



## Mech Talk, Winter 2013

The Newsletter of the Mechanical Engineering Technology Program

**Connect with Algonquin on April 12th.** *Applied Research Day is April 12th. As usual, we have a great line-up of student projects, many of which involved students performing actual product development with actual industrial/community collaborators. Not only is this a great opportunity to pre-screen students for job interviews, you can use this event to help your colleagues realize that connecting with the college is a low-risk and cost-effective way to leverage your resources to bring a back-burner project idea to fruition.* <http://www3.algonquincollege.com/appliedresearch/applied-research-day/>

*And did I mention that with each passing year, we are getting better with inter-disciplinary projects? For example, this coming year the Electrical, Civil, and Mechanical programs will have a common project course. Be sure to ask me for details.*

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**Accessible Locker.** Algonquin College is typical of other academic institutions in that there are students with a wide range of disabilities. Standard lockers do not provide adequate accessibility for some of these students as they require the use of a combination lock, which can be difficult to operate for those with limited fine motor skills. Presently, the College has a prototype electronically opened accessible locker that was built by a previous project team. This project is the second phase of the proof-of-concept prototype

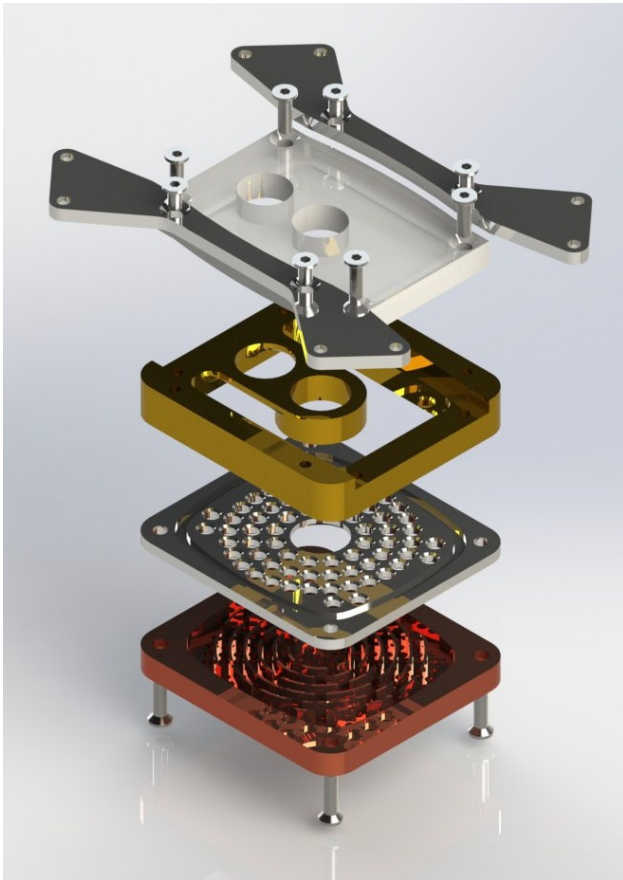
which will give the College a fully functioning unit ready to be deployed on campus for the use of our students.

It is expected that this locker solution will allow easier access and storage of personal items and studying materials while student learners are on campus. This locker is an example of how the college is leading the province with the implementation of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, AODA.

Be sure to check it out on April 12th!

**Yves Tessier is retiring.** Yves Tessier has announced his intention of starting his retirement this summer. I am sure that like us, many of you have appreciated Yves's numerous contributions over the years. It is pretty safe to say that Yves would love to hear from you. Discover how he intends to enjoy this next phase of his life and be certain to provide your update to him as well. We always like to hear from graduates. He can be easily reached at [Yves.Tessier@AlgonquinCollege.com](mailto:Yves.Tessier@AlgonquinCollege.com).

**Canadian Technology Accreditation Board, CTAB.** The Canadian Technology Accreditation Board, CTAB, will be on campus April 11th to assess our program of study for accreditation with The Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists, OACETT. To learn how this initiative will benefit you and future students, feel free to contact [Warren.Knudsen@AlgonquinCollege.com](mailto:Warren.Knudsen@AlgonquinCollege.com).



**Computer Cooling.** What do computer enthusiasts and server farms have in common? They are both going to be beating a path to see the Ironside Engineering project team on Applied Research Day! Whether your goal is to overclock your computer or to maximize performance per watt, you may want to ask these students why their product is superior to anything currently available on the market.

It should be noted that not only did our technology students design this product with Ironside Engineering, they also connected with **Toolmaking** students for much of the fabrication. Other fabrication was done using a 3-D printer located on campus.

Inter-disciplinary projects are becoming more common at the college. This team is also working with **Technical Writing** and **TV Broadcasting** students.

I would be remiss not to mention some of the other programs that our students connected with. We continue to enjoy great support from **Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning**, as well as **Welding**.

**Quote.** Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire: William Butler Yeats

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