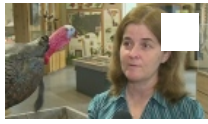


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High school students to learn building skills at new Construction Academy



Executive superintendent of innovation and experiential learning Dan Fister talks about the new Construction Academy in Windsor, Ont., on Wednesday, April 19, 2017. (Angelo Aversa / CTV Windsor)

CTV Windsor

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A new Construction Academy will provide Grade 11 and 12 students with a wide variety of modern building technology skills.

The Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board announced plans Wednesday for the new academy at St. Joseph's Catholic High School.

Officials say it will also help break the cycle of poverty by contributing to the creation of affordable housing throughout Ontario.

The board is partnering with Habitat for Humanity, the Windsor Construction Association, the Windsor Essex Homebuilders' Association, the Ontario Masonry Training Centre and St. Clair College

It will also incorporate the masonry program at F.J. Brennan Catholic High School.

"Besides being an excellent way for students to learn a variety of skills that can lead to careers in any number of highly sought-after trades, they will be doing something meaningful for the betterment of communities right across the province," said Executive Superintendent of Innovation and Experiential Learning Dan Fister.

Under the new academy model, students will spend part of their time learning in the construction technology lab at St. Joseph's, and part of their time in the masonry lab at F.J. Brennan, which was opened in 2015 in cooperation with the Canada Masonry Centre.

They will earn college dual credits, gain advanced standing in programs at St. Clair College, have access to paid summer co-op opportunities, and participate in valuable experiential learning, including a plan which could see them partner with Habitat for Humanity to build pre-fabricated modules for the affordable ranch-style homes they build right across Ontario.

Plans are also in the works with both the homebuilders' association and the construction association to determine other construction sector co-op placements.

"This is really a match made in heaven," said Pamela Breault, Operations Manager of Habitat for Humanity Windsor-Essex. "We'll be able to help even more people throughout Ontario achieve their dreams of home ownership, and students will receive invaluable hands-on experience, and the

satisfaction of knowing they have helped someone less fortunate.”

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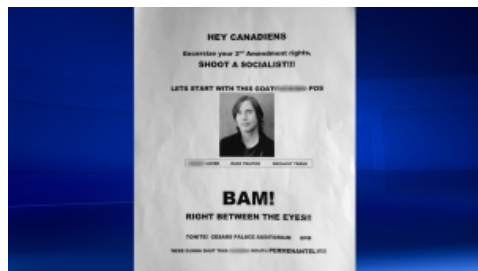
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