



VROC E-News

T H E L A T E S T

VROC has a new National Program Manager



Welcome, Nicole Tate-Hill!

Partners In Research is pleased to announce Nicole Tate-Hill has accepted the position of National Program Manager for the VROC Program.

Virtual Researcher On Call, or VROC as it is more commonly known, connects students in the classroom with researchers in colleges and universities across Canada.

"Nicole has demonstrated excellent leadership qualities and the ability to surpass expectations in her work at Partners In Research", indicated former VROC National Program Manager, Kevin Cougler. "I have every confidence Nicole will continue to thrive in her new role and bring passion and enthusiasm to the VROC program."

Congratulations Nicole!

SLOME 2012



This year close to 3000 students visited **SLOME** (Skills London Oxford Middlesex Elgin) to learn about the skills, experience and education required to attain rewarding careers in Science and Technology.

Recognized as one of Ontario's premier youth career exploration days, SLOME showcased **40 different exhibitors** exposing career opportunities in not-for-profit organizations, academia and the private and public sector.

VROC was onsite to provide a sneak peak of the trailer for *Why Math?*, VROC's new careers video podcast. *Why Math?* will launch in September 2012. It will provide an educational resource for teachers that complements the Ontario curriculum. It will also expose students to exciting career opportunities and

inform them of the experience and education they will need to follow in these career paths.

We hope you enjoy the trailer and please share it with the students and teachers in your life!

Watch the *Why Math?* trailer **[HERE](#)**.

Full episodes will be available in September 2012!

CORPORATE SPONSOR



VROC is actively seeking a major corporate sponsor for its **Reaching Every Student** program and podcasting initiatives for the 2012/2013 academic year.

Is your organization interested in encouraging students to learn about health and natural sciences, technology, engineering and mathematics?

[Contact Us](#) for a sponsorship package

Integrated Innovation at Algonquin College

What can be achieved when private industry, academia and innovative students work together?

VROC visited Algonquin College Applied Research Day to find out...

Algonquin College's 10th Annual Applied Research Day brought representatives of all these groups together. It was apparent to the large audience that these collaborations had engineered creative new solutions for some of today's most pressing problems.

Some of our favorites were:

1) A New Approach to Commercial Energy Conservation

A Hydro Ottawa, SeeWind Design and Algonquin Department of Electrical Engineering and Technology partnership.

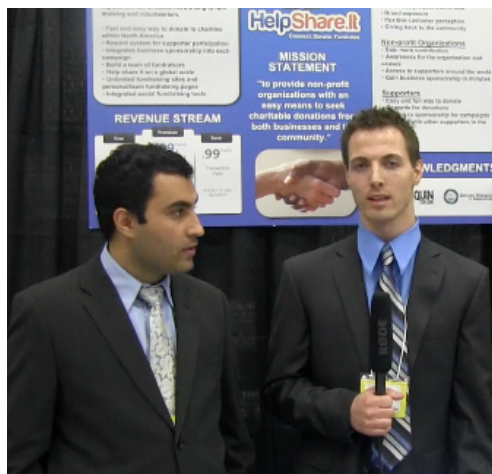


To reduce energy consumption at Algonquin College, SeeWind Design developed the technology to show students, in real-time, how much energy

they were consuming and at what cost. Students from the Department of Electrical Engineering and Technology worked with SeeWind Designs to promote this tool and developed solutions for reducing energy consumption.

2) Help Share it

A web platform for fundraising with a twist.



"HelpShare.It is developing a community-based, participation-driven platform on which individuals, organizations, and businesses can build highly compelling, personalized, online fundraising campaigns that will spur their friends, supporters, and members of the community into action."

