

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Sudbury EXTREME VR winners going to E-Learning Conference in Calgary

Sudbury, ON, June 13, 2008 –Two Sudbury high school students will be travelling to Calgary to present their EXTREME VR Science Fair projects. First place winner, Julie Mongeau, and runner-up, Haley Sanderson are being awarded with an all-expense paid trip for themselves and a chaperone. They will present to an audience of academic and industry experts at the 6th Annual Canadian E-Learning Conference, hosted by the University of Calgary.

Participants in the EXTREME VR Science Fair are reintroduced to science and engineering and use 3D-modelling software as a medium to create their projects.

“I’m really happy I participated in this competition, it was a great experience and it’ll give me a head start on my university studies—but right now I’m really looking forward to Calgary,” said Julie Mongeau.

Mongeau, a grade 12 student from École secondaire catholique l’Horizon took on the task of learning about 3D modelling and cellular biology. Judges were impressed by her project as it presented complex cellular reactions using a simple and visual teaching tool. Mongeau plans on studying biomedicine at Laurentian University and eventually wants to become a doctor.

The science fair’s runner-up, Haley Sanderson, focused her research on Chiari-1—a rare brain malformation—and its effects on personality. The E-Learning Conference won’t be the first time Haley has presented in front of a distinguished audience. Earlier this year, she traveled to Toronto to present her project to the Minister of Research and Innovation, John Wilkinson, along with 200 researchers and government officials. Her Calgary trip is sponsored by the Northern Ontario School of Medicine.

The E-Learning Conference in Calgary is a forum for discussion about how technology can be used to improve the learning process. Presentation topics include podcasts, ePortfolios and Wikipedia. The conference takes place at the University of Calgary between June 17 and 20.

“It’s amazing that Julie and Haley are being given the opportunity to speak at such a prestigious, international conference,” said Marc Serré, EXTREME VR Coordinator at MIRARCO. “Hopefully their experience will inspire other students to participate in EXTREME VR 2008-2009.”

MIRARCO — Mining Innovation, Rehabilitation and Applied Research Corporation, founded in 1998, is a not-for-profit applied research and technical service company of Laurentian University formed through collaboration between the private and public sectors. MIRARCO is located in Sudbury, Ontario, Canada. MIRARCO promotes mining innovation and provides a bridge between researchers and industry.

Youth Science and Technology Outreach Program (YSTOP) — EXTREME VR is supported by the Government of Ontario’s YSTOP program. The program is designed to inspire young people—particularly high school age youth—to choose careers in science and technology. The program will accomplish this by providing youth with face-to-face interactions with Ontario’s leading-edge researchers and technologists in meaningful hands-on science and technology experiences beyond the classroom and curriculum.

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Reference:

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