



DUPONT CANADA SUPPORTS GROUND-BREAKING HEALTH AND SAFETY TRAINING FOR ENGINEERING STUDENTS

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Collaboration with Minerva Canada and university researchers focuses on field safety and design implications



The Minerva module project team members include (left to right) Kasra Saeidabadi, a Ryerson University graduate student, Professor Sharareh Taghipour, a Ryerson University academic supervisor, and Wendy Tobin from DuPont.

Health and safety education is an increasingly important, yet lacking, component of the standard engineering curriculum that is provided at universities today in Canada. This finding was reinforced in a report that was submitted in 2010 to the Ontario Ministry of Labour by an expert advisory panel that was examining occupational health and safety in the province.

The need for health and safety education is further reinforced by Canadian workplace health and safety statistics for 2009, when there were 260,284 lost-time injuries and 939 fatalities across the country. This translated into eight to 12 percent of the workforce being incapacitated at any given time in that year, according to the Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada.



DuPont in Canada is supporting a multi-stakeholder effort to help address this situation. The company is collaborating with [Minerva Canada Safety Management Education Inc.](#), a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing health and safety education at Canadian universities and colleges. The two organizations, as well as Ryerson University, are coming together this year to develop a training module for engineering students that will focus on field safety considerations and its design implications. DuPont is providing financial support, as well as industry insights and expertise. **Wendy Tobin**, Global Manufacturing Safety Resource, based in DuPont Canada, is serving as the industry partner representative on the team. DuPont also participated with the University of Toronto and Minerva in 2013 to develop a training module on Hazard and Risk Identification. This module is now on the Minerva website.

"We're pleased to be supporting this part of the 'Bridging the Gap' project, which is a four-phase endeavor dedicated to initially developing a total of 22 modules in health and safety that can be easily incorporated into existing engineering curricula across all Canadian universities," said Wendy. "It builds on our existing relationship with Minerva, including delivering safety presentations at Minerva summer institutes, which are learning forums for university professors. This collaboration is a further demonstration of our commitment to our safety Core Value."

No other organization has attempted to teach the fundamentals of safety and safety management to all engineering students, even though the principle of prevention is common to all disciplines. The teaching modules are being placed on the Minerva web site as they are completed for all university and college faculties to use, including non-Engineering faculties. There are 12 modules completed so far which were reviewed by several professors and tested by students at various Canadian universities before they were placed on Minerva's web site.

The project was endorsed by the National Council of Deans of Engineering and Applied Science in 2012. Guest speakers from industry will also be invited to participate in delivering some of the modules when requested by academia. Minerva plans to develop more health and safety modules after 2015, based on requests from Canadian universities and colleges and/or identified by industry.



Tony Pasteris

"This project aligns with Minerva's mandate and helps graduates of the undergraduate engineering programs better meet the expectations of industry, said Tony Pasteris, Minerva's President and Chairman. "More importantly, while the modules impart valuable theory, the real win comes through equipping the engineers to better promote cultures of safety and prevention in the organizations where they work. We're extremely grateful to DuPont for all the support provided for this project and our many health and safety educational activities."