

News Release

For Immediate Release
May 26, 2015

Higher training standards for technology profession promote worker safety, including in oil and gas industry **New standards simpatico with Alberta premier's long-time focus**

In light of Rachel Notley's long-standing focus on workplace safety, the Association of Science and Engineering Technology Professionals of Alberta's (ASET) pivotal role in raising the bar on educational standards for the engineering technology and applied science profession in Canada – including within the oil and gas industry -- may be a timely and welcome development for the Alberta premier.

Helping ensure the best of the best comprise the oil and gas and other industry workers, ASET joined forces with three other provincial partners in the establishment of an improved national accreditation model, Technology Accreditation Canada (TAC). Recently launched, TAC is officially in the process of accrediting engineering technology and applied science programs at Canadian educational institutions. Georgian College in Barrie, Ontario was the first Canadian college to receive TAC accreditation – for its electrical engineering technology program.

What sets TAC apart from other accreditation models is its commitment to the recommendations of a 2011 Canadian Standards Association (CSA) report which called for objective documentation, competency definition/measurement and quality assessment, and optimizing auditor competency through specialized training, testing and monitoring. TAC accreditation decisions are based on the findings of the auditors and not by board vote. A second-level review of each individual accreditation and annual reviews by TAC's governance and audit council guarantee consistency and integrity in TAC national accreditation.

“Safe practices are core components of the accreditation evaluations administered by TAC. The rigorous TAC accreditation process for college training programs assures oil and gas and other industry companies, employees and the general public that work by technicians and technologists will be performed at the highest possible level. This provides peace of mind to Albertans who are concerned about any potential safety issues related to the oil and gas and other industries, as well as the many thousands of Albertans who work within them,” said ASET CEO Barry Cavanaugh.

The advent of TAC is supported by ASET Member Eric Amphlett, P.Tech. (Eng.), who is a technical services manager with C-FER in Edmonton. C-FER operates two facilities that allow for full scale experimental testing in the oil and gas industry, including evaluating the effectiveness of pipeline leak detection technology conveyed on airborne platforms.

“Knowing that TAC is providing accreditation to engineering technology and applied science programs in provinces across Canada is reassuring to companies such as C-FER which value the professional designations held by their employees. The robust accreditation process developed by TAC can only serve to maximize worker and public safety,” said Amphlett.

Representing approximately 18,000 technicians and technologists across Alberta, ASET provides its members the certification that top employers demand. ASET members play an integral role in driving the Alberta economy and their innovation is one reason why the province maintains its competitive advantage. ASET members represent a wide range of sectors including avionics, biomedical, chemical, computers, electrical, environmental, geological, instrumentation, oil and gas, and telecommunications. www.aset.ab.ca.

-30-

Media Contact:
Michele Penz, Calico Communications for ASET
1.778.888.2249
calicocomm@telus.net
