

June X, 2005

World experts gather in Calgary to discuss e-learning ***OECD and Alberta government host conference on technology in higher learning***

Calgary... Experts from around the world will gather in Calgary later this month to share ideas about e-learning in post-secondary education. The conference, to be held June 26-28, is being jointly hosted by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Alberta government.

“E-learning is a new frontier in higher learning,” said Advanced Education Minister Dave Hancock, who will address the conference on June 26. “This conference will be a great opportunity to learn more about what’s happening with e-learning around the world. It will also be a good chance to showcase the cutting-edge work happening right here in our province in e-learning and distance education, like e-campus Alberta and the Alberta SuperNet.”

The conference will include key speakers from around the world, such as Dr. Kuzvinetsa Peter Dzvimbo of The African Virtual University, Dr. Jeong Taik Lee of The Korea Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training, Dr. Manuel Fernando Palácios of Brazil’s Ministry of Education, and Alberta’s Dr. Terry Anderson of Athabasca University. The conference brings together policy makers, institutional decision makers, practitioners, researchers, and industry leaders in the field of e-learning to discuss major e-learning topics, share best practices and identify opportunities for research and collaboration.

The basis for the conference is a new report from the OECD called *E-learning in Tertiary Education: Where do we Stand?* Written in partnership with the Observatory on Borderless Higher Education, the report is based on 19 case studies from 13 different countries. The report will be highlighted and discussed at the three-day conference.

“E-learning is a field which changes shape and direction quickly”, said Tom Schuller, Head of the OECD’s Centre for Educational Research and Innovation. “This report gives a sense of the strategic issues facing governments and institutions as they grapple with future options.”

The conference, to be held at the TELUS Convention Centre in Calgary, is open to media and will include speakers from around the world. Full conference information is available at:
<http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/oecd2005>

- 30 -

Note: Media wishing to attend should contact Susan Williams at (780) 422-5400 to be put on the registration list.

For further information contact:

Michael Shields
Advanced Education Communications
(780) 422-5400
To be connected toll free dial 310-0000

Delphine Grandrieux
OECD
delphine.grandrieux@oecd.org

About this Conference

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Governments of Canada and the Government of Alberta are co-hosting a conference on E-Learning in Post-Secondary Education. The conference is being held in Calgary, Alberta from June 26-28, 2005.

The purpose of the OECD/Canada conference is to bring together policy makers from governments, higher education institutions, and private sector trainers to identify and discuss policy opportunities and challenges as they relate to post-secondary e-learning.

The Organizing Committee is comprised of partners from:

- Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC)
- Alberta Advanced Education
- Human Resources and Skills Development Canada
- Industry Canada
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- CANARIE
- Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC)
- Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC)
- E-Campus Alberta
- Athabasca University
- Alberta Education

Conference Speakers

Don Tapscott	President, New Paradigm Learning Corporation
Dr. Richard Garrett	Deputy Director, Observatory on Borderless Higher Education, UK
Dr. Stéphan Vincent-Lancrin	Analyst, OECD/CERI
Sir John Daniel	President and CEO, Commonwealth of Learning, Canada
Dr. Margaret Haughey	Associate Dean, Graduate Studies and Research, University of Alberta
Dr. Terry Anderson	Professor/Canada Research Chair in Distance Education, Athabasca University
Dr. Tony Bates	President, Tony Bates Associates Ltd.
Gisèle Chrétien	President, Collège Boréal
Dr. Kuzvinetsa Peter Dzvimbó	Rector, The African Virtual University
Dr. Ulf-Daniel Ehlers	Coordinator European Research, University of Duisberg-Essen
Dr. Gabriel Ferrate	Rector, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya
Ms. Maruja Gutiérrez-Díaz	Head of Unit, European Commission-Directorate General, Education and Culture
Dr. Jeong Taik Lee	Senior Research Fellow, The Korea Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training
Dr. Paul LeFrere	Executive Director e-learning, Microsoft EMEA (Europe, Middle East, Africa)
	Professor of e-learning, University of Tampere, Finland
Dr. Manuel Fernando Palácios	Director for the Development of Higher Education, Secretary of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Brazil
Dr. Malcolm Read	Executive Secretary, UK Joint Information Systems Committee
Dr. Tom Schuller	Head of OECD/CERI
Dr. Candace Thille	Project Director, Carnegie Mellon University's Open Learning Initiative
Dr. Carol Twigg	Executive Director, National Centre for Academic Transformation

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development is a unique forum where the governments of 30 market democracies work together to address the economic, social, environmental and governance challenges of the globalising world economy, as well as to exploit its opportunities.

The Organisation provides a setting where governments can compare policy experiences, seek answers to common problems, identify good practice and work to co-ordinate domestic and international policies. Exchanges between OECD governments flow from information and analysis provided by a Secretariat in Paris. The Secretariat collects data, monitors trends, and analyses and forecasts economic developments. It also researches social changes or evolving patterns in trade, environment, agriculture, technology, taxation and more.

The OECD helps governments to foster prosperity and fight poverty through economic growth, financial stability, trade and investment, technology, innovation, entrepreneurship and development co-operation.