

## Lakeland College and Alberta 4-H formalize their relationship

After years of working together on everything from judging clinics to public speaking competitions, Lakeland College and Alberta 4-H have formalized their relationship by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Representatives from both organizations were at the Vermilion campus on Nov. 4 for the official signing of the MoU.

“This is a partnership that is focused on our rural youth. I know we’ll enjoy many, many more years of working positively together,” said Marguerite Stark, Branch Head, 4-H and Agriculture Education Branch, noting that Lakeland College and the 4-H movement in Canada both started in 1913.

Alice Wainwright-Stewart, Lakeland’s vice president of academic, innovation and research, said the Government of Alberta has indicated that collaborations and partnerships are keys to a strong future for post-secondary institutions in the province. “For Lakeland College, 4-H is a natural partner. We know the strength of 4-H; in fact, we see it in our students as many of our student-leaders were or are 4-H members,” she said.

Items outlined in the MoU include:

- Working together to promote the best interest of both parties on a regional and provincial basis
- Providing better recognition of each organization and its interests
- Collaborating and, where applicable and available, providing support service and facilities on an agreed upon basis

“We’re very fortunate to have Lakeland College in our region and we appreciate being able to work with Lakeland to host some of our events at the Vermilion campus,” said Carol Selte, president of the Northeast 4-H Regional Council. For example, during the past year the provincial public speaking presentations were in the Mead Building, the northeast qualifier for 4-H judging was part of the Western Canadian Judging Competition at Little Royal, and the



provincial 4-H judging competition was at the Vermilion campus in August. Later this month Fall Fling will take place and the district communication competition will be held at Lakeland College in February.

For Lakeland College, having these events on campus is not only a positive way to help 4-H, it's also a way to introduce prospective students to the college. "4-H is a group that we feel is the cream of the crop as are its members. We're proud to be associated with the organization," said Darrell Hickman, chair of agricultural sciences at Lakeland College.