

MEDIA RELEASE – For Immediate Release

OACETT LAUNCHES \$1 MILLION “25 FOR 25 BUILDING FORWARD” ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN

(LONDON, March 8, 2012) Celebrating 25 years of student support, OACETT and the Carole and George Fletcher Foundation have launched an expansive capital fundraising campaign to establish 25 endowment funds at 25 colleges across Ontario. Funds raised through the campaign will significantly enhance the impact and reach of the current bursary program. The official campaign launch event took place yesterday at Fanshawe College in London, Ontario, coinciding with National Engineering Month celebrations.

With a campaign goal of endowing \$1 million, the 25 for 25 Building Forward Campaign is the most ambitious effort in Fletcher Foundation’s history. Each endowment fund will sustain, in perpetuity, an annual \$1,000 bursary to be awarded to an engineering technology student enrolled in an OACETT recognized engineering or applied science technology program whose character best exemplifies integrity and professionalism in the practice of Engineering Technology.

“The campaign will create unprecedented capacity for OACETT to support students and help prepare engineering and applied science professionals for the future”, remarks Rod MacLeod, C.E.T., President of OACETT. “OACETT sees the future and is prepared to invest in it.”

“We are truly grateful for the new bursary support provided by OACETT and the Carole and George Fletcher Foundation,” said Catherine Finlayson, Executive Director, Fanshawe College Foundation.

“This investment will provide students with the resources and motivation that will allow them to excel, positioning them well for future success.”

The Fanshawe launch event celebrated the significant success the campaign has already achieved, which stems from the \$10,000 leadership gift that the Fletcher Foundation pledged to each of the 25 colleges to kick-off the campaign. That capital has been used to leverage additional donor support through matched fund opportunities, including private donations and funds available through the Ontario Trust for Student Support (OTSS) program. The OTSS program is aimed at creating support for students in financial need by matching endowment funds gifted to Ontario’s post-secondary institutions.

Leveraging this capital has made it possible to quickly establish endowment funds at 14 colleges prior to the official launch. With the OTSS program set to end on March 31, 2012, OACETT acted quickly and is continuing to secure as many endowments as possible to support the campaign. As a result, OACETT and Chapter leadership have been busy participating in donor recognition events at several colleges, including Fanshawe College and Georgian College.

“The 25 for 25 Building Forward Campaign will expand the bursary program’s reach and support to engineering technology education” adds David Tsang, A.Sc.T., Chair of the Fletcher Foundation.

“Investing in education is important to cultivate home-grown expertise to meet local and global demands.”

As opportunities through the OTSS program wind-down, the campaign is busy preparing for a shift to broader stakeholder campaign activities to raise the remaining funds and achieve the overall goal of endowing 25 funds. OACETT is eager to engage more members, Chapters and industry partners so everyone can participate in the success of the campaign.

Founded in 1957, OACETT is the professional association that promotes the interests of engineering and applied science technicians and technologists in industry, educational institutions, government and with the public. OACETT is also Ontario’s independent certifying body for engineering and applied science technicians and technologists. The Carole and George Fletcher Foundation bursary program, administered by OACETT helps young people across the province pursue careers in engineering and applied science technology. Since awarding its first bursary in 1987, the Foundation has recognized 326 worthy students across Ontario. 2012 Foundation Trustees include David Tsang, A.Sc.T., Chair; Angelo Innocente, C.E.T., David Saunders, C.E.T, Daryl Keys, C.E.T, and Mazin Audeh, C.E.T..

For more information about OACETT and the *25 for 25 Building Forward* campaign, please visit www.oacett.org.

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For further information, please contact:

Richard Stamper
Manager, Business Development
OACETT
10 Four Season Place, Suite 404
Toronto, ON M9B 6H7
Ph: 416-621-9621, ext. 250
Email: rstamper@oacett.org



(L-R: Catherine Finlayson, Executive Director, Fanshawe College Foundation; Dr. Howard Rundle, President of Fanshawe College, accept donation from Rod MacLeod, C.E.T., President of OACETT as part of official campaign launch in London on March 7, 2012).