

News Release

RDCRS students offered unique look at potential careers in engineering technology at STEM Boot Camp

For immediate release – May 10, 2024

Last week, 27 Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools (RDCRS) students and four staff travelled to Edmonton to attend a full-day STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Boot Camp offered in partnership with the Association of Science and Engineering Technology Professionals of Alberta (ASET) and NAIT (the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology).

This May 2 camp was a unique opportunity offering students hands-on experiences in cutting-edge laboratories. Students from grades 9 to 12 had the privilege of engaging directly with NAIT's expert faculty in Electrical Engineering Technology and Mechanical Engineering Technology. The highlight of the camp was a project that not only challenged the students but also enhanced their understanding of the practical aspects of engineering.

For Cameron Peddle, a St. Joseph High School student, the camp reinforced his decision to pursue a career in mechanical engineering, a passion he has nurtured since grade 11.

"This camp made me feel more confident in my decision," Cameron explained. "I knew I wanted to do this since grade 11. But for someone who may not have known they wanted to go into engineering technology, a camp like this might make them want to pursue it."

For many of the students, the experience opened them to the exciting possibilities within the field of engineering technology, potentially inspiring some to consider this path for their future.

"Our students gained valuable insight through their participation in the camp, fostering their passion for STEM fields and preparing them for future academic and career endeavors in engineering and technology," said Tracey Millar, Off-Campus Programs Lead Teacher. "The

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opportunity to spend time in an authentic learning environment with high level instructors is incredibly valuable for our students."

Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools serves over 10,650 students in 21 schools in Red Deer, Blackfalds, Sylvan Lake, Rocky Mountain House, Innisfail, and Olds. It also supports the learning of over 850 students in a Home Education Program. The Division is committed to serving children and parents with a complete offering of learning opportunities delivered within the context of Catholic teachings and within the means of the Division.

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