

Progress Report

January - December 2013

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 Oil 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.

Employment Initiatives

· SEED contributed \$28,750 to Grand River Employment and Training (GREAT) to help subsidize the cost of instructor fees for GREAT's eight-week academic upgrading course. During the year, seven students were enrolled in the course, six passed and four are now working or have returned to school. SEED also contributed \$26,250 toward GREAT's Work Ready Aboriginal People (WRAP) program. A total of 14 students attended various construction unions' training institutions in Ontario, where they received training certificates and hands-on experience to help determine which trade best suits their aptitude and preference. The program ends in February 2014, at which time it is expected that participants will be hired by a construction union, another employer, or return to school.

· SEED funded Six Nations apprenticeship scholarships in 2013 in the amount of \$8,000. A total of 14 applications were received and eight scholarships were awarded based on official transcript marks and financial need.

· During the summer of 2013, there will be two Six Nations student job opportunities at Imperial's Nanticoke refinery providing support to the refinery's safety, health and environment organization. A total of 17 students have benefited from work experience at the refinery during the past 10 summers. In 2013, there were no eligible applicants.

Post Secondary Initiatives

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 encouraging students to continue with math and science and to work towards post secondary education in technology fields.

· 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. In 2013, \$126,789 went towards tuition and book sponsorships. The Grand River Post Secondary Education Office (GRPSEO) collaborates with Imperial to administer the technology sponsorships.

· The Imperial Oil SEED scholarship was introduced in 2004. 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. No applications were received in 2013. Additional scholarships are provided if funding is available.

Elementary and Secondary Initiatives

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 two Mad Science camps in July and August 2013, which saw 50 children in Grades 1-6 attend. This is the 10th year the Summer Science Day Camps have been offered.

· **Bridging Our Worlds Through Science (BOWS)** – in partnership with Brock University, 16 students from Kawenni:io/ Gaweni:yo High School attended a two-day Aboriginal Outreach program at Brock University in May 2013. Participants experienced campus life while learning about exciting career options in the science fields. Brock hired four Brock Aboriginal Student Peers – all Six Nations band members - to mentor and assist the high school students attending BOWS. Program evaluation results indicate the participants' view of science changed as a result of attending BOWS. Half of the students suggested their experience will positively impact their decision to advance to post secondary education.

· **Professional Development Days at Six Nations School** – SEED is funding professional development initiatives for Six Nations' teachers focused on math and science when funding is available. For the last eight 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 2013, funding was used to provide each Six Nations elementary school with two iPads.

· **Six Nations Science Fair** - SEED provides \$500 to each school participating in the district science fair to be used toward supplies for student projects. Additional funds are also provided to the host school operating the district science fair. An engineer from Imperial's Nanticoke refinery attends the district science fair in April to assist with judging the exhibits.

· **STAY in School Awards** - The awards recognize top male and female students with the highest average in math and science in grades 7 through 12. The recipients are presented with a monetary award at the high school awards' event held each November. In 2013, 26 students submitted applications and 11 awards were granted.

· **Homework Support Program** - SEED continued to support the Six Nations homework support program offered at Six Nations Polytechnic for students in grades 5 to 12. The program runs Monday through Thursday evenings and offers tutoring, internet/computer access, access to school supplies to complete projects, research methods, writing/editing support for all grade levels and a quiet place to work. The program also provides support for College and University math and science courses. In 2013, 655 students attended the homework support program. Since 2006, nearly 5,000 students have visited the program with more than half of the students receiving support in math and science.

· In 2013, SEED continued to fund its pre-technology program by providing \$18,000 for Six Nations students to receive assistance from Sylvan Learning – with a focus on math and science. This is to help students achieve their Grade 12 diploma with a background to pursue a post secondary education.

The SEED 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 2013

- Six Nations Polytechnic courses - \$1,007,628
- Technology Sponsorships and Scholarships - \$647,500
- Elementary and Secondary School Programs - \$561,999
- Employment Initiatives and Community Activities - \$354,773

SEED Steering Committee

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