



Dear ,

ASTT e-News, March, 2007

ASTT e-News is broadcast monthly to technologists, technicians, technical specialists and others. It contains the latest information about your profession and your association. Each issue is also posted to the ASTTBC web site.

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Professional Development Program

In the interests of protecting public health and safety, the environment and the economy, it is essential that technology professionals engage in lifelong learning. The public expects technology professionals to

operate at the current level of knowledge and expertise. That level is constantly changing with innovation and development. Professional technologists, technicians and technical specialists are accountable to the public and their profession.

To support all ASTTBC registrants in their efforts to maintain and enhance their professional skills and knowledge and to provide assurance to the public, ASTTBC Council has approved a voluntary and self managed Continuing Professional Development Program. The CPD Program will be implemented in 2008 with a mentoring component being added the following year. In the 2009 - 2012 time frame, surveys will determine the level of participation in the self managed program. Audits of randomly selected members will evaluate CPD activities and establish the Professional Development Assurance status for ASTTBC membership. Deficiencies assessed on reviewed member files will be identified to the member with suggestions to support the member's efforts.

To see the full Continuing Professional Development Program policy, visit www.asttbc.org

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Member Services Update

Cityfone, ASTTBC's affinity partner for cell phones and long-distance, has introduced wireless Internet. Stay informed and entertained with mobile content in the palm of your hand. For information, call Cityfone at (604)298-5900 or visit www.cityfone.net/asttbc

TD Meloche Monnex, our affinity partner for home insurance, will sponsor three \$1,000 bursaries each year through ASTTBC's charitable foundation, the Foundation For Education & Advancement In Technology. Details will be announced soon. For competitive group rate savings plus 24 hr. emergency service on home insurance, contact TD Meloche Monnex at 1-877-536-7755 or check out www.melochemonnex.com/asttbc

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TechCanada Roundtable

Leaders from many technology sectors gathered in Ottawa on February 27 to talk about technology careers. They started from a

broad perspective of labour shortages generally, the baby-boom retirement in the next ten years and how to improve productivity. Discussions then focused on the 'invisibility' of technology careers and declining enrollments at institutes and colleges throughout most of Canada. Another key topic was integrating internationally trained professionals into the Canadian work force.

The Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists hosted the event and ASTTBC's Executive Director & Registrar, John Leech, AScT, CAE helped arrange base funding and served as moderator for the TechCanada Roundtable. Also attending from BC were Josh Blair, PEng, Sr. Vice President, TELUS; Jerome Marburg, LLB, Registrar, ABCFP; and Al Gorley, RPF a consultant representing the Ministry of Forests and Range.

Full details will be in the fall issue of ASTT News.

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KamTECH – Focus 24

ASTTBC hosted several events in Kamloops in March to improve awareness of technology careers. In this initiative ASTTBC, was greatly supported by School Trustee Heather Glover and retired Thompson Rivers University electronics instructor, Don Graham.

The first event was an evening in which members of ASTTBC, along with the Association's Executive Director, talked with parents and students about technology careers. The members of ASTTBC were joined by practitioners in health care and the trades who added their perspectives on career opportunities.

A meeting of community leaders helped draw attention to the need to work together to enhance awareness and address systemic barriers to technology careers. ASTTBC members Ken Christian, AScT; Lyle Killough, AScT; and Larry Dyck, AScT were key contributors.

ASTTBC also hosted a meeting with members, thanks to the tremendous organizational assistance of Tony Walters, CTech who was sunning himself in Mexico the day of the event.

The 24 hour 'focus' on technology careers helped profile ASTTBC and the technology professionals registered with ASTTBC.

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Members Meetings Draw 100

Around 75 ASTTBC members gathered in Kelowna and another 25 in Kamloops to get an update from Executive Director & Registrar, John Leech, AScT, CAE. Topics included: serving the public interest through high standards of professional registration; developing Guides to Professional Practice; and the Association's work to improve professional recognition and enhance the profile of technology professionals. John also touched on ASTTBC's role in advancing technology careers generally.

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Technology Leaders Meet in Kelowna

Mayor Sharon Sheppard was the special guest at an ASTTBC-hosted lunch for technology leaders in Kelowna. Representatives from industry, education, business development and related organizations heard an address from the ASTTBC Executive Director and then engaged in a dialogue on BC's technology workforce. The Mayor was presented with a special ASTTBC clock to help draw attention to the Association's new 'Technology Careers... it's TIME!' initiative.

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Executive Director Interviewed On Local Radio

While attending the 'KamTECH - Focus 24' event, ASTTBC's Executive Director & Registrar, John Leech, AScT, CAE and Kamloop's School Trustee Annette Glover were interviewed by CHBC radio host Larry Reid on 'The Noon Show'. During the interview John commented on the great careers available in technology and outlined some of the issues facing college and institutes in attracting students into technology programs.

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Mechanical Engineering Students Available

Camosun College Co-op students in Mechanical Engineering are ready to start a three-month work term beginning April 2. This is an

opportunity to test-drive future employees or temporarily fill any permanent positions.

Check out this link:

<http://archive.camosun.bc.ca/coop/CompElectEngTech.pdf>

or contact John Horn, Employment Facilitator Co-operative Education & Student Employment (Technologies), Camosun College, phone 250-370-4185 or e-mail horn@camosun.bc.ca

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Contaminated Sites Approved Professionals Society Seeks Staff

The new Contaminated Sites Approved Professionals Society is recruiting both an Executive Director and an Administrator. The application deadline is March 28, 2007. For detailed descriptions of the positions and for application directions, please click on 'Important Announcements' at www.csapsociety.bc.ca

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Top In Trades Awards

Do you know a tradesperson who is worthy of recognition as one of BC's top trades people? The Industry Training Authority has partnered with The Province newspaper to create the 'Top in Trades' awards with two goals in mind: to celebrate excellence in the trades and encourage young people to consider these careers by sharing inspiring stories of success. The awards will go to individuals who have achieved career success, made commitments to training and safety, and given back to their communities.

