

ITDO presents DIRT awards

SAIT boasts a trio of awards to recognize the hard work and vision involved in innovation. These awards were handed out at Let's Celebrate SAIT Day on June 7.

SAIT's Innovation and Technology Development Office worked closely with corporate partner DIRT Environmental Solutions to enhance the profile of the innovation awards and build an endowment to create cash prizes for the recipients.

DIRT is a Calgary-based company specializing in environmentally friendly workspace design, from furniture to architectural elements.

Alex Zahavich, Director of the Innovation and Technology Development Office, says innovation is a key activity at SAIT and DIRT's sponsorship of the awards is a great way to showcase innovation and innovators within the Institution.

"DIRT is an innovative company. They hire our students and they are the perfect partner with ITDO to help increase SAIT's innovation capacity," Zahavich said. "Their sponsorship of these awards will drive innovation at SAIT."

The DIRT Trailblazer award comes with a \$3,000 prize and honours a SAIT visionary who demonstrates innovative ways of thinking and solving problems.

The winner of this year's DIRT Trailblazer Award was Doug Dokis, the Coordinator of the Chinook Lodge Aboriginal Centre within

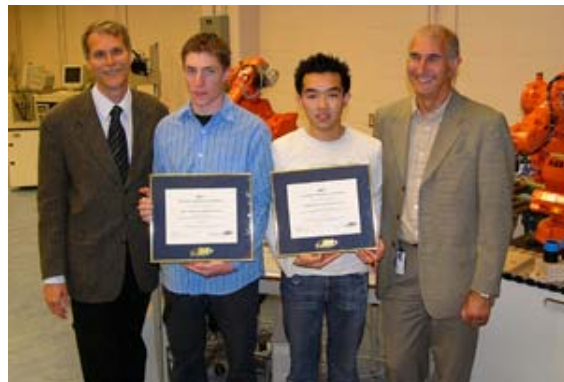


Photo by Russ Peters

Flanked by Alex Zahavich, Director of SAIT's ITDO (left), and Peter Bagg, Dean of Manufacturing and Automation (right), Brian Llewellyn and Yuee Farn Chew show off their DIRT Student Innovation awards. Missing: Loggan Troncoso and Gregory Brooks.

New this year there were two DIRT Student Innovation Awards, each worth \$1,500.

Brian Llewellyn and Loggan Troncoso, second-year students in Automated Systems Engineering Technology, got the nod from judges for their Automated Notch Palletizer project created for Palliser Lumber Ltd.

Gregory Brooks and Yuee Farn Chew, also second-year students in Automated Systems Engineering Technology, received the award for their Automated Welding Cell project for Roboweld and Northern Steel Ltd.

For more information on the winners and other nominees for this year's innovation awards please visit www.sait.ca/academic/support/itdo/



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and follow the links.

The DIRTT Technical Implementation Award also comes with a \$3,000 prize and recognizes a member of the SAIT community who pioneers a new concept, process or idea at SAIT.

By Russ Peters

This year Kevin Gunn, a member of SAIT's Construction department and Executive Director of Enervision, received the Technical Implementation Award.