



Sault College News Release

For immediate release

Sault College Staff Obtain Cultural Competency Training

(Sault Ste. Marie, ON October 29, 2010) Sault College supports a wider appreciation and understanding of cultural difference, racial backgrounds, gender and people with disabilities. As part of the College's new five-year Strategic Plan, the organization has identified the need to build its overall capacity in the area of cultural competency and diversity.

This academic year and next, Native Education and Human Resources have partnered to implement mandatory Cultural Competency training to all staff. This training will also be incorporated into all new staff orientation programming on an ongoing basis.

"We are excited to be able to provide our staff with an opportunity to learn more about cultural competency as our staff and student population is diverse." said Rick Webb, Director, Human Resources. "We want to go beyond just reaching out to all cultures. As a post-secondary institution we want to be effectively competent in our teaching and business dealings with a wide variety of people."

Faculty and staff will undergo two module offerings of the program: Introduction to Cultural Competency and Cultural Competency and the Aboriginal Community.

The first module includes a history and description of both concepts. The goal of this module is to introduce participants to the methodology involved in the achievement of cultural competency and to offer instruction with respect to engendering cultural safety. This is an

interactive module that includes extensive group participation complete with a self-assessment tool that enables staff and faculty to gauge their personal progress in the cultural competency/cultural safety continuum.

The Second module focuses on cultural competency and cultural safety in interactions with the Aboriginal community. This intensive module is intended to break down social, cultural and communication barriers by addressing issues such as the Indian Act, the reservation system, the residential schools issue and Aboriginal spirituality. The goal of this module is to expand the cultural competency of the participants vis-a-vis the Aboriginal community by reducing stereotypes, explaining misconceptions and clarifying practices through in lecture/group discussion forum.

The two modules will be provided to staff over the next 18 months with module one provided this year and module two provided next year.

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About Sault College Native Education

Sault College continues to enrol, educate, and graduate Native students from programs across the College. The student population has grown rapidly over the past few years and we are committed to serving ever-larger numbers of Native learners during the years ahead. Dedicated to Native student success, our Native Education Department offers a unique learning environment which embraces our language, culture, and traditions with an emphasis placed on student success strategies that will assist students in achieving excellence both academically and in their chosen career. Visit our website at www.saultcollege.ca for more information.

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