



Sault College News Release

For immediate release

Sault College wins award for Diversity

(Sault Ste. Marie, ON October 25, 2013) It was a proud moment for Sault College last night as it received the 2013 Chamber of Commerce Business Award for Diversity. This award recognizes a business or organization that embraces, celebrates and applies holistic inclusion and participation of a diverse people making the workplace a better environment in which to work, and the community a better place in which to live, work and raise a family.

“As a leader in the field of post-secondary education, Sault College strives to create a culture that fosters the expansive exploration of ideas and offers a safe and inspiring place to establish an inclusive environment for all staff and students,” states Dr. Ron Common, President of Sault College. “With this Diversity Award, we recognize the many efforts undertaken by our College to make our community a more inclusive place in which to live, work and study.”

Sault College has made diversity a central tenet of its invitational approach to post-secondary education. For the first time in 2012, the College partnered with the World University Service Canada (WUSC) to bring a refugee from South Sudan to Sault Ste. Marie to attend Sault College to study. This year saw the College bring a Burmese student to the community to further their education. Staff, students and College service areas all helped with the efforts to support the refugee student program to raise funds and awareness. Furthermore, the College has made it a priority to increase student enrolment and seek out learning opportunities for international students.

“Services such as housing support, dedicated on-campus jobs, orientation and cultural activities for international students have been implemented,” shares Krista Pearson, Sault College Registrar. “All Sault College students are also required to take a course in Global Citizenship to help enhance their worldview.”

Sault College has also taken steps to move towards creating a campus that is invitational for the LGBT community. The College is the sole deliverer of the Working with LGBTTTIQ Children and Youth course and created a Safe Spaces initiative in which recommendations to the President were made to expand the College’s openness and diversity.

“Students and staff have begun the work of bringing the college community together to engage in conversations and professional development on creating a welcoming environment and safe spaces for the LGBT student population,” notes Melanie Jones, Child and Youth Worker Instructor at Sault College.

Another area where Sault College embraces and celebrates diverse people includes its commitment to being an educational destination for Native students from around the province. Native specific programming involves signed partnerships with Aboriginal organizations, Native student recruitment and advising and a Native Apprenticeship Centre with the Métis Nation of Ontario, along with a Native Education Centre.

“All staff at Sault College have received Aboriginal Cultural Competency Training and the Native Education department at Sault College continues to pro-actively work towards increasing Aboriginal student enrolment, retention and graduation rates within our institution,” notes Carolyn Hepburn, Director, Native Education and Academic Upgrading.

Each summer, the College’s Transition program invites students living with disabilities to the campus for a customized orientation to assist with their success at the post-secondary level.

Sault College would like to thank the Chamber of Commerce for recognizing the countless ways in which our College embodies the Diversity Award. Thanks is also extended to Community Living Algoma who sponsored this award.

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About Sault College

The vision of Sault College is to provide a transformative life experience through empowering those who study with us to think and learn in progressive, innovative ways, including those we have not yet imagined. Sault College grants Ontario College certificates, diplomas, advanced diplomas, graduate certificates, and degrees to its graduates. The College is the largest deliverer of apprenticeship training in all of Northern Ontario. Sault College has ranked 83.8% in Student Satisfaction, the highest score for a Northern College and second highest score overall in the province. Educating over 3,900 students each year, Sault College has a significant economic impact on the community, with spin-offs in excess of \$158 million. Over \$2 million dollars in scholarships, bursaries and awards are distributed annually to students at the College. Located on the border to the United States and situated in the middle of three of the largest great lakes on the planet, Sault College is one of 24 publicly-funded colleges in the province of Ontario. Visit our website at www.saultcollege.ca to learn more.

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