



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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South Slave students participate in Trades Awareness Program

FORT SMITH, NT – A total of 53 high school students from across the South Slave region are at Aurora College's Thebacha Campus in Fort Smith for the week-long Introductory Trades Awareness Program September 27 to October 2.

The Trades Awareness Program (TAP) introduces junior high and high school students to various trades – such as carpentry, electrician, heavy duty technician, camp cook, and plumber – that are available at Aurora College. There are two components to the program: Introductory and Intensive. During the Introductory program, students rotate through several different trades, while the Intensive portion offers four days with one trade. The Program has been running successfully in the South Slave since 2005. It is a partnership between Aurora College, the South Slave Divisional Education Council and the GNWT Education, Culture and Employment, South Slave Region.

“Aurora College Thebacha Campus has skilled instructors and well-equipped shops that make this a real skill-building opportunity for the participants,” says Duane MacDonald, Acting Chair of Trades, Apprenticeship and Industrial Training at Aurora College. “Students who attend will have some understanding of what it takes to be successful in the trades after they graduate from high school.”

The Trades Awareness Program exists to give students in small high schools access to the trades shops, equipment and instructional expertise available at Aurora College, as well as the Fort Smith business community. Participating students earn Career & Technology Studies (CTS) credits towards their high school diploma.

“Typically, because of their small size, many schools in the NWT are not able to offer a variety of trades programs,” notes Curtis Brown, Superintendent of the South Slave Divisional Education Council. “Our partnership with Aurora College and the ECE Career Centre in Fort Smith has benefitted hundreds of students since its inception.”

The partner organizations believe this form of hands-on trades exposure will assist youth in planning for their futures. Jacqueline Mclean, EC&E Regional Superintendent for the South Slave remarks: “We welcome the opportunities that these partnerships present for providing youth with work related experience, skills development and career related resources that are meaningful for students.”

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