

## **Local dual credit programs receive support through \$80,000 grant**

(September 14, 2007) – The Rainy River District School Board has received a grant of over \$80,000 through the School College Work Initiative to support the creation and continuation of dual credit programs for 2007-2008 school year. Dual-credit programs, which allow high-school students to study courses that count toward both their high-school diploma and a college or apprenticeship program, were recently introduced by the provincial government in an effort to help cut in half the 30 per cent dropout rate at Ontario's high schools.

For 2007-2008, the Rainy River District School Board will have three dual credit programs within the Board. At Fort Frances High School, the Cooking Up Success program will have students enrolled in both a high school and a college hospitality program, within the high school's new industrial kitchen. The dual credit program, initiated last year, was very successful as seen by the doubling of program enrolment for the upcoming school year.

Atikokan High School received the main share of the funding, with two dual credit programs planned for 2007-2008. The Voyageur Travel and Tourism program will have Grade 12 students enrolled in both a high school and a college tourism course. As well, the Outers Dual Credit Program will allow students in the school's highly successful experiential Outers program a chance to gain both a high school and a college credit, while earning certification such as Wilderness First Aid.

"Dual credit programs present an amazing opportunity for our students," noted Superintendent of Education, Heather Campbell. "These programs allow students to experience pathways that they are interested in while helping them to make decisions about their future career goals."

Supported by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Training, College, and Universities, the School College Work Initiative has funded over one hundred projects since its inception in 1997. Projects focus on aligning curriculum between high schools and colleges, increasing awareness of the possible career opportunities available through college programs, and linking teachers in the college and secondary panels for professional development.