



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Niagara College Students “Finalists” in Provincial Student Competitions

Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario – Niagara College will take centre stage at this year’s Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE) Discovery conference, Canada’s foremost innovation and commercialization event, where five Niagara College photonics students will showcase their applied research projects in the oral, video and Connections competitions. From an entry pool of over 300 projects and 1500 students from across Ontario’s colleges and universities, only 15 student finalists were invited to attend Discovery 2010, which will take place from May 17-18 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

Photonics students **Daniel Evkovich** and **Sandro Rocco** have been selected to present in the oral, video and Connections competition for their applied research study entitled “An Unbiased Analysis of HPS and LED Street Lighting Technologies in the City of Welland”. Under the supervision of Technology Research co-ordinators **Jay Yatulis** and **Alexander McGlashan**, Daniel and Sandro compared high pressure sodium (HPS) lighting technologies with light emitting diode (LED) solid-state lighting technologies for the application of street lighting. Results of the study support LED lamps as an energy efficient and cost effective alternative for both municipal and provincial street lighting strategies.

Niagara College will have additional representation in the Connections competition with Photonics students **Shawn Kafal** and **Omar Contreras**, who will present their research study on the construction and evaluation of a micro-laser-induced breakdown spectroscopy (micro-LIBS) device for horticultural and industrial applications.

In each competition, student finalists will present their new technology, innovation or start-up idea in five minutes, followed by a two-minute question period from a panel of esteemed judges. Winning presentations in the oral and video competition will receive one of three cash prizes of up to \$2,500. This year’s Connections participants are eligible to win one of three \$2,000 cash prizes as the best university, college or Ontario Power Authority (OPA) energy conservation project.

OCE represents one of the College’s largest funding organizations towards applied research projects. Both Niagara College and Niagara Research will have a presence as an exhibitor at this year’s OCE Discovery conference, which invites business leaders, investors, researchers and entrepreneurs to learn about exciting successes and emerging trends in advanced health, clean technology, digital media, manufacturing and the green economy. New this year, Discovery will welcome the 2010 Premier’s Innovation Awards, with Premier Dalton McGuinty recognizing world-class innovators who are changing the face of medicine, health technology, cleantech, communications technology and digital media. Additionally, Niagara Research will provide a service innovation to conference delegates with its OCE Career Corner that aims to connect industry leaders with highly-skilled job seekers.

Niagara Research is the home of applied research at Niagara College. Applied research is broadly defined as the application of new or existing knowledge to solve practical real-world problems and advance the goals of our community. The role of Niagara Research is to provide real world solutions for business, industry and the community through applied research and development activities. Niagara Research, in partnership with business or community partners, conducts applied research projects that model or simulate solutions, develop and test prototypes, adopt new technologies and knowledge, develop and evaluate new or improved products, processes, or solutions to community issues.

Niagara College is one of Ontario's 24 publicly-funded Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology. With 8,000 full-time students, Niagara College offers more than 90 diploma, baccalaureate degrees and advanced level programs at campuses in Welland, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Niagara Falls and St. Catharines. Areas of specialization include food and wine sciences, advanced technology, applied health and community safety, and the College is home to the globally-recognized Niagara Culinary Institute and Niagara College Teaching Winery. In 2008, Niagara College launched an unprecedented \$90 million campus redevelopment project, which is scheduled for completion in 2011. For more information, visit www.NiagaraCollege.ca.

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