

Practical & Applied Arts Program Giving Opportunities to Local Students

Written by Jay Jennings on Tuesday, 21 October 2014



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It was an exciting day for students, staff and employers in the Prairie South School Division on Monday. To kick off education week, Prairie South announced several partnership agreements with southern Saskatchewan employers as part of their Practical And Applied Arts program.

The program, which has been a couple years in the making, allows students to gain practical experience in a number of trades, through online and in-school training.

Cierra Strutynski is a grade 12 student in Coronach, home to the Poplar River Power Station. She has been able to study power engineering through the PAA program. "It's actually pretty interesting, I learned things that I didn't know before and it's making me look forward to the future," said Strutynski.

Howard Mathews is Acting Vice President for Power Productions with Sask Power, and former Director of the Poplar River Mine in Coronach. Mathews sees PAA as a wonderful recruiting tool. "We can actually encourage local students to get involved in power engineering, because for us we aren't trying to recruit

people out of Calgary, Vancouver or Toronto we want to give opportunities to local students and this does that," said Mathews.

Avonlea student, Sheldon Daniel lives on a mixed farm near the town, and says he's been able to enhance his knowledge of livestock through the online courses. "I didn't really have the information that you learn in the course, I was very raw. I didn't learn about all sorts of vaccines and the science part of it but now that I have this backing up what I know I have a better understanding of how things work," said Daniel.

Commercial Cooking, Cosmetology, and Energy and Mines are some of the other sectors involved with PAA.

This is the only PAA program in Saskatchewan, though Saskatoon has an "industry and employment council" that matches employers with students.



(Left to Right) Taryn Harden, Gabrielle Simard, Kendall Davidson, Bailey Breer, Josie Sognasan, Andie Knaus tour the Cosmetology classroom at Riverview collegiate

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