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Announcement

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COLLEGE FACULTY CAN NOW APPLY FOR IDEA TO INNOVATION FUNDING

(Ottawa, Ontario) – Dr. Suzanne Fortier, President of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), today announced that faculty from eligible community colleges, CEGEPs and institutes of technology can now apply as principal applicants for funding from the Council's Idea to Innovation (I2I) program. Previously, college faculty could apply only as co-applicants with a university researcher.

The objective of the I2I program is to accelerate the development of technology and promote its transfer to Canadian companies.

“We recognize that colleges play an increasingly important role in advancing innovation and helping industry adopt new technology,” said Dr. Fortier, who announced the change at an Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC) symposium here today. “Because colleges are closely linked with local industry, they are well positioned to work in technology development and proof-of-principle research projects.”

“ACCC welcomes the decision to make faculty from its member institutions eligible for principal funding under the NSERC Idea to Innovation program,” said ACCC President Gerald Brown. “Ideas need places to grow and develop. Colleges and institutes of technology provide the skills, the incubating environment and the knowledge to generate and bring ideas to fruition.”

To help college faculty prepare their applications, NSERC has produced a CD describing the program and its application and evaluation procedures. NSERC staff will also be available to answer questions and provide feedback on draft applications.

NSERC is a federal agency whose role is to make investments in people, discovery and innovation for the benefit of all Canadians. The agency supports some 22,000 university students and postdoctoral fellows in their advanced studies. NSERC promotes discovery by funding more than 10,000 university professors every year and fosters innovation by encouraging more than 600 Canadian companies to participate and invest in university research projects.

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