

# Press Release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Students take Virtual Reality to the *EXTREME* in new project launch event**

Greater Sudbury students get hands-on science and virtual tech at Laurentian

**Sudbury, ON, November 9, 2007:** From November 2<sup>nd</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup>, MIRARCO was host to over 400 students at Laurentian University in the launch of Greater Sudbury's first ever "EXTREME VR Science Fair" Competition. The *EXTREME* VR competition allows students to explore topics relating to science, engineering and technology, using the fascinating medium of virtual reality and the guidance of industrial and academic mentors.

"Since our first pilot launch in Northeastern Ontario, we realized that mentorship is key," stated David Kurt, *EXTREME* VR Assistant Coordinator. "Technology can only take you so far before the human element is required. And when it comes to learning, the experience and passion of our mentors brings so much value."

Aside from students gaining an appreciation of mining, geology, technology, and related careers, over 80 students signed up to learn more about and possibly participate in the competition. Projects will be developed in the next few months and presented during the Regional Science Fair in April 2008.

First prize includes an all-expense paid trip to present the winning project at a Canadian conference. Students who register their *EXTREME* project in the Regional Science Fair will also have a chance to win a \$150 cash prize, courtesy of MIRARCO.

The project is part of a three-year initiative led by MIRARCO, and funded in part by the Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation. Last year, this project was rolled out in Northeastern Ontario (Timmins and surrounding area) in collaboration with Science Timmins and the Timmins Public Library.

For more information about this project, and how to enlist as a student entrant, mentor, or prize sponsor, please visit <http://extremevr.mirarco.org>.

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### **Reference:**

**Jane Djivre**  
**EXTREME VR Project Manager**  
Business Development Officer, MIRARCO  
Phone 705.675.1151 x.5071  
[jdjivre@mirarco.org](mailto:jdjivre@mirarco.org)