



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 28, 2018

Slave Lake, Alberta

NLC Partners with Five School Divisions to offer New Dual Credit Opportunities

Northern Lakes College (NLC) is pleased to announce that it is offering new Dual Credit opportunities in collaboration with five school divisions. Partnering with Northern Lakes College are the Peace Wapiti School Division, the Peace River School Division, the Grande Prairie Public School District, the Grande Prairie Catholic School District and the KTC Educational Authority. Each division received a \$50,000 grant to implement new Dual Credit opportunities in their schools.

“We are excited about our collaboration with the school divisions and the difference the Dual Credit programs will make for high school students transitioning to post-secondary learning and connecting to labour market opportunities, said Cyndy Lorincz, Dean of Student Services at Northern Lakes College. “By expanding the number of learner pathways, we anticipate that high school students will be able to enhance their learning and work towards completing their high school diploma while gaining advancement towards a NLC post-secondary credential.”

The partnership idea was formed after the five school divisions applied for Alberta Education Dual Credit Start-up Funding Grants. Each division identified new Dual Credit opportunities for their high school students. Northern Lakes College was invited to collaborate with the school divisions because they offer programs of interest with a flexible delivery model.

Darren Young, Assistant Superintendent from the Peace Wapiti School Division, said, “Our schools face challenges in finding qualified applicants to fill educational assistant positions. The Educational Assistant Program offered by NLC is ideal for those wishing to work with children in a school setting. We see this Dual Credit program as a great opportunity to meet our own staffing needs and to provide our rural schools with the ability to offer a variety of programs to our students.”

Dual Credit programming helps students transition from high school to post-secondary and apprenticeship programs. Jeff Thompson, Supervisor of Teaching and Learning from the Peace River School Division said, “Alberta Education’s Dual Credit Program provides an excellent opportunity for high school students to access post-secondary programs while simultaneously earning credits to meet high school graduation

requirements.” Students also gain valuable, hands-on experiences that link learning to future careers.

Kimberly Frykas, Director of Instruction for Grades 7-12 at Grande Prairie Public School District, says the Introduction to Surveying Program will provide students with a solid foundation of survey theory and the confidence to perform routine surveying tasks. “Graduates will qualify for entry-level surveying positions where they can continue to expand their knowledge and career opportunities.”

Planning is well underway; the Peace River School Division will be offering the Health Care Aide program to students. The Peace Wapiti School Division, Grande Prairie Public School Division, and the Grande Prairie and District Catholic Schools will be offering the Health Care Aide program, Introduction to Surveying, and the Educational Assistant program. “This Dual Credit partnership with Northern Lakes College will give many students the chance to earn certification and skills that will set them on a path for success in our local region,” said, Jacques LeCerf, Off-Campus Coordinator, Grande Prairie Catholic School District. The KTC Educational Authority has not yet specified their programs. All Dual Credit opportunities are anticipated to start September 2018.



Photo: Dual Credit Students inside the NLC Mobile Trades Lab

Northern Lakes College is a multi-campus college located in northern Alberta and is focused on providing relevant, quality programs through a distributed learning model, serving over 6,000 students annually. To meet regional needs, NLC offers a wide range of certificate and diploma programs in Business, Health Sciences and Allied Health, 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 and a Bachelor of Social Work. Northern Lakes College also provides a wide variety of professional accreditation and certificate programs through its Continuing Education and Corporate Training Department. Northern Lakes College houses the Woodland Operations Learning Foundation (WOLF) to provide Forestry and related post-secondary and professional development programs.

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