



## **Sault College News Release**

For immediate release

### **Sault College Receives Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada Eligibility**

(Sault Ste. Marie, ON February 8, 2012) Sault College has been granted eligibility to administer funds offered by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), signalling that the college has the infrastructure and expertise to support applied research.

This eligibility is important to providing Sault College with access to the increasing number of NSERC research funding programs, such as the *College and Community Innovation (CCI) Program*, with its suite of 6 different grant types for Canadian colleges. These programs were established by NSERC to accelerate innovation and commercialization in communities by strengthening and expanding the support of local enterprises through the leveraging of existing and creation of new assets in their community colleges.

Funds from the programs are provided to increase college capacity for applied research by supporting the direct costs of applied research for approved collaborative projects and also by building the physical infrastructure at colleges, ensuring that relevant, world-class technology is available to support innovators and train the youth.

“This is a significant milestone for any research institution and a great achievement for Sault College that will enable us to grow our research infrastructure and expand our support for local enterprises,” states John Coccimiglio, Manager, Applied Research at Sault College. “In order to

obtain eligibility, the college participated in a rigorous process of documentation of its policies, programs and infrastructure that were in place to support applied research.”

Sault College joins a growing number of colleges across Canada with this eligibility.

“The NSERC eligibility is exciting news for our college,” states Dr. Ron Common, President, Sault College. “Through capitalizing on the strengths of NSERC’s investments in people and discovery, our academic-industry partnerships turn knowledge into new products, processes and services that expand our innovation capacity. This will now enable us to better promote research-based innovation, further develop partnerships and train our students to become the next generation of discoverers and innovators.”

Since 2010, the College – a member of the Colleges Ontario Network for Industry Innovation (CONII), has been involved in a number of industry-led, applied research projects through the Sault College Applied Research Centre (ARC), including projects closely tied to the objectives of the College and Community Innovation Program. In recognition of innovation excellence, in 2011, Mike Armstrong, a recent Sault College graduate, was the recipient of the *Innovation Student/Graduate of the Year*, SSMARt Innovation Award for his work on one such project.

Serving as a gateway for local enterprises, the ARC coordinates the collaboration of students, faculty, staff and industry partners, providing students with the ability to work on real-life applied research projects that benefit our community.

The sectors that are a priority for the ARC include Automation, Information & Communication Technologies, Health and Life Sciences, Alternative Energy, and Environmental Technologies & Construction, although all businesses are welcome and encouraged to contact Sault College for help with research, innovation and commercialization.

**About Sault College**

Sault College transforms the lives of students through providing innovative education and training, and granting 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. Maclean's magazine has ranked the College at the top of the province in graduate satisfaction, with 85% of graduates saying that they were highly satisfied with their education at the College. Educating over 4,500 students each year, Sault College has a significant economic impact on the community, with spin-offs in excess of \$100 million. Over \$2 million dollars in scholarships, bursaries and awards is 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. Nearly 85% of graduates are employed within six months of graduation. Visit our website at [www.saultcollege.ca](http://www.saultcollege.ca) to learn more.

Please contact:

Tessa Pino, Communications Officer

Sault College

705.759.2554 ext. 2830

[www.saultcollege.ca](http://www.saultcollege.ca)