

# The DLC SCOOP

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## Celebrating Success with 9 DLC Graduates

Nine smiling faces lined the stage of Sun West DLC's 2018 Graduation Ceremony in Kenaston on Friday, June 8th. Given the hard work, perseverance and commitment required to get there, it is no wonder these nine graduates were feeling proud of themselves.

"Today is the result of a lifetime of choices. Your path may not be the same as the person sitting next to you, but we have all arrived at this point together," said valedictorian Darby-Jayne Fletcher.

"Everyone is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing it is stupid."  
- author unknown

"I am sure there were also those lonely, frustrating days where we probably thought, 'being in a classroom would be so much easier'. The DLC has broke down all barriers; online learning gives us the freedom to take our education wherever our journey finds us. We are moving forward as resilient, capable, responsible, and determined individuals who are ready for wherever life may lead us."

For the crowd of 130 parents and teachers in the room, those words couldn't be more true. DLC instructor Phil Guebert remarked, "When I looked down the row of grads - each with their own interests, strengths and passions - I saw 9 learners who have carved out their own paths. Young people who weren't afraid to ask questions, to find answers and realize success in a way that made sense for them. As a teacher, it's so rewarding to be a part of that process."



2018 Graduates (back L-R): Yongseong Jeon, Jackson Semenchuck, Jayden Gilroyed, Cole Knutson, Zackary McKay, (front L-R): Jirah Joy Juson, Darby-Jayne Fletcher, Hannah Jalbert, Lilianna Skorobohach (missing: Kaitlyn Kjargaard)

After the brief program - which included a moving speech from Darby-Jayne as well as a powerful rendition of *O'Canada* performed by Hannah Jalbert and accompanied on piano by Cole Knutson - students and their families connected with peers at an afternoon tea, took photos in the park and then joined in a tour of the DLC building.

In the words of Heather Gardiner, a mother of one of our grads, "the day was absolutely amazing. We are so appreciative that Sun West took time to honour the achievements of these grads. Without the encouragement of DLC teachers, my child wouldn't have completed high school. You let him take the wheel of his boat and, after steering it into a few islands along the way, he has finally docked... with his high school diploma in hand."

Hearing just how important this day is to graduates and their families, DLC staff are already noting things to improve upon for next year. "This day is worth every anxious moment of planning and deliberation for us," said DLC teacher Renee Harrison. "It is a day of celebration for all; we can't wait to pick the date and start planning the 2019 event."

## TWO NEW COURSES READY FOR 2018-19

### Agriculture & Sustainable Food Production (ASFP) 10

ASFP 10 explores the agriculture industry in its entirety; from farming, where commodities are produced; to the value-added sector, where those commodities are turned into consumable products; to the marketing and logistics of those products; to the consumer's plate. Throughout the course, students will better understand the many connections between consumers, the food we eat and agriculture on a local and global scale.

Students will grow their understanding of agricultural trends, explore a variety of foods produced in Saskatchewan, and learn about the technologies, innovation, and career opportunities available. They will also develop the skills to think critically about the agriculture industry, its impact on our economy, and the environment.



In addition to the online theory work, each ASFP student will be paired with a mentor - someone actively involved in the ag industry - with whom they will engage in a series of discussions around course topics.

### Agricultural Equipment Technician (AET) 20L

For those interested in trades-based or technical careers, AET 20L offers an exciting look into a line of work with abundant employment options. Agricultural equipment technicians have the critical task of keeping the implements running so that farmers can do their jobs efficiently. And thanks to the generous support of agricultural dealerships across the province, AET courses (typically \$500/student) will be available **for free** to all Saskatchewan learners.

#### *AET 20 consists of:*

- 50 hours of online theory
- 40 hours of work placement
- 10 hours of boot camp at Sask Polytechnic

In the online theory component (50 hours), students will learn to identify various farm implements, explore how they function and when/where they are used in the agricultural process, and acquire fundamental knowledge of the tools used in equipment upkeep and repair. They will also learn about common safety practices for industrial and agricultural settings.



In addition students will be invited to participate in a number of extra-curricular opportunities such as equipment demo days, site tours, and speaker events.

After completing 50 hours of online theory, learners will then be matched with a dealership for a 40 hour work placement where students will be challenged to apply their learning in an actual workplace setting.

There will also be approximately 10 hours (2 days) spent at a boot camp on Sask Polytech's Saskatoon campus.



## Sun West DLC Signs Agreement with Sask Polytechnic to Secure Steam Time for 4th Class Power Engineering Students

As part of the 4th Class Power Engineering program, students must complete a three-week steam lab in an approved location. Until recently, those spots were hard to come by but a signed agreement between Sun West DLC and Saskatchewan Polytechnic designates 12 spots on their Saskatoon campus for DLC students each summer.

