BUILDING PATHWAYS THROUGH POST-SECONDARY PARTNERSHIPS

CHINOOK'S EDGE SCHOOL DIVISION • COMMUNITY LEARNING CAMPUS • OLDS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & TECHNOLOGY

THE BIG IDEA

Dual credit is more than a course or credential. It is part of a connected learning pathway that helps students explore interests, develop skills, experience post-secondary learning, and make informed decisions about their futures.

Through the Community Learning Campus (CLC), Chinook's Edge School Division and Olds College of Agriculture & Technology have built a collaborative partnership that connects secondary education, post-secondary learning, and career opportunities. Established approximately two decades ago, this joint venture is grounded in shared responsibility for facilities and programming.

THE TAKEAWAY

Strong pathways don't happen by accident. They grow through relationships, intentional planning, coordinated leadership, and a shared commitment to what students need next.

A Question for System Leaders: *What is one leadership decision your school authority could make today to move students from career exploration into meaningful post-secondary or workplace experiences?*

A PATHWAY, NOT A ONE-TIME EXPERIENCE

Our Explore–Engage–Experience model provides students with opportunities to build confidence, develop skills, and progress toward meaningful career and post-secondary transitions. Stages are flexible rather than strictly grade-specific, allowing entry based on interest, readiness, and goals.

01
EXPLORE — Discover possibilities

- Career exploration, coaching conversations, and career events.
- Exploratory camps, campus visits, and hands-on learning.
- Introduction to skilled trades and post-secondary environments.

Example: Readiness for the Skilled Trades Level 1 (14-day experience)

02
ENGAGE — Build skills & confidence

- Targeted dual credit and post-secondary learning.
- Skill development and aligned Career and Technology Studies (CTS).
- Work experience, RAP, and CAREERS opportunities.

Example: 12-day (Welding) & 15-day (Hydraulics and Electrical) experiences

03
EXPERIENCE — Prepare for next step

- Specialized training, certifications, and work-integrated learning.
- Pre-employment and targeted industry experiences.
- Connections to apprenticeship, diplomas, and further education.

Example: Pre-Employment pathways to Auto, Heavy Equipment, Welding & Millwright training

WHAT MAKES THE PATHWAY WORK?

Shared leadership & clear roles

Division leaders, administrators, counsellors, career practitioners, teachers & instructors work together.

Coordinated student support

Career coaching connects interests with graduation requirements, financial aid & next steps.

Intentional scheduling & planning

Dedicated time is essential. Multi-year planning requires early coordination.

Strong real-world connections

Relationships with post-secondary & industry partners clarify expectations beyond high school.

Communication, tracking & continuous improvement

School teams monitor participation, progress, and barriers to continuously strengthen programming.

TAKE ACTION: SIX MOVES FOR SYSTEM LEADERS

1. Start with the student
Coaching conversations identify interests and strengths.

2. Build a team
Establish clear roles across division staff.

3. Design backwards
Identify desired post-secondary/workplace transitions first.

4. Plan for access
Coordinate scheduling, transportation, and supports.

5. Invest in relationships
Maintain contact with post-secondary & industry.

6. Track and learn
Monitor participation and barriers to guide decisions.

CONTINUE YOUR LEARNING

Reach out to access our full suite of comprehensive handbooks, strategic action guides, and implementation resources.

CONTACT

Brianne Fletcher
Director, Community Learning Campus
Chinook's Edge School Division & Olds College of Agriculture & Technology
bfletcher@cesd73.ca & bfletcher@oldscollege.ca