

Energy Industry Partnership Fund

Vision

Olds College will partner with Alberta's oil, gas, utility and transportation industries to raise the level of professionalism of Alberta's surface land agent industry and to maximize the supply of professional land agents to these sectors.

Energy Industry Chair

The Energy Industry Chair will be a rotating position with three to four industry leaders occupying the Chair during the 10-year period envisioned for this initiative. By rotating the incumbent, industry partnership stakeholders will be assured of a stream of innovative ideas and solutions, and an evolving senior leadership will bring a constant source of enlightenment and industry expertise to the program and its graduates. Based on its success, this initiative may be extended beyond the original 10 years planned.

Impacting the Energy Industry

Today's energy, utility and transportation industries face increasingly complex and sometimes emotional challenges in achieving their business goals.

The oil and gas sector constantly encounters high shareholder expectations, intense local, national and international competition, fluctuating prices, mergers, acquisitions, divestitures, rapid changes in technology and regulation, emerging alternative energy sources, increasing expectations for environmentally sustainable practices and powerful public expectations for mitigating industry's impact on the quality of life.

Industry is continuously struggling to find knowledgeable, trained and skilled professionals to address these complex and fast-paced challenges. Land Agents face a challenging work environment, widely dispersed job sites, a diversity of cultures, rapid changes in regulatory requirements and continual public interaction. It can be a difficult, demanding and rewarding profession.

Both industry and Olds College readily acknowledge that the Land Agent discipline attracts some individuals with limited qualifications, or limited professional capacity. There are a significant number of untrained, non-licensed "agents" who require a better understanding of the licensing process and the requirements of the Land Agent Act.

Olds College and industry recognize the need to improve the quality of education and the need to raise standards and expectations in this important field. Professional conduct and professional practice of Land Agents are essential for companies to secure on-going access to land. Olds College's Land Agent program has provided trained and skilled professionals to industry since 1982 in such areas as Surface Land Agent, Independent Consultant, County/MD Land Agent, Petroleum Landmen, Seismic Permitter, Lease Negotiator and Utility Right-of-Way Agent.

The Land Agent's ability to secure access to land has a significant and direct impact on the sustainability of these industries and the royalties provided to the Alberta Government providing benefits to the entire Alberta economy.

Partnered for Success

- Canadian Association of Petroleum Landmen (CAPL)
- Small Explorers and Producers Association (SEPAC)
- Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP)

The Energy Industry Partnership Fund Offers Unique Solutions

This partnership and the position of Chair will be fueled by a fund established jointly by Alberta's oil, gas, utility and transportation companies with a portion being matched by Alberta Energy. The Energy Industry Chair will serve as a catalyst for growth in the depth and quality of Surface Land Agent training in Alberta.

Responsibilities will include guiding the curriculum and working with industry stakeholders to identify business goals which could best be supported through customized short courses and performance benchmarking.

The industry fund will also finance the development of on-line and other alternative delivery courses, the purchase of learning resources and equipment and the facilitation of customized training initiatives to assist practicing land agents with their on-going professional development needs.

Olds College will utilize this partnership to enhance its industry focus by identifying and developing professional development opportunities for today's practicing Land Agents.

There are also indirect benefits associated with the environmental training provided in the College's Land Reclamation and Environmental Stewardship programs offering an added value to the oil, gas, utility and transportation companies. A Land Agent's awareness of reclamation and land stewardship provides value through an appreciation of the long-term implications and costs and demonstrates the industry's recognition of the high value the public places on these initiatives. Olds College's two-year diplomas in reclamation and stewardship are unique within Alberta and offer transferability to applied degree and degree programs at other institutions.

Benefits

Advancing the professionalism and professional practice of Alberta's land agent sector begins with a sound educational foundation and will have a significant, direct impact on the sustainability of Alberta's energy, utility and transportation industries. Ultimately, these advances will have an impact on the entire Alberta economy.

Financial Impact

Energy Industry Partnership Fund \$2,750,000*

*Note: The Energy Industry Partnership Fund includes an existing endowment of \$750,000 in addition to a \$1 million donation from EnCana Corporation.

For more information about this 2009 Capital Vision Campaign Project, please contact:

Phone: 403.507.7720

Toll Free: 1.800.661.6537

www.oldscollege.ca