



**Sault College Media Release
For Immediate Release**

Students Put “Under Pressure” at 28th Annual Bridge Building Contest

(Sault Ste. Marie, ON May 8, 2017) – Young students are preparing to “get crushed” this weekend as Sault College hosts its 28th Annual Bridge Building contest! Taking place on Saturday, May 13 in Sault College’s Multimedia Centre, the day will kick off with the grade 5 and 6 division – the youngest of four divisions – beginning at 10 a.m.

The competition will see participants in four divisions: Grade 5/6, Grade 7/8, Grade 9-12, and an open division! In preparation for the event, hundreds of students from the community were given the opportunity to participate in bridge building informational clinics throughout the last month. Sault College’s Civil Engineering Technician program professors along with engineers from Professional Engineers Ontario – Algoma Chapter and student recruiters provided valuable tips and demonstrations on how to construct strong and sturdy bridges.

“We look forward to this competition every year. Participants have such great enthusiasm for the bridge building and it is an exciting day for everyone involved,” says Ray Escasa, Bridge Building co-organizer and Sault College Student Recruiter. “This event is also one way to introduce students to the world of civil engineering. Area schools have embraced this event, incorporating the contest into their curriculum and Sault College is honoured to host the event.”

Civil and Architectural engineers from the community will judge the construction of each registered bridge based on aesthetics and structural ability. The bridges are then scored during a process of being crushed to test their strength. A load is applied to the top centre of each bridge and weight is applied to test the structures’ limits until the bridge is ultimately crushed.

Over \$1,000 in cash prizes will be awarded to contest winners. The International Bridge Administration has also generously donated various prizes for the event!

This year's sponsors include: the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists, Sault College's School-College-Work-Initiative, Professional Engineers Ontario – Algoma Chapter, and the International Bridge Administration.

Students may drop off their completed bridges at the College and register for the contest on Thursday, May 11 from 3:30 to 8 p.m. in Essar Hall.

The Bridge Building event is open to the public and free parking is available anywhere on campus. Join us to support our local community in this exciting competition!

For more details, please contact Sault College Student Recruitment at 759-2554, ext. 2222 or visit www.saultcollege.ca/bridgebuilding.

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About Sault College Civil Engineering Technician Program

The Civil Engineering Technician program is designed to prepare graduates with the basic skills and knowledge to enter the design and heavy construction fields. As a graduate, students can work as part of an engineering team or as part of a multi-disciplinary team. Graduates work in a variety of careers including computer-aided drafting and design (CAD), surveying, construction layout and inspection, field and laboratory testing, supervision and scheduling of projects, estimating, sales and marketing, as well as design and construction of municipal installations, highways, pipelines, and hydro-electric developments. Students may have the opportunity to be involved in applied research projects. Sault College, located in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario is one of 24 community colleges in Ontario.

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. Educating over 2,300 full-time and 4,000 part-time students each year, Sault College has a significant economic impact on the community, with spin-offs in excess of \$158 million. Over \$1.8 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.