

Loyalist College

MEDIA ADVISORY



May 21, 2013

LOYALIST COLLEGE TO HOST SKILLED TRADES & TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE FOR MORE THAN 100 SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS Professional Development Day Supported by The W. Garfield Weston Foundation

Belleville, Ontario, May 21, 2013 – Loyalist College will welcome more than 100 secondary school teachers, administrators, and Board trustees on Friday, May 24th for a Skilled Trades & Technology Conference in the Sustainable Skills, Technology and Life Sciences Centre. For attendees from the Algonquin Lakeshore Catholic District School Board (ALCDSB), the interactive initiative is part of a scheduled Professional Development (PD) Day and is supported by The W. Garfield Weston Foundation.

“Teachers are influential advisors for secondary school students,” said Loyalist President Maureen Piercy. “So together with The W. Garfield Weston Foundation we are hosting this day-long event to build teachers’ awareness of Skilled Trades and the possibilities for their students to pursue related post-secondary programs and apprenticeships. With teachers’ encouragement, this will be a great opportunity for students to learn about Skilled Trades jobs as rewarding and lucrative careers. We commend The W. Garfield Weston Foundation for bringing focus to Skilled Trades education and training, helping to close the growing labour gap.”

The May 24th event is designed to prepare teachers to educate students on the wide range of career options in Skilled Trades. Through hands-on workshops led by industry-expert professors, teachers will experience the advanced skills and precision required to operate state-of-the-art technology and equipment used in the field. The participating teachers will represent St. Theresa Catholic Secondary School, St. Paul Catholic Secondary School, and Nicholson Catholic College, as well as Loyola School of Adult and Continuing Education.

“Loyalist College is a natural fit in working together to shape this innovative program,” said Eliza Mitchell, Chair of the Education Committee with The W. Garfield Weston Foundation. “The College is very committed to enhancing opportunities for individuals interested in careers in Skilled Trades. We are impressed with the College’s wonderful facilities and we know that growing demands for training of a highly skilled workforce will be met by programs such as those taught in the new Sustainable Skills, Technology and Life Sciences Centre.”

The W. Garfield Weston Fellowship Program at Loyalist College

To create a framework for student success, Loyalist and The W. Garfield Weston Foundation have also introduced a three-year pilot project, which will provide financial support to help 60 students train for and succeed in the growing Skilled Trades labour market. The W. Garfield Weston Fellowship Program will provide 30 post-secondary students and 30 apprentices with tuition credits from the College, and bursary funding from The W. Garfield Weston Foundation to complete their education at Loyalist over the next three years. Beginning in the fall of 2013 with a total commitment of \$240,000 from The W. Garfield Weston Foundation, the Program at Loyalist will be one that leads other colleges forward in building a stronger workforce.

The W. Garfield Weston Foundation