

Media Release



Saskatoon Public Schools
Inspiring Learning

May 13, 2010 – Scientific discovery depicted in sculpture

Former Grade 11 and 12 students from Centennial Collegiate's Academy of Science and Technology are award-winning scientists thanks to the help of scientific mentors at the Canadian Light Source Synchrotron. Today, the students presented a unique sculpture at the Synchrotron as a permanent thank you.

Students attending the Academy of Science and Technology made a significant scientific discovery relating to acid rain through two experiments: Soft X-Ray Spectroscopic Exploration of Acid-Treated Boreal Forest Soil and Horizon-Dependent Effects of Nitric Acid Treated Boreal Forest Soil.

"Our Academy of Science and Technology students are amazing budding scientists," says teacher Jacqueline Gregoire. "We wanted to meld science with art and through an ArtsSmart grant worked with internationally known metal sculptor and former educator Jim Korpan who created two sculptures depicting the students' data in visual form." Each of the sculptures contains a Jack Pine tree with its gnarled roots extending down into the soil data profiles created during the students' research. The trees depict the effects of acid rain and are similar to the famous Tom Thompson jack pines which play a vital part in the fabric of Canadian art history. The larger sculpture, which is over 10 feet tall, has been installed in front of Centennial Collegiate. The smaller sculpture is being installed at the Synchrotron.

The Centennial Collegiate students have presented their scientific discovery to the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, and to the provincial Environment Ministry. They (along with students at Evan Hardy Collegiate), won the Canadian Institute for Synchrotron Radiation Poster Prize and both of their experiments have been published in the Canadian Light Source Activity Report 2008 and 2009.

Starting in the spring of 2008, the Academy of Science and Technology is a partnership between Saskatoon Public Schools and Innovation Place Research Park and is part of the public School Division's strategic priority of "collegiate renewal". Public high school students gain increased opportunities for learning outside of school, and more school experiences that mirror real-life experience. They take an active role in directing their own learning in areas that are current and of interest to them, and they make scientific discoveries!

- 30 -

For more information contact:

Jacqueline Gregoire, teacher
Academy of Science and Technology
Centennial Collegiate
(306) 683-7950