

## Chinook's Edge high school shop teachers invest in professional learning for student success



While high school students were taking exams last week, Chinook's Edge CTS (Career and Technology Studies) teachers invested time in professional learning, as well as collaborating with their peers. The group met on the Olds College of Agriculture & Technology campus every day for a week to learn from each other and from Olds College instructors.

***“As we establish our long range plans and focus on what students need to be successful in their lives, our stakeholders have been very clear that career connections are to be a key part of the Chinook's Edge experience for students,”*** said Jason Drent, Associate Superintendent, Chinook's Edge School Division.

***“As we consider that, we recognize that one critical part of career preparation is having highly skilled CTS teachers in our schools to support students as they begin their career exploration and skill development. Just like with any teacher - a key part of that is meaningful professional development,”*** said Drent.

One part of the week-long experience for Chinook's Edge CTS teachers was experiencing some of what their students will learn when they participate in dual credit learning opportunities at Olds College. During the week, CTS instructors participated in projects students would complete in TEC 1000 and Welding 1167, the first dual credit courses Chinook's Edge students participate in to prepare them for success in a future skilled trades career. Also, the teachers worked on projects that students will do in welding classes, and also in heavy equipment classes at the College.

***“Seeing first hand what students do here at Olds College helps us to imbed skills that students will need in classes they take at school, so they are ready for dual credit learning,”*** said Jerod Ferguson, a CTS teacher at Innisfail High School. ***“For instance, even something simple like giving students more opportunities to use measuring tapes, can help them be more successful when they're starting their skilled trades career at a post-secondary institution.”***



***“It’s been awesome,” said Emily McArthur, CTS teacher at Delburne School. “Seeing what the kids will work on here helps me to know what to focus on in my classes. Also, it’s been great for growing my own skills and learning tips and tricks of the trade. I appreciate being able to borrow wisdom and knowledge from other teachers.”***

***“Staying current involves a never ending cycle of professional learning,” said Randy Prediger, a CTS teacher at École H.J. Cody School.***

***“This week I have been able to learn new skills from the college instructors as well as other CTS teachers. The best part of the week is having us together. That’s invaluable.”***



Cassie Quick, a CTS teacher at Didsbury High School, said, ***“This has been very helpful in helping me grow the CTS program at Didsbury High School and get the right resources in place.”***

Rick Dunnigan, a CTS teacher from Spruce View School, said, ***“It’s been a good eye opener and I’ve appreciated gaining a lot of new skills.”***

Another focus of the week was ensuring consistent safety standards throughout the shop facilities in Chinook’s Edge.

Chinook’s Edge plans to continue to look at opportunities to offer high quality professional learning to support our teachers.