"This is a big win for students," says DLC Principal, Craig Vanthuyne. "Our team, which includes teachers and professional engineers, can now provide the entire learning experience... the online theory as

well as all practical training required to obtain certification."

DLC student Tanner Sawrenko has signed up to do his steam time this summer and is very grateful that these spots are available. Living in Biggar, it is a quick drive in to Saskatoon to participate in the three-week lab. When asked what he is most looking forward to about the experience, he replied, "I am looking forward to the hands on learning... taking the knowledge and information from the books and applying them to real life situations with boilers and other equipment in

the lab."

Students interested in exploring this career path might want to contact a DLC Career Counsellor to discuss the program. In addition to the steam lab, which is scheduled at the end of the program, there are four online elective courses, two provincial exams, and a series of weekend boot camps that should be factored into a student's high school plan. All components are offered and/or coordinated by Sun West DLC and we would be happy to help determine how it might be a fit.

### Please remember to return all loaned resources at the end of the year.

All paper-based textbooks and novels as well as telescopes, tripods, tuning forks and spring scales should be **sent COD via Canada Post** to:

**Sun West DLC  
Attn: Tara George  
Box 370  
Kenaston, SK S0G 2N0**

For elementary families, coil bound workbooks and activity sheets **do not need to be returned.**

### CONGRATULATIONS 2018 DLC Grad Class

We are so very proud of all that you have accomplished and thrilled to have been able to share in your success.



DLC's Carol Lewis gives an enthusiastic hug to graduate Jayden Gilroyed



## THE PRINCIPAL'S TAKE

The New Guy: Craig Vanthuynne

Watching nine graduates take to the stage at this year's DLC graduation ceremony was the perfect end to a year of questions, curiosities and growth for me. Coming from a traditional, bricks and mortar school and joining this unfamiliar online world, I have learned much about the ways and the reasons why we do things differently at the DLC.

But this day, this event, and these nine learners affirmed everything that I have observed the past 8 months. Being flexible and recognizing the

unique strengths, interests, and circumstances of each learner is a privilege that we have at our online school. And one that we strive to practice every day.

Our days aren't fixed to a bell, nor are our teachings confined to the walls of a classroom. While that type of learning environment is ideal for some, there are many reasons why it might not be best for others.

At Sun West DLC, we are in an enviable position of being able - thanks to technology - to provide alternatives. To bring the learning to the learner when and where it works for them. To provide not only educational resources but also encouragement and support to students when they need it. And in doing so, to help students overcome obstacles and make seemingly unreachable goals achievable.

I am so very proud of our students - not only the 9 on the stage, but

the other 3,000 DLC learners that they represent - for overcoming the many challenges that face students today to find their own way. I am moved by the passion with which they pursue their goals. And I am inspired by the courage with which they have explored unknown possibilities. These are the traits of successful people and I have no doubt that our learners will go on to achieve great things in all aspects of life.

As our learners head off for a well deserved summer break, I want to say thank you, on behalf of our entire staff, for inviting us to be a part of your journey. Thank you for allowing us to do what we love to do... which is empowering learners to realize their greatest potential.

Hopefully your summer months allow you time to reflect and celebrate both your academic and personal achievements this year. You have much to be proud of.

[www.sunwestDLC.ca](http://www.sunwestDLC.ca)

## CONSULT OUR STUDENT SERVICE AND COURSE COUNSELLING TEAM WHEN PLANNING FOR NEXT YEAR

For students entering the high school years, there are often questions about the credit system and how to ensure students are properly prepared to pursue their post-secondary goals.

Its never too late - or too early - to begin thinking about a graduation plan. For most students, completing the mandatory 24 high school credits needed to graduate means taking eight courses per year in Grades 10 through 12. Some of these courses are mandatory and others are optional. Regardless of how you intend to schedule those courses, advanced planning and goal setting will be a critical part of the plan. Earlier this year, DLC students in Grades 9-11 were emailed a course planner to assist in this process. If you have questions, please let your Student Services and Course Counsellor (SSCC) know.

For Grades 10 and 11 students still unsure of their future plans, myBlueprint might provide some insight into prospective career paths of interest. This career exploration tool helps to match interests, abilities and careers. Upon completing the question component, the tool matches students to careers and additional information such as wages, education required, and necessary skills. It also tracks progress towards graduation for those who choose to use it. Go to [www.myBlueprint.ca](http://www.myBlueprint.ca) for more information.

Or contact Career Counsellor Renee Harrison @ [renee.harrison@sunwestsd.ca](mailto:renee.harrison@sunwestsd.ca) or 306.252.1000 x 832111.