



Science Education & Employment Development
S.E.E.D.



Progress Report

January - December 2009

Summary

The **Science Education and Employment Development (SEED) Program**, created as a result of an agreement between Six Nations of the Grand River Territory Elected Council and Imperial Oil, has successfully developed and implemented a number of educational and employment initiatives available to all members of Six Nations.

Background

As part of its project to reduce sulphur in gasoline, Imperial constructed a pipeline that crosses Six Nations Territory Claim Lands. An agreement supporting technology education and employment initiatives was developed jointly by the Six Nations Elected Council and Imperial, and reflects community outreach initiatives Imperial has in place in locations where it has operations.

A steering committee of representatives from Six Nations and Imperial designs and implements educational initiatives that are focused on providing people with the skills needed for careers with Imperial, the petroleum industry and other manufacturing industries.

Six Nations Polytechnic's programs

Since industrial technology courses at Ontario community colleges including Mohawk College in Hamilton and Lambton College in Sarnia are the points of entry for many employment opportunities, SEED's key focus is on encouraging students to continue with math and science and work towards post-secondary education in technology fields.

- **In 2008-2009, SEED continued to fund the Native Diploma Access Program at the Polytechnic, now in its fifth year.** It allows mature students to earn eight high school credits towards their grade 12 diploma--with a focus on the math and science--that will give them the background to pursue a post secondary technology education. Since inception of this program in 2004, students have completed **236 high school credits and 12 diplomas have been awarded**. Records indicate 80% of graduates from this program gain employment.
- **Chemical Engineering Technology Program (CET)** – low enrollment necessitated the elimination of this program from SNP course material. Two students are continuing with second year studies and one student is enrolled in the first year semester at Mohawk College. Funding is provided for transportation. Graduates from this course have the opportunity for good paying jobs in the refining, petrochemical and other manufacturing industries, including Imperial's Nanticoke refinery. Contact the Six Nations Polytechnic for information on how to enroll.

Technology Sponsorships and Imperial Oil SEED scholarship

- SEED sponsors tuition, books and supplies for students enrolled in good standing in selected post-secondary technology programs, which are considered an entry point to jobs at Imperial. **\$4,500.00 went towards tuition and book sponsorships in 2009.**

- In 2004, SEED introduced the Imperial Oil SEED scholarship. The scholarship is open to Six Nations members who are currently receiving financial assistance through GRPSEO. Priority is given to students who pursue studies relevant to the petroleum industry, including engineering, petroleum technologies, business administration, commerce, computer science, earth science and related disciplines. **In 2009, 1 student received a scholarship for \$5,000. Additional scholarships are provided if funding is available.**

Elementary and Secondary School Programs

The SEED steering committee recognizes that many Six Nations students experience difficulty in math and science. To help address this issue, SEED continues to sponsor a number of programs including:

- **Summer Science Day Camps** - SEED sponsored **four popular camps in July 2009**, conducted by engineering students from the University of Waterloo. **64 children in Grades 3-8 attended.** This is the sixth year the program has been offered and continues to grow in popularity.
- **Professional Development Days at Six Nations School** - SEED is funding professional development initiatives for Six Nations' teachers focussed on math and science. For the last five years, Imperial has funded the purchase of teaching aids related to math and science education as well as in house workshops for teacher development to use in Six Nations' classrooms. **In 2009, funding allowed for the purchase of math assessment tools for the district schools.**
- **Six Nations Science Fair** - SEED provides \$500 to each school participating in the district science fair to be used toward supplies for student projects. Funds are also provided to operate the district science fair. An engineer from Imperial's Nanticoke refinery attends the district science fair in April to assist with judging the exhibits.
- **Career Fairs and GRPSEO Information Day** - Imperial Oil supports the GRPSEO Information Day with a \$2,000 grant.
- **STAY in School Awards** - The awards recognize top male and female students studying both math and science in grades 7 through 12 and are presented at the high school awards' event held each November. **In 2009, 34 students submitted applications and 17 awards were granted.**
- **Homework Support Program** - SEED continued to support the Six Nations homework support program offered at the Six Nations Polytechnic for students in grades 6 to 12. The program offers tutoring, internet/computer access, access to school supplies to complete projects, access to Grade 10 literacy and math-training software and a quiet place to work. **Since the program began in January 2004, over 1500 students have visited the program with more than half of students receiving support in math and science.** SEED also provided computers, computer desks, and math and literacy training software for the program.



Employment Initiatives

Summer Job at Nanticoke Refinery

Two students from the Six Nations worked at Imperial's Nanticoke refinery during the summer of 2009 providing emergency services and administrative support. Twelve students have benefited from work experience at the refinery during the past six summers.

GREAT's Employment Kiosk.

The computer terminals in the lobby of GREAT, funded by SEED, offers information on over 65 careers.

New Initiatives

SEED provided GREAT with \$7,000.00 in funding in 2009 to hire a consultant to research corporate challenge events hosted at other companies and develop an action plan and procedures manual for GREAT to use for future events. This event will promote partnerships with the Six Nations community and local employers.

Financial support in the amount of \$12,000.00 was provided for Six Nations Polytechnic to hire a consultant to research, develop, write and produce printed, audio and visual educational materials for use by SNP and other Aboriginal institutes. The new resources focused on Indigenous science as the basis for the work as well as centering on the current issues, themes and best practices to engage First Nations communities for collaboration in science and technology projects.

The committee welcomes community input, and encourages all Six Nations members to contact one of the committee members directly or through our website (www.seedprogram.ca) with their comments or suggestions.

Expenditures - March 2002 – December 2009

- Six Nations Polytechnic courses - \$778,957
- Technology Sponsorships and Scholarships - \$340,300
- Elementary and Secondary School Programs - \$290,230
- Employment Initiatives and Community Activities - \$133,451

SEED Steering Committee

<p>Janet Matsushita, Imperial Oil Petra Guerra, Imperial Oil Rebecca Jamieson, Grand River Post Secondary Education Office Iris Wright, Grand River Employment and Training Justine Henhawk-Bomberry, Grand River Post Secondary Education Office</p>	<p>Julie Ferguson, Imperial Oil Ric Duwyn, Imperial Oil Deneen Montour, Grand Erie District School Board Anne Noyes, J.C. Hill Elementary School Linda Staats, Six Nations Polytechnic Tanis Hill, Six Nations Polytechnic</p>
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