

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Million dollar announcement made at official CLC groundbreaking ceremony

May 25, 2006 – The Olds College Students’ Association presented the Community Learning Campus (CLC) governance team with a cheque for \$1.01 million dollars at the official groundbreaking ceremony yesterday.

The student investment was announced at the official groundbreaking ceremony for the eLearning Core, the first of five CLC structures to be built on the Olds College campus. Funding is set for the entire \$52.3 million project, with a majority of the investment made by the Alberta Government. Ministers from four different government departments joined in the May 24th groundbreaking festivities.

“Being the only one of its kind in Canada, the CLC will create many opportunities for current and future students in Alberta,” said the Honourable Denis Herard, Minister of Advanced Education. “It will help fan the flame of countless students and turn them on to the myriad of opportunities available to them and help them become the best that they can be... When a turned-on student finds his or her calling, it can get nurtured and grow into a passion for learning and a passion for life. The CLC will increase the quality of our education system by providing high school students easy access and a seamless transition into the advanced education environment, and that is precisely what is needed today. The new campus will be a tremendous support for rural students who wish to stay and study in rural Alberta, establishing roots and growing the community.”

The Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, Minister of Education, indicated the CLC touches each of the four pillars unveiled in the Alberta Government’s “Go Alberta” strategy. The CLC shares the government’s priorities in unleashing innovation, leading in learning, ensuring we are able to compete globally and making Alberta the best place to work, to live and to visit.

“This particular project will certainly fulfill that,” said the Honourable Zwozdesky. “We in Alberta Education are very proud to be one of your partners. This fits so extremely well with our overall rural development strategy. What you are doing here is so integral, it speaks to the heart of what that strategy is all about... You have done a great amount of work to futher a legacy on behalf of countless students who will be forever grateful to you. On behalf of our government and our Ministry of Education, so are we.”

Much of the government’s \$38 million commitment for the CLC was invested by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transportation. “This is a tremendous day, when we dig into the ground and allow the vision for the CLC to sprout,” said The Honourable Ty Lund, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation. “This is all for students – all for people to learn... I can assure you, we will be talking about this institution all around North America.”

The funds invested by the Olds College Students’ Association will be directed to the establishment of a Student Leadership Centre within the eLearning Core.

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