



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Slave Lake, Alberta [June 7, 2016]

NLC Graduating Class of 2016 Celebrates the “Best Day of My Life”

Northern Lakes College proudly celebrated the success of 1385 students on June 3rd, 2016. Friends and family celebrated student achievements at the Convocation ceremony held in Slave Lake, Alberta at the Multi-Rec Centre. Eight hundred and ninety-three credit students and an additional 492 continuing education program students celebrated graduation this year. The theme of the ceremony was commemorated with the celebratory tune “Best Day of My Life” by America Authors.

Following Canada’s national anthem, Elder David Matilpi led opening evocation with prayer. Master of Ceremonies Amy Saitz welcomed all attendees and introduced a number of dignitaries including Daniel Vandermeulen, Chair Board of Governors; Colin Piquette, MLA for Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater, Debbie Jabour, MLA for Peace River and keynote speaker Tyler Warman, Mayor of Slave Lake.

Ann Everatt, President and CEO of Northern Lakes College, congratulated the graduating class of 2016 with words of motivation and optimism “Today we celebrate your accomplishments and reflect upon your achievements. Today is your day and you’ve worked hard to get here. Remember the lessons you have learned and don’t be afraid to seek new understanding. You have the support of hundreds behind you - look around, everyone in this room is excited for you.”

Chosen by her peers for demonstrating determination and strength following personal loss, Valedictorian Lindsey Goodswimmer encouraged her classmates to persevere. She expressed her strong belief in the ability to succeed in her message to fellow grads. “Never give up. You can achieve anything if you want it bad enough” said Lindsey. Lindsey has completed her academic upgrading and will continue on with her studies in Business Administration.

Mayor of Slave Lake, Tyler Warman, delivered the keynote message, speaking of the unpredictability of life and the gift of lessons learned. “I am very honored to be asked to deliver the keynote address,” he said. “It is my sincerest hope that by sharing the story of my journey in life, grads might take something away that will benefit them. At the very least, I am excited to offer Northern Lakes College’s Class of 2016 my sincerest congratulations.”

Awards were given to students in recognition of outstanding achievement in a variety of areas. Of these, Bailey Lamarche was awarded the Board of Governors Scholarship, a prize honoring the exemplification of “the

philosophy of life long learning". Quentin L'Hirondelle was awarded the Board of Governors Leadership Award, and Ashleigh Laderoute received the Doreen Bellerose Memorial Award for her effort in overcoming obstacles to succeed in personal education. Social Work graduate Jacklyn Deley received both the Governor General's Collegiate Bronze Medal for highest academic standing in a diploma program and the Louise McKinney Scholarship for academic achievement. Donny Yellowknee received the Mabel Grey Award for his achievements in the Academic Upgrading program and for his contribution to a positive learning environment at the Atikameg Campus. Deanna Nanooch received the Student Convocation Award for high academic achievement, and Lilian Beland, Smoky River CEC, received the Friend of Northern Lakes College award for her commitment to the success of students and dedication to volunteerism and community contribution.

The Practical Nursing students celebrated on the evening before with a traditional Capping and Pinning Ceremony. The ceremony is a 150 year old tradition that is conducted in candlelight, and each nursing student is presented with a nursing cap and pin. In 2016, 45 Practical Nurse students from Barrhead, Peace River, Slave Lake and Grande Prairie graduated.



Students celebrating Convocation

Northern Lakes College is a Comprehensive Community Institution offering certificate and diploma programs in Business, Health Sciences, Human Services, Technology, Trades, University Studies and Academic Upgrading. The College collaborates with Campus Alberta partners to offer degree completion opportunities throughout its service region, including a Bachelor of Education. Northern Lakes College also provides a wide variety of certificate programs through its Continuing Education and Corporate Training Department.