

Research projects receive funding

BY THE STARPHOENIX, THE STARPHOENIX MARCH 24, 2014

The International Minerals Innovation Institute (IMII) has announced the funding for two research and development projects worth \$1.1 million and four education and training projects worth \$3.3 million.

The six projects focus on safety, environment and developing specialized training for the mining industry.

They are:

-SIAST and the University of Saskatchewan — enhancing cultures of safety and safety engagement in the Saskatchewan mining industry: A collaborative and multi-disciplinary inquiry — \$786,000 over two years. A study of the safety programs in six participating companies will be reviewed, benchmarked and compared to each another. Methods will be developed to further improve the safety culture of the communities and their workforce.

U of S — development of functionalized clay-based reactive media for removal of cationic salts from brine effluent — \$320,000 over two years. The research focuses on the development of surface-modified clay-based reactive media that can be used for the remediation of salt-impacted soil and groundwater at operating or abandoned potash mines as well as for the control of brine from newly planned or expanded mines.

Education and training

SIAST and The Centre for Minerals Innovation, training and leadership — \$500,000. To establish a director position to develop a training program for minerals industry needs, with a detailed budget within six months.

Northlands College and the Northlands Mine Training and Research Institute — Expansion of facilities and existing programming to train highly skilled individuals for the minerals industry — \$1.8 million over two years.

Parkland College and Carlton Trail Regional College — introduction to mining — \$431,000 over two years. A collaborative effort between the two colleges to work with a number of potash mines within their two regions to develop an aboriginal workforce for entry-level positions in the mines and processing facilities.

Cumberland College — equipment funding and safety training funding — \$504,000 over four years. This funding will enable the college to purchase equipment for trades training and employ specialized

trainers to deliver safety training required by the mining industry.

“We believe through initiatives like these projects, the collaborations of industry, government and post-secondary institutions are going to help us to produce real outcomes for a world-class minerals industry,” said Engin Ozberk, executive director and senior technical adviser of IMII.

The IMII is a public-private-post-secondary partnership jointly funded by industry and government to develop industry-driven education and training programs to address labour force needs in the sector.

© Copyright (c) The StarPhoenix