

COMMUNITY learningcampus

GOVERNANCE TEAM

H.J. (Tom) Thompson - CLC Chair
President, Olds College

Jim Gibbons - CLC Vice-Chair
Superintendent - CESD

Judy Dahl
Mayor, Town of Olds

Al Kemmere
Reeve, Mountain View County

Jackie Swainson
Trustee, CESD Board of Education

Dave Price
Vice-Chair, OC Board of Governors

Dr. Joyce Bainbridge
University of Alberta

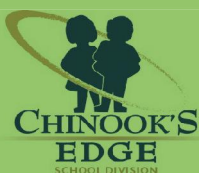
Cody LaRocque
Olds College Students Association

Joe Crawford
Student Rep, Olds High School

Karol Jorgensen
Parent Representative

Garth Dagg
Instructional Rep, Olds High School

Neil French
Instruction Rep, Olds College



Partner of the Year

Chinook's Edge School Division named Olds College's 2006 Partner of the Year

Chinook's Edge School Division has been named Olds College's 2006 Partner of the Year.

"Chinook's Edge and Olds College have shared some very exciting moments over the past two years, as we've worked together to make our vision for a Community Learning Campus a reality," said Roy Brassard, Chair of Chinook's Edge School Division Board, as he accepted the honour.

"We have worked hard, and together we have accomplished a great deal. Our determination and shared vision is set to revolutionize learning in this province, and our partnership will lead to untold opportunities for learners. It is a great pleasure for me to be here and to thank you on behalf of everyone from Chinook's Edge School Division, who shares your dedication to learning.

Olds College and Chinook's Edge have partnered successfully on several projects over the years, and the Community Learning Campus (CLC) is the culmination of that rewarding history. The CLC is a \$47 million project that will see four structures built on the Olds College campus: the



Chair of CESD Roy Brassard, speaks to the honour.

Core High School (grades 9-12), eLearning Core, Health & Wellness Facility, and Fine Arts & Multi Media Centre.

"The sharing of community facilities, expertise and technology through Olds College, Chinook's Edge School Division and our respective partners is creating a world-class learning environment," said Stirling McLeod, Chair of the Olds College Board of Governors.

"We wanted to pioneer a seamless system that will take high school students smoothly into the challenges of college, technical and university programming. The type of collaboration the college has enjoyed with Chinook's Edge has substantially increased opportunities for student success. The CLC, and this partnership that brought it to life, will serve as a model for all of Alberta and we are proud to name Chinook's Edge our Partner of the Year.



President of Olds College H.J. (Tom) Thompson, CESD Chair Roy Brassard, and CESD Superintendent Jim Gibbons.



Mayor Judy Dahl presents CESD Board Chair, Roy Brassard, with the award.

CLC Director comes home to Olds

Dot Negropontes has accepted a temporary posting as Director of the Community Learning Campus (CLC), a role that will bring her home to Olds.

Negropontes, who was born and raised in Olds, will be familiar to residents throughout the area for her role as Assistant Superintendent of Chinook's Edge School Division. She has led and influenced the delivery of education in the region for years through her previous positions as vice-principal of Olds Junior-Senior High and principal of Deer Meadow School, a middle school which opened its doors under her direction. She is currently enrolled in a doctoral program in educational leadership at the University of Calgary, and accepted the CLC role when Director Rob Mackenzie requested a leave of absence to tend to a family health matter.

"I have believed strongly in the CLC project from the very first conversation and feel privileged to be part of the leadership team at this level," said Negropontes, whose appointment as CLC Director took effect on March 20, 2006.

"I came to know Rob Mackenzie when we were co-chairs of the CLC Steering Committee. I have an enormous amount of respect for him, both as a person and as such a steadfast believer in the CLC vision. He is a gentle and gracious leader who has brought the CLC vision to life and I am very happy to be able to help out in this way.

"When I watched the passion of the community as residents came together to discuss the CLC vision, I knew I was involved in an absolutely phenomenal project. The sense of community extended well beyond Olds, and has come to include incredibly strong support from within several Ministries of the Alberta Government.

Together we are building something that is truly world-class, and the opportunity to create this level of learning opportunities for all students will be a highlight of my career.

A mandate within CLC Governance ensures that the role of Director and that of Chair includes representation from both Chinook's Edge School Division and Olds College. The transition in Director therefore moves Olds College Presi-

dent H.J. (Tom) Thompson into the role of CLC Chair and Chinook's Edge Superintendent Jim Gibbons into the position of Vice-Chair.

