

September 1, 2010

New program to increase specialty teachers in Alberta classrooms

Edmonton... More certified journey people, health-care professionals and information technologists will be seen in Alberta classrooms as the province attracts more career specialists to the teaching profession.

The new *Career and Technology Studies (CTS) Bridge to Teacher Certification Program* starts this September and allows participants to work in the classroom while completing a teacher-preparation program offered by an Alberta post-secondary institution.

“This innovative pilot program provides a gateway for already skilled individuals to gain teaching qualifications so they can share their passions with our province’s youth,” said Dave Hancock, Minister of Education. “This allows more students to explore a variety of career options with expert guidance and meets the demands of our ever-growing and changing education system - a top priority for our government.”

Program participants are selected by school authorities and must be required for instruction in a specific CTS program. After completing both course work and a 14-week practicum, successful participants will be issued a Letter of Authority. These individuals will then be able to teach CTS courses in their area of specialization while continuing to work toward completing a Bachelor of Education degree.

“There is a pressing need to recruit individuals who have appropriate technical qualifications to work in CTS classrooms” said Carol Henderson, President of the Alberta Teachers’ Association, expressing the profession’s support for the initiative. “The association was pleased to assist in the planning and development of a program that ensures aspiring CTS teachers receive the preparation and support they require to provide quality instruction while working to complete their teacher education program.”

Program funding will subsidize participants’ salaries and sponsor schools’ costs for providing a mentor to guide new teachers. The Government of Alberta is funding the \$1.4 million bridging program.

The *CTS Bridge to Teacher Certification Program* supports the *Education Sector Workforce Planning Framework for Action*, which is a five-year strategic plan designed to provide proactive solutions to emerging demands in the education sector workforce. For more information about the bridging program, including some frequently asked questions, and to read the framework, visit www.education.alberta.ca/admin/workforce.aspx.

The revised CTS program of studies will reach full implementation this school year. For more

information, visit www.education.alberta.ca/teachers/program/cts/program-of-studies.aspx.

-30-

Media inquiries may be directed to:

Erica McDonald
Communications
Alberta Education
780-427-0946

Dennis Theobald
Communications
The Alberta Teachers' Association
780-447-9416

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

[Alberta Government](#) | [Newsroom](#) | [Ministries Listing](#) | [Education Home Page](#) | [News Releases](#)
| [Top of Page](#) |

[Send us your comments or questions](#)

Copyright(©) 2010 Government of Alberta

