

April 16, 2008

“New Technologies” Grant Announced for Holy Trinity Academy in Okotoks and Notre Dame Collegiate in High River

Alberta Education recently announced that Holy Trinity Academy in Okotoks and Notre Dame College in High River will be receiving just over \$300,000 in grant money. The funding will be used to expand the New Media courses currently offered at both schools by purchasing additional equipment and computer software.

For example, each school will be purchasing a 3D Printer from Z Corporation. The printer is currently used in the rapid-prototyping/CAD, entertainment, medical, architectural, geospatial, and health care industries. Some of the companies that are using this piece of equipment as a core part of their business include: 3M, Black & Decker, Carnegie Mellon University, Hewlett Packard and NASA to name a few.



To quote Kevin Crawford and Jason Sekura, the New Media instructors at Holy Trinity Academy and Notre Dame Collegiate:

The 3D printer allows students to create their model on the computer in a 3D modeling program and then print off a fully functional part. Students can then analyze their completed piece for ergonomics, whether it meets technical specifications as outlined in the assignment, etc. Students can work separately using blue prints to design components separately, print them off and then see if they constructed the individual piece to the correct dimensions to build the completed product. This technology is so new and innovative that it must be seen to be believed.

Both schools will also be purchasing an Epilog Laser Engraver plus a large format Vinyl Printing and Cutting System. The funding will also be used for computer lab upgrades and additional software purchases.

