

Media Release

For Immediate Release

Red Deer Polytechnic recognizes accomplishments of apprentices at 2026 Building on Excellence event

Red Deer, October 23, 2026 – At its annual Building on Excellence event on October 21, Red Deer Polytechnic (RDP) recognized a talented and dedicated group of apprentices who demonstrated exceptional knowledge and abilities at Skills competitions during the past year. RDP apprentices earned a total of 10 medals at the provincial and national level and delivered an impressive performance at the WorldSkills Competition in China.

In 2026, Red Deer Polytechnic apprentices achieved three gold, three silver and one bronze medal at the Skills Canada Alberta competition held at the Edmonton EXPO Centre. Building on that success, Ty McCartney (Carpentry), Nathan Brehaut (Sprinkler Systems Installer) and Dane Schmidt (Welding) earned gold medals at the Skills Canada National competition in Toronto.

With Schmidt's national title, Red Deer Polytechnic celebrated its seventh national welding gold medal in eight years. Lucas Stang (Welding) also earned a Medal of Excellence and placed sixth at the 2026 WorldSkills Competition in Shanghai, China, a remarkable achievement that reflects the program's excellence and global stature.

"The achievements of our apprentices is a testament to the strength of our skilled trades programming and support from industry partners," says David Pye, Dean of the School of Trades and Technology, Red Deer Polytechnic. "As demand for skilled workers continues to grow, RDP, through initiatives such as the Central Alberta Trades Strategy, is helping build a strong pipeline of highly trained professionals who will support economic prosperity for years to come."

Red Deer Polytechnic apprentices continue to rank among the top post-secondary achievers across the province and nation. Since 2003, the Polytechnic's apprentices have remarkably earned a total of 104 medals at Skills Canada Alberta, Skills Canada National and WorldSkills competitions.

RDP's leadership in skilled trades education is further strengthened through the [Central Alberta Trades Strategy](#), a collaborative initiative involving NOVA Chemicals, a part of Borouge International, post-secondary institutions and industry partners. By modernizing skilled trades training with improved access, enhanced flexibility, stronger coordination and long-term sustainability, the Strategy will help ensure the region has the skilled workforce needed to support industry growth and enhance economic resilience.

As the third-largest provider of skilled trades in Alberta, RDP will educate and train 2,800 apprentices this year across 17 Apprenticeship programs.

The next post-secondary Skills Canada Alberta competition will be held May 5-6, 2027 in Edmonton, with the National Competition following in Calgary on May 27-28, 2027.

Learn more at: rdpolytech.ca/trades.

Here is a summary of the achievements by Red Deer Polytechnic apprentices at Skills competitions in 2026:

WorldSkills

- **Medal of Excellence (sixth place) – Lucas Stang, Welding**

Skills Canada National

- **Gold medal – Ty McCartney, Carpentry**
- **Gold medal – Nathan Brehaut, Sprinkler Systems Installations**
- **RBC Best of Regional Award – Nathan Brehaut, Sprinkler Systems Installations**
- **Gold medal – Dane Schmidt, Welding**

Skills Canada Alberta

- **Gold medal – Ty McCartney, Carpentry**
- **Gold medal – Nathan Brehaut, Sprinkler Systems Installations**
- **Gold medal – Dane Schmidt, Welding**
- **Silver medal – O’Ryan Edmondson, IT Network Systems Administration**
- **Silver medal – Adam Moore, Sprinkler Systems Installations**
- **Silver medal – Cowyn Godlonton, Steamfitter/Pipefitter**
- **Bronze medal – Timothy Hills, Sprinkler Systems Installer**
- **Sixth – Dario Reale, Carpentry**
- **Seventh – Ren Eggers, Culinary Arts**
- **10th – Cole Empson, Carpentry**

About Red Deer Polytechnic: Aligning more than 80 industry-relevant credit and non-credit programs, hands-on training and applied research, Red Deer Polytechnic (RDP) provides dynamic opportunities to approximately 10,500 credit, non-credit and apprenticeship students in diverse sectors. RDP creates opportunities that align with the aspirations of its learners and the needs of the region.

With four areas of focus, Advanced Manufacturing, Health Care and Health Technology, Energy Innovation and Social Innovation, RDP makes a positive impact contributing to Alberta’s economic and social priorities.

Red Deer Polytechnic’s campuses are located on Treaty 7, Treaty 6 and Métis ancestral lands. This is where we will strive to honour and transform our relationships with one another.

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