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Lakeland College ready to show off new Energy Centre

(Lloydminster, Alta.) The wait is almost over.

On Wednesday, Aug. 26, Lakeland College will officially open the doors to its new Energy Centre at the Lloydminster campus. Everyone is invited to the ribbon cutting ceremony at 1:30 p.m. Tours of the facility are available until 3:30 p.m.

Lakeland College is the only post-secondary institution in Western Canada to create an integrated power plant featuring a once-through steam generator (OTSG) for heavy oil training. That's just one of many features of the facility.

Alice Wainwright-Stewart, president of Lakeland College, says people at the college are excited to show off the 2,500 sq. metre Energy Centre to people in Lloydminster and beyond.

“The design of the Energy Centre including the slanted glass wall on the east side facade has attracted a lot of attention. We think people will be just as impressed when they get inside the building and see the various training spaces and the incredible technology that fills the power engineering and heavy oil lab,” she says.

While the Energy Centre will officially open this month, last year's second-year heavy oil power engineering (HOPE) students used the lab before they graduated in the spring. A few of the grads will be back on campus for the opening and will serve as tour guides.

Among those taking part in the celebration are the 80 first-year HOPE students who started class on Aug. 10. While the majority of students are from Alberta and Saskatchewan, a few are from Ontario and British Columbia.

“I chose Lakeland because I really liked the college and the facility is impressive. On orientation day we toured the Energy Centre and it looks really good. I am looking forward to learning and working in there,” says Chris Eldridge of Beauval, Sask.

Also on hand at the opening will be representatives from different levels of government, industry partners, program advisory committee members, and other friends of the college who have supported the project.

“This really is their day too. Their support – whether they provided funding, assisted with curriculum development, or provided input on the design of the facility – helped make this project a reality,” says Wainwright-Stewart.

2015 marks the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Lloydminster campus. During the first year of campus operations, there were 18 full-time students in heavy oil programming.

Lakeland College also offers online blended courses for 4th, 3rd and 2nd class power engineering training as well as other energy related programs and courses including gas process operator, production field operator, and fired process heater operator.

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