

New Endowed Chair in Heavy Construction Receives \$125,000 Mechanical Contractors Gift

(June 11, 2009 SOUTHERN ONTARIO) – The Mechanical Contractors Association - Greater Hamilton Region representing employers in the Mechanical Contracting industry proudly serving Hamilton, Wentworth, Halton, Lincoln, Wellington, Brant, Haldimand and Norfolk Counties have entered a new community partnership with McMaster University's Faculty of Engineering and Mohawk College, Bachelor of Technology in the creation of an endowed chair in Heavy Construction.



"On the behalf of our members, industry participation as a funding partner is vital in ensuring that Civil Engineering produces graduates that are well-equipped to fulfill the current career gaps and opportunities in the heavy construction industry, an industry that is an important contributor in building, rehabilitating and retrofitting of our infrastructure," explains Mechanical Contractors Association Hamilton President, Paul Shewfelt.

Over \$1million dollars has been raised by The Hamilton & District Heavy Construction Association leading this initiative with industry partners. The new creation of a Chair in perpetuity represents a new faculty position, an academic appointment in the Department of Civil Engineering with major instruction responsibilities in the applied Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech) program, a McMaster-Mohawk venture.

Partnerships Include (Photo Front Row left to right): Wanda Heimbecker, Association Manager, Mechanical Contractors Association Zone 9 & 9A Greater Hamilton Region, Peter George, President McMaster University, Dave Wilkinson, Dean Engineering, McMaster University Wendy Fountain, Human Resources, John Deere Ltd., and Ghani Razaqpur, Effective Design Chair Professor, McMaster

Back Row (left to right): Gerry Mulhern, Executive Director, Ontario Concrete Pipe Association, Alex Law, Area Supervisor, International Union of Operating Engineers, Mike Gallagher, Business Manager, International Union of Operating Engineers, Leo Laviolette, Former General Manager, Hamilton & District Heavy Construction Association, Jon Brown, President, Hamilton & District Heavy Construction Association, Ricardo Persi, Secretary Treasurer, Labourer's International Union of North America, Joseph Mancinelli, International Vice President, Central Eastern Canada Regional Manager, Labourer's International Union of North America, Manuel Bastos, Business Manager, Labourer's International Union of North America, Paul Shewfelt, President, Mechanical Contractors Association Zone 9 & 9A Greater Hamilton Region and Art Heidebrecht, Executive Director, Bachelor of Technology Partnership, Mohawk College

Long-Term Project Benefits Include:

- **Research** – the Chair will provide research strategies for the industry
- **Advisory Committee** – membership on committee from industry
- **Training** – students successfully completing the program will be equipped with both a technological and managerial education; job-ready for the growing technological industry in heavy construction.
- **Graduate Recruitment and Coop Placement** – collaborators would be able to recruit graduate students or hire coop students with technical skills in the evaluation and inspection, repair and rehabilitation and management of various infrastructure systems.
- **Short Courses and Workshops** – available in flexible format for working technologies to upgrade their skills and managerial expertise while continuing to work in the industry related to Infrastructure Technology and Management Studies
- **Forum for Public Policy and Environmental Sustainability** – by bringing people together with a common interest we create leaders with a better understanding of the need for construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of Ontario's vital infrastructure.
- **Research** – the Chair will provide research strategies for the industry



For more information contact:

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