

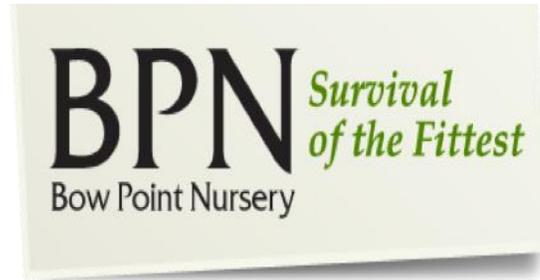
# Rocky View Schools Mount Royal University Dual Credit Partnership

Natural Resources Management and Environmental Science

Springbank Community High School

2013-2016

# Partners



# Dual Credit Opportunity

## MRU Environmental Science Course(s)

### Our Story

- ▶ Success story despite the odds
- ▶ Marked by transitions
  - ▶ Principal(s), lead teacher, business partner, university personnel
- ▶ Exceptional players involved
  - ▶ Dedicated and driven students
  - ▶ Flexible and knowledgeable instructors
  - ▶ Administration with a positive, solution-oriented focus

# Logistics

- ▶ Memorandum of Understanding between RVS and MRU
- ▶ RVS was the banker with Grant Funding
- ▶ Delivery Model
  - ▶ Face to face with MRU Instructor, Diana Fletcher and SCHS teacher, Wendy McEvoy
- ▶ Instruction on site at Springbank Community High School with MRU On-Campus events
  - ▶ Industry Meet and Greet, Parent Orientation and Open House, Registration Day
- ▶ Partnering instruction - MRU 3 x/ week at SCHS, other - SCHS instructor
  - ▶ Both have Master's degrees
- ▶ Roles
  - ▶ Complementary instruction to cover course requirements
  - ▶ Partner provided hands-on opportunities for learners

# Course Timelines and Details

- ▶ 2013-2014
  - ▶ Program development, alignment and agreements created
- ▶ 14 Students in each cohort
- ▶ February - June 2015
  - ▶ NTSC 1112 - An Introduction to Current Environmental Issues
- ▶ February - June 2016
  - ▶ NTSC 2201 - Environmentally Sustainable and Healthy Societies

# CTS Courses and Credits

- ▶ **ENS1010**      **INTRODUCTION TO STEWARDSHIP**
- ▶ **ENS1020**      **FOSTERING STEWARDSHIP**
- ▶ **ENS1030**      **CONSUMERISM**
- ▶ **ENS1040**      **LIVING WITH THE ENVIRONMENT**
- ▶ **ENS1110**      **NATURAL RESOURCES**
- ▶ **ENS1115**      **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**
- ▶ **ENS1910**      **ENS PROJECT A**
- ▶ **ENS2050**      **ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS**
- ▶ **ENS2130**      **RENEWABLE AND NONRENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES**
- ▶ **ENS2140**      **BY-PRODUCT MANAGEMENT**
- ▶ **ENS2910**      **ENS PROJECT B**

# STUDENT SUCCESS

- ▶ All students in both courses received credit - 100% completion rate
- ▶ Minimum grade earned was a 'B'
- ▶ Majority of students attained 'A' or 'A+'



# Course Strengths

## School Perspective

- ▶ Outstanding partnership with MRU
- ▶ Flexibility and adaptability
- ▶ Opportunity for Academic Excellence
- ▶ Competitive Advantage
  - ▶ One student who successfully completed NTSC1112 and now attends the University of California, Berkeley, wrote, *“I think that it really helped my application to show that I had taken a college level course and received credit, so I would definitely recommend it.”*

# Course Strengths

## Student Perspective

- ▶ Increased awareness of environmental issues worldwide
- ▶ Sharing of learning with greater community - making a difference
- ▶ Relevant, hands-on projects
- ▶ Increased understanding of post-secondary expectations
- ▶ Decreased anxiety regarding post-secondary
- ▶ University Transfer Credits



# Funding Information

- ▶ Funding was exclusively provided via the provincial grant
- ▶ Donations ‘in kind’ were provided by Bow Point Nursery
- ▶ Costs
  - ▶ Curriculum alignment work
  - ▶ MRU Instructor time
  - ▶ SCHS teacher time
  - ▶ Textbook purchase
  - ▶ Transportation of students to/from MRU for on-campus opportunities
  - ▶ Administrative meetings for establishment of agreement and logistical arrangements

# Challenges and Successes

## CHALLENGES

- ▶ Staffing transition
  - ▶ Lead teacher, school program liaison, principal, program chair, university liaison, another principal
- ▶ Student recruitment
  - ▶ Competition for courses
- ▶ Appropriate course offering
- ▶ Post-secondary out of province registrars' understanding

## SUCSESSES

- ▶ 28 students completed a university course
- ▶ Forged a wonderful working relationship with MRU
- ▶ Have a template in terms of how to proceed with this type of dual credit opportunity

# Sustainability

- ▶ Without the grant, this model of delivery is not sustainable
- ▶ Costs for both instructors
  - ▶ Face to face model
  - ▶ Transportation to/from school site
- ▶ Number of students enrolled
  - ▶ Only 14 students per course
  - ▶ Need 27 students, earning full 5 to 7 credits to make this economically viable

# Lessons Learned, Best Practices

- ▶ Flexibility is key
- ▶ Collaborative instructional team is essential
- ▶ Clarity of communication with students and parents is required
- ▶ Clarity of communication and expectation between partners is needed
- ▶ Don't be afraid to adjust if needed in the process

# Contacts

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