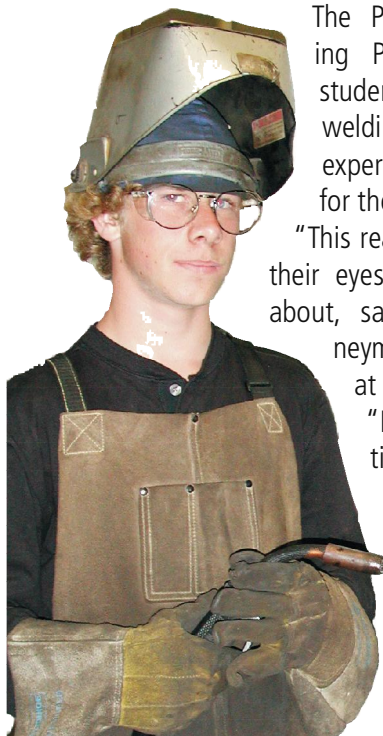
"I feel that Dot has been working as co-captain of CLC planning from the very beginning and her belief in the Community Learning Campus is complete and genuine," said Thompson. "Dot is a deeply committed leader in education and she is well versed with the breadth and depth of the CLC mandate. She is held in very high regard and the Community Learning Campus is in extraordinarily competent hands.



Dot Negropontes and CESD Chair, Roy Brassard, look over the CLC model.

Opportunity for Rural Students

Learners glimpse a flash of opportunity



The Pre-Employment Welding Program has allowed students to get a feel for welding and gain hands-on experience to prepare them for the workplace.

"This really gets them to open their eyes to see what it's all about," said Ron Kingsbury, Journeyman Welding Instructor at Olds College.

"If they can afford the time commitment, this is quite an opportunity for them.

A partnership between Olds College and Chinook's Edge School Division and funding from Alberta

Apprenticeship has made it possible for a high school student to graduate and receive a certificate marking the completion of Pre-Employment Welding (1st period Welding Apprenticeship Technical as outlined in the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Course outline), which is very attractive to employers.

Students attend regular high school classes in the mornings and then attend Olds College for Welding Technical training in the afternoons, gaining approximately 480 hours of instruction.

"It's pretty cool because you get a head start. I've done some welding in shop class at school, but this is a little different. This is a

skill that I can always use, even if it is just out on the farm," said Steven Jole, a CESD student who has participated in the program.

"I just wanted the experience to try it out and see if I liked it," said another student, Todd Williams, who added that the instructor was very knowledgeable and made the course enjoyable.

"I'm looking to get my first year under my belt," said student, Colt Gunderson.

Instructor Ron Kingsbury added that the program is geared for each student to learn at their own speed and that they can use this as a stepping stone in their careers.

Conversation with Bruce Jilk, internationally renowned architect based in Minnesota

Mr. Jilk is known for building innovative learning environments and is often referred to as a "cutting edge" educational facility planner. He assisted recently as Community Learning Campus (CLC) planners, architects, technicians and representatives from various stakeholder groups came together for a design retreat at the end of February. He was working with Dr. George Copa, special advisor to the CLC who has assisted schools, colleges and state education agencies worldwide to implement educational redesign, updating and revitalization efforts. We had the opportunity to chat with Mr. Jilk and this is a portion of our conversation.



Dr. George Copa (left) and Bruce Jilk.

What is your role at this design retreat?

I have worked many times with George Copa and he is very good at bringing out what the business of education should be about. We also have architects who are good designers, so my role is to be a bridge between the two. I hope to have provided opportunities for some stimulating idea exchanges and to have inspired people working on the CLC to continue being provocative in their vision.

How do you feel about the Community Learning Campus (CLC) project?

People are working very hard to expand the possibilities for learning here. There has been a lot of design work already accomplished and this session has been about opening up an environment that enables learners to accomplish many different things and to make learning highly relevant.

Do you feel we are building something that reflects this community's spirit?

I have a lot of faith in George Copa and that he is continuing to bring this community's values to the table. People here seem to be keeping the possibilities open, which is something I always reinforce. This is a developmental process and to realize a project's full potential you have to keep working on it. We are doing the work of revisiting the full potential and the evolution of the structure, and what takes place inside that structure never stops. I am still involved with the School of Environmental Studies process in Apple Valley, MN, and that structure has been built for 10 years. It's what you do, not what you plan to do that's important. You want the bricks and mortar to support that, and not to become a limiting environment. I sense that the scope of this project will touch many people.

Do you think the Community Learning Campus project is moving forward well?

This group is definitely doing very well and I feel the plans are exactly where they should be. Some people are creative while others are cautious, and we need both of those to balance the decisions. I am very impressed with this group. They share a goal to make decisions primarily in the interest of the learner and teacher.

CLC wins international design award

The Community Learning Campus (CLC) has won an international design concept award for its innovative educational design and community partnerships. The award was presented by the Council of Educational Facility Planners International at an annual conference in San Antonio, Texas. The CLC, which was one of nine school concepts considered from across the United States, was selected because it "exemplifies the community-learning concept, serves as a centre of excellence, and has renewed enthusiasm for this rural county. Group 2 Architecture Engineering Interior Design created the CLC designs and submitted the project for the award consideration.

"It is very gratifying to see the international education community acknowledging the CLC's potential," said Project Architect, Craig Webber. "This type of recognition reinforces the importance of the CLC to Olds, Central Alberta and the province. The project has caught the imagination of school boards around the world.

"Jury members were impressed with the CLC's focus on students, the community, rural growth, seamless transition and lifelong learning. It is a truly integrated concept that will inspire a new generation of learners who want to live and work in the communities where they were born or raised.

**Stay Tuned
for the upcoming
CLC
Groundbreaking
Ceremony
Spring 2006**

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