

Techsploration Program teaches girls about trades occupations

A new program called Techsploration, being offered in eight schools within the Avalon East School Board, will provide girls in Grade 9 with opportunities to explore trades, technical, and technology-related occupations.

Launched today from the Prince Philip Drive campus of College of the North Atlantic, Techsploration is a project of the Women in Resource Development Committee (WRDC) in partnership with the Avalon East School Board and the college.

"This program is intended to be inclusive of all girls, including those from various levels of academic achievement, from diverse cultural backgrounds, and girls with special needs," says Jan Foley, Education Coordinator with the WRDC.

"It will provide these girls with the opportunities to explore trades and technology-related jobs, while creating an awareness about the critical role of work in their lives. It will also help them understand the significance of high school math and science to their future careers."

The Techsploration program will run until June at Stella



Going for gold!

The team of Barb Ryan, Eric Hynes and Jay Stuckless (missing), representing the Bay St. George campus, won the top prize in the senior division of the Provincial Culinary Competition held at the college's Prince Philip Drive campus Feb. 9. The Bay St. George team was the only team from outside the St. John's area to take part in the competition. The team received tremendous support from the community and businesses, receiving supplies from Nestle Canada, two sets of Grohmann knives (an \$800 value) from the Grohmann company, and financial assistance from the Newfoundland Chefs Association to help cover the expenses of airfare and accommodations.

Maris in Trepassey, Mobile Central High in Mobile, Frank Roberts Junior High in Foxtrap, Mount Pearl Intermediate in Mount Pearl, St. John Bosco in Shea Heights, St. Michael's High in Bell Island, and Holy Cross Junior High and Brother Rice Junior High in St. John's.

The program will be run in teams with each team including

six girls, a teacher and a female role model. Each student will be assigned a trades or technology occupation to research and will be introduced to a career planning model they can continue to use for the rest of their lives. The research component includes an interview with a

Certified Information Technology Programmers hold graduation ceremony

The Corner Brook Campus, College of the North Atlantic celebrated the graduation of the Certified Information Technology Programmers on Friday January 11, 2002. Eleven students were awarded diplomas. This is the second group of students to graduate from this program. The first group graduated in July, 2001.

This program was initiated through a partnership with Advanced Training & Services Inc. from New Brunswick and College of the North Atlantic. Advanced Training & Services (ATS) NFLD Inc. is a leading

computer consulting and training company which is new to the province and presently operates an office in Corner Brook. ATS has a need for fifty industry certified IT specialists. The company specializes in providing computer training, application development and support to clients operating in the Microsoft NT4 environment. These graduates of the Certified Information Technology Program who have obtained industry certification will commence work with ATS NFLD Inc. on Monday.

Glenn Dicks, District Administrator presented the diplomas. Also, in attendance were Instructor Paul Carter, Sharon Mclennon of NATI, and Denise Baker and Des Whelan representing ATS.

Graduates from the program include: Stephen Christopher, Ian Graham, Stacie Gregory, Velma Hicks, Colin Humber, Shannon March, Christopher Noseworthy, Susan Rumbolt, Shannon Warren, Mary Whelan and Judy Woolridge.

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female role model and a work-site tour. Role models include a marine safety specialist, a toxicologist, an avionics technician, an IT configuration manager, a HVAC specialist, as well as structural and mechanical engineers.

Funding for the project is being provided by ExxonMobil. Participating companies include Hibernia Management Development Corporation, Xwave, Jaques Whitford Environment Ltd., Cougar Helicopters Inc., Controls and Equipment Ltd., BAE-Newplan Group Ltd., and The Offshore Safety and Survival Centre of the Marine Institute.



Techsploration, a new program to introduce high school girls to non-traditional careers, was launched from the Prince Philip Drive campus of College of the North Atlantic on Thursday, January 17, 2002. ExxonMobil sponsored the program to the tune of \$85,000. Taking part in the cheque presentation are, from left, Allison Dancey, Petroleum Industry Outreach Coordinator, Women in Resource Development Committee (WRDC), Joyce Hancock, Board Co-Chair, WRDC, and Jessica Shinkle, ExxonMobil.