



ST. CLAIR COLLEGE PHOTO

STATE-OF-THE-ART

ST. CLAIR COLLEGE OFFERS LEADING-EDGE HEALTH PROGRAMS

A new, state-of-the-art building recently opened at the Centre for Applied Health Sciences at St. Clair College, as well as the addition of three new programs that are in big demand and boast some of the highest simulation available in the industry, with brand new equipment, including 3-D medical mannequins, paperless record-keeping, computer applications, computer software and digital X-rays.

Equipment in the new facility has been upgraded to leading-edge standards that you won't even see in some hospitals today. "We are trying to give our students the most technical and hands-on experience to whatever they're going to find out there in the workforce. We try to train them the best that we possibly can, to really adapt and have at least seen or touched every-



ST. CLAIR COLLEGE PHOTO

thing that's possibly out there," says Dr. Ken Blanchette, chair of Health Sciences.

The college is now able to gather all of its health-care disciplines within one area in order to develop an interdisciplinary professionalism for their students. "And the way you do

that is give them the best facility, the best professors, the best equipment, and the time that they need," says Blanchette. "The extra lab time and space and the environment that they need — give them their own complete building, solely for labs and learn that professionalism right from Day 1.

Everything is as modern as we can get it and the reason is, we want to make our students so highly trained in these areas that when you get to the clinical placement they're ready, they've either seen it or they've experienced it hands-on," explains Blanchette.

His long-term vision for the school is, "When it comes to hiring a student, that the hiring manager is flat-out saying, 'Pull the St. Clair grads out, I want to see them first.'"

GO GREEN AT ST. CLAIR COLLEGE

St. Clair college has introduced a new Sustainable Energy Technician program, a two-year diploma for individuals wishing to enter the rapidly growing field of green energy.

Mark Benoit, chair of academic studies at the Chatham campus, explains a unique method to derive energy from biomass: Waste streams and agricultural products that benefit the needs of the greenhouse industry.

"Right now we recycle a lot of cardboard and we have the equipment here, it's called a hammer mill, that will grind up cardboard then feed it to a pelletizing mill that will then turn it into small pellets or something that would look like hamster food.

"The greenhouse industry could then burn those pellets in a continuous feed furnace in order to heat the greenhouse and so it's turning the cardboard, which

would be difficult to manage, into a product that could be easy to manage and also becomes a fuel source that would've been a waste stream.

"What we're seeing over southwestern Ontario is farmers beginning to grow crops that are being harvested and put through this equipment to turn them into pellets to use as a fuel source, so they refer to it as purpose grown crops for energy."



ST. CLAIR COLLEGE PHOTO

ST. CLAIR INTEGRATES ROBOTS

St. Clair College has added a new 17,000-square-foot trade and technology facility at its Chatham campus that will house five exciting new programs.

One of these is the Electromechanical Engineering Technician in Robotics program. In response to the needs of industry, the college has purchased three new industrial robots, including a six-axis spider robot that can articulate in multiple directions and is able to perform very precise work.

Mark Benoit, chair of academic studies at the Chatham campus, explains. "The automotive industry has taken quite a hit in southwestern Ontario, so we're getting calls now from other companies that are beginning to integrate robots into their businesses and are looking for individuals who know how to set them up, program them, troubleshoot them and even the reconfiguration of the line to do a different type of function."

These are the same machines that graduates would experience in today's modern industrial workplace. "Students will learn how the robots operate, how to troubleshoot them, how to program them, how to do robot vision, which is the piece of the integration of how the robot can perform on the line," says Benoit.

Another new program, Powerline Technician, is designed to teach individuals to become linemen to fulfil a growing need in the electrical industry. According to local utility companies, the average age of a lineman is 56 years old.