

## **Olds College Mandate**

Olds College is a board-governed public college operating under authority of the *Post-secondary Learning Act* of Alberta.

In accordance with the mandate for Comprehensive Community Institutions, Olds College awards certificates, diplomas, applied degrees and may participate in the delivery of collaborative baccalaureate degrees designed to meet the needs of both learners and the communities served by the College. Olds College programs offer learning opportunities in agriculture, horticulture, land and water resource management, animal science, business, fashion, technology and apprenticeship training. A number of additional programs and services are offered to serve the needs of the region including adult basic education, career training, and non-credit courses, as well as cultural and recreational activities.

The expertise and facilities at Olds College are both specialized and unique, including a significant land base for hands-on learning. The College works with industry partners and clients to develop and deliver a range of training programs and products designed to meet desired specifications. These outreach services are offered throughout Alberta, across Canada and internationally. In view of its unique role the College is committed to the promotion of sustainability in all areas of activity including physical operations, research, teaching and learning support.

Olds College programs require learners to acquire and demonstrate competencies defined and updated through collaboration with representative industry partners and advisory groups. The quality of Olds College programs is continuously improved through a policy-based cyclical review process that seeks input from learners, graduates, employers, industry advisors, faculty, and staff. College programs and operations are also subject to external review by a variety of accrediting bodies.

Olds College offers a residential campus environment that helps learners to achieve successful outcomes by providing a safe, caring, living and learning community in rural Alberta. Learners at Olds College have access to a complete range of services designed to enable them to meet their educational goals. New facilities, such as those in the Ralph Klein Center, the Bell e-learning Center and the Trans-Canada Theatre also enable the College to support a range of activities and services for the public at large. These include health and wellness programs, Supernet connectivity and the performing arts.

Olds College is committed to using innovative partnerships to sustain and enhance the ability of the institution to achieve the outcomes established by the Board of Governors. Olds College is an active participant in eCampusAlberta, promoting and supporting learning through technology. Consistent with the Campus Alberta concept, the College is committed to the creation of seamless learning opportunities and is signatory to numerous protocols and articulation agreements with universities and colleges provincially, nationally and internationally supporting student transfer.

Olds College, through the Community Learning Campus and other initiatives, is committed to expanding learning opportunities for rural Albertans and works with educational partners in the secondary schools in Olds and the broader regional community. As part of its mandate as a Comprehensive Community Institution, Olds College exercises stewardship responsibility for adult learning in the Central Alberta region, in cooperation with Red Deer College. In recognition of this obligation the two Colleges have created a joint venture entity known as the Central Alberta College–Community Partnership in order to support a system of community owned and operated engagement sites throughout central Alberta. Through an affiliation with the Faculty of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences of the University of Alberta, Olds College participates in a broad range of joint educational and research activities.

The College actively pursues involvement in applied research that advances innovation-based rural economic development in Alberta. The applied research activity undertaken by the faculty and research staff at the College supports and informs the curriculum through providing learners with access to the most innovative and up-to-date information available in a variety of disciplines.

*Approved by the Deputy Premier and Minister of Advanced Education and Technology,  
June 17, 2010.*