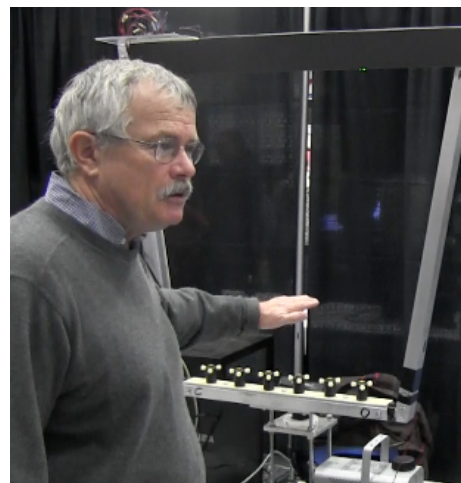
- Greg Tucker, HelpShare.It

The twist...Each campaign allows for business sponsorship where companies offer coupons, products, and services as an incentive for supporters to donate to that campaign. A highly integrated "points" rewards program is incorporated, motivating supporters to donate, participate, and share with their social networks.

At the moment, HelpShare.It is working with the Applied Research and Innovation program at Algonquin College to receive Ontario Centre for Excellence funding as well as collaborate with other departments of the college to develop their project.

3) The Virtual Harp – 2nd place in the Algonquin Innovation Category Competition

Alex Schubert, a student researcher in the photonics department at Algonquin College partnered with Ability Music to create a virtual harp that can be played by people with physical disabilities.



"Working with the Photonics Professors and students at Algonquin College has assisted Ability Music to provide technological resources to the Disabled Community that enables them to make and create music. For some it is the first time that they have had the opportunity to fulfill themselves musically."

-Chris Linden, Ability Music

Please click HERE to see a complete listing of winners from Algonquin Applied Research Day

This Week in Science and Education (TWISE)



"The Germ Guy"

Dr. Jason Tetro,
University of Ottawa

"Our Life with Germs"

Episode 76



Dr. Gordon "Oz" Osinski,

Western University

"Mission to the Moon Without Leaving Earth"

Episode 72

Learning Virtually with Virtual Researcher On Call (VROC)



By Mr. Zoras

Toronto District School Board (TDSB)

Today our class had a virtual researcher in our grade 11 Chemistry class. [Dr. Sanchita Bandyopadhyay-Ghosh](#) joined us from the [University of Toronto](#) to talk about Green Chemistry. She is from the Centre for Biocomposites and Biomaterials Processing and works with biodegrad-

able composites, cellulose nanofibres, biopolyol and biofoam.

Her lecture was informative and discussed the major links chemistry has to industry and the environment. She graciously shared her work in the field and discussed the next steps.

She challenged the students to enter into science fields to fix the problems we have and make a sustainable future. She shared her passion for the environment and told the students how she got involved and why she keeps on working in this field.

"2050 'biological capacity' equal to two planet earths would be required to keep up with humanity's resource demands and waste production."

- Dr. Sanchita Bandyopadhyay-Gosh

VROC has proven to be an excellent tool for the classroom. We were able to link chemistry to a researcher in the field and look at the environmental impact. One of the most important things was giving

hope to the diverse students by seeing a woman in a prestigious and important position. Often students see examples of European males in the textbook and their theories but to bring in current researchers and have the young women in my class see Dr. Bandyopadhyay-Ghosh was exceptional.

Thank you Carol from VROC and Dr Sanchita Bandyopadhyay-Ghosh for participating in an enriching learning experience on Green Chemistry with the Toronto District School Board (TDSB).

Watch the session [HERE](#)



N O T E S

A message from the Executive Director

I was very pleased to recently receive notification from [Colleges Ontario](#) that the Presidents of Ontario's colleges will be endorsing the Virtual Researcher On Call (VROC) program in September 2012.

The excellent programs and opportunities offered by colleges in Ontario will be an incredible source of content to highlight through the VROC program. Also, by endorsing VROC programming, Colleges Ontario is enlarging the database of inspiring experts and professionals in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math that grades 5 to 12 students will have access to.

We welcome the Ontario colleges to the VROC team and look forward to adding their unique expertise to VROC programming!



Mr. Kevin Cougler,

Partners In Research

Interim Executive Director

O U R S P O N S O R S

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Ontario Institute for Cancer Research

Rx&D Health Research Foundation

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