Please go to www.theprovince.com/trade by March 2, 2007 to nominate someone for a Top in Trades award.

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Information On Foreign Credential Recognition To Be Available

Canada's future productivity and competitiveness depend on attracting a skilled, internationally trained workforce. The challenge for internally

trained professionals, Canadian regulatory bodies, and employers, is identifying how closely overseas education and experience match Canadian requirements. Immigrants have expressed frustration that they lacked information before they moved to Canada as to how their foreign credentials might be recognized. This has led to delays in integrating into the Canadian workforce and an under-utilization of skills.

The federal government is pursuing ways to help better integrate new Canadians into the work force. At the moment, the government's Foreign Credential Recognition program is focusing its efforts on the health and engineering professions.

A partnership of BCIT, Campus Canada and the United Chinese Community Enrichment Services Society (S.U.C.C.E.S.S.) will receive funding to form a strategy for delivering crucial information regarding Foreign Credential Recognition to Canadian immigrants before they arrive in Canada. BCIT already has a number of affiliations with educational institutes in Asia. S.U.C.C.E.S.S. brings a knowledge of immigrant settlement and employment needs to the partnership. By using Campus Canada's online record of learning, project participants will be able to validate their qualifications and determine what education and training gaps need to be addressed.

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Leadership Degree Launched At Thompson Rivers University

A Bachelor of Technology degree in Trades and Technology Leadership will be offered at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops. The new degree proposal completed all stages in the degree quality assessment process and was approved by Murray Coell, Minister, Advanced Education in March, 2007.

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Sponsorship A BIG Little Deal

The last issue of ASTT e-News carried a fund-raising plea by the BIG Little Science Centre in Kamloops. The Centre has now raised sufficient funds to continue operations to the end of 2007. ASTTBC came on board with a \$2,500 donation. "The ASTTBC cheque is a significant

contribution," says Gord Stewart, Executive Director of the BIG Little Science Centre.

In its seven years of existence, the BIG Little Science Centre has grown from a one-room 'fun place to visit' into a science education centre of excellence. The Centre has more than 130 hands-on displays for young people and provides lessons on topics from the new BC science curriculum, such as simple machines, chemistry, aquatic insects, magnetism and electricity. It will be housed at Bert Edwards Elementary School, which is to become the first 'Science School Of Choice' in BC.

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Climate Change Impacts BC Forests

Climate changes are affecting forests now, and the science indicates that further changes are expected.

The Forest Stewardship Division of the Ministry of Forests and Range held a special showing for its staff of Al Gore's documentary 'An Inconvenient Truth'. The documentary investigates how this complex phenomenon came about and the challenges that lie ahead.

"Over the last few years it has become increasingly apparent that a changing climate is making the task of forest stewardship more complex," says Jim Snetsinger, Chief Forester. "As forest managers, we face the challenge of assessing what these changes mean for resource values, and adapting management strategies accordingly."

The film was followed by a question and answer session hosted by MOFR and MOE climate change staff.

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BC Hydro And BCIT To Study Emerging Energy Technologies

The Distributed Power Connections Study, a partnership between the BC Institute of Technology and BC Hydro, will investigate how emerging energy technologies will impact the power grid.

Two 'distributed generation' systems using photovoltaic cells and fuel cells are to be installed and demonstrated in a residentially-configured

test home at BCIT's Burnaby campus. Distributed generation is a small-scale power source at or near a customer's site. Widespread use of distributed generation across the province could reduce the need for traditional power sources and help attain energy conservation.

BCIT will also use the testing facility to train alternative energy technicians, technologists and managers who would bring their up-to-date knowledge to the work force.

The study is planned to begin later this year and last for one year.

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Coming Events

ASTTBC Annual General Meeting

The ASTTBC AGM will be held on **May 25, 2007**. Come and hear about the goals and work of your association and take the opportunity to network with colleagues. Mark your calendar. Details to follow.

British Columbia Science Outreach Workshop

A workshop to co-ordinate a network for organizations dedicated to science awareness and education is slated for **March 23, 2007** in Vancouver. The British Columbia Science Outreach Workshop will feature speakers such as: Bonnie Schmidt, President, Let's Talk Science; Sid Katz, Executive Director Community Affairs, UBC; Valerie Hunter, Program Director, Research Grants, Vancouver Foundation; and Judy Paron, Program Officer, PromoScience, NSERC. The goal is to support and enhance excellence among British Columbia's science outreach organizations.

There is no fee; however registration is required. Please register with Megan Griffith of NSERC-Pacific at 604-666-8818 or mcg@nserc.ca

Angel Forum On Equity Funding

The Angel Forum will allow up to 34 pre-screened technology, service and manufacturing companies that are seeking equity funding to make presentations to more than 80 private equity investors. **March 31, 2007** is the final registration deadline for companies wishing to participate. The event will be held on April 24 in downtown Vancouver. This event has been held semi-annually since 1997.

Information at <http://www.ANGELforum.org>. Questions?
Bob@ANGELforum.org

BCIT Alumni Association Annual General Meeting

The BCIT Alumni AGM is going to be at the BCIT Downtown Vancouver Campus on Thursday, **May 24, 2007** from 11:30AM-1:30PM. The keynote speaker will be Bruce Dewar, CEO 2010 Legacies Now. This event, which includes a buffet lunch, is free to BCIT alumni.