

Government announces funding for Community Learning Campus

OLDS, ALBERTA, June 23, 2005 – Olds College's Capital Campaign was propelled forward today with the announcement of a funding plan in support of a \$37 million commitment by the Provincial Government towards the Community Learning Campus. Total funding for the project is \$47 million, with the additional support to come from various community stakeholders.

For more information on Olds College, please visit our Web site at www.oldscollege.ca, or call toll free at 1-800-661-6537. To obtain accompanying photographs please contact Sandy Bexon.

CONTACT:

Sandy Bexon
Communications Coordinator
Olds College Advancement
1-800-661-6537 or (403) 507-7714
sbexon@oldscollege.ca

Kerry Moynihan, Director
Marketing and Government Relations
Olds College Advancement
1-800-661-6537, (403) 507-7710
or (403) 710-3858 (cell)
kmoynihnan@oldscollege.ca

About Olds College:

Founded in 1913, Olds College is the premier comprehensive applied agricultural, horticultural, land and environmental management learning organization in Canada. Located 45 minutes north of Calgary, Olds College prepares students to contribute provincially, nationally and internationally through careers in agriculture, horticulture, environmental land management, agribusiness, and rural entrepreneurship. Olds College provides certificate, diploma and applied degree programs, and participates with other institutions in offering post-diploma degrees. Olds College is further dedicated to nurturing innovation, learning, applied research and commercialization for agribusiness through the School of Innovation.

The Honourable Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation, was on campus to make the announcement at Olds College's Report to the Community event. He indicated \$6.9 million will be committed immediately, with details of the remaining \$30 million to be released by the government within the next few weeks. The Community Learning Campus (CLC), one of six major capital campaign projects underway, will see four structures built on the Olds College campus: the Core High School (grades 9-12), eLearning Core, Health & Wellness Facility, and Fine Arts & Multi Media Centre.

"This truly is an innovative and creative project that has my complete support as well as the support of many of my colleagues," said Minister Oberg. "This project, upon completion, will revolutionize the educational landscape in the Province of Alberta."

Industry and government leaders joined community neighbours at the Report to the Community. Board of Governors' Chair Stirling McLeod highlighted successes of the past year, while President H.J. (Tom) Thompson provided a glimpse of where Olds College is heading over the next three to four years.

Mark McLoughlin, Vice-President Advancement, introduced the Capital Campaign Caucus that will steer the development of six major projects. Alice and Bert Brown, who have worked diligently to inspire social change and political reform for many years, were introduced as Campaign Co-Chairs. Bert Brown has been twice-elected to Alberta's unique position of Senator-In-Waiting, and Alice Brown has twice been honoured by the Calgary YWCA for her contributions to the advancement of women.

The Campaign Caucus is comprised of nearly 20 prominent individuals and associations. Together with Olds College faculty and staff, the Campaign Caucus will work to develop The Centre for the Horticulture Industry, The Canadian Equine Centre of Innovation™, the Olds College Calgary Campus, the Olds College School of Innovation, the Land Agent Industry Partnership, and the Community Learning Campus.

"Our commitment to nurturing our important partnerships, to setting a distinct culture and to creating the best student experiences available has never been stronger," said H.J. (Tom) Thompson, Olds College President and CEO.

Please visit www.oldscollege.ca for details.