students choose work over a longer term investment in their education. However, Northern Lakes College, through the offering of relevant programs accessible to students throughout the Northern Lakes College region, has been able to reverse this trend.

*Northern Lakes College has campuses in over 25 communities across northern Alberta. Programs range from upgrading to career studies, university transfer and apprenticeship trades.*

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