



MEDIA RELEASE

August 7, 2008

For Immediate Release

Niagara College appoints new Dean of Technology

Dr. Joyce Engel, Vice President Academic, announced today that Dr. Ben Cecil has been appointed Dean of Technology at Niagara College.

Dr. Cecil comes to Niagara College from the University of Regina, where he has been a faculty member for the past seven years, and has served as Head of Geography and Head of the School of Journalism. He has also served as the Inter-University Prairie Studies program coordinator, a partnership between the University of Regina, the University of Saskatchewan and the First Nations University of Canada. Dr. Cecil is also the former co-editor of the *Great Lakes Geographer*.

Prior to joining the University of Regina, Dr. Cecil was the Executive Director of the Centre for Advanced Management Education, Leadership and Organizational Training. He is the recipient of the Barry M. Moriarty Award for scholarly contributions to the Southern Regional Science Association, and he is an accomplished researcher, with more than 35 publications.

Dr. Cecil received his Ph.D. from the University of Western Ontario, specializing in financial and corporate geography with additional specializations in cooperative business behaviour and technology partnerships. Last year, he completed the College and University Administrator's Program offered through the University of Manitoba.

"Dr. Cecil is an accomplished educator and administrator with a very broad experience in postsecondary education," said Dr. Engel. "We're very pleased that he will be joining Niagara College's Technology Division and we look forward to his contributions and leadership."

As Dean of the Technology Division, Dr. Cecil will lead an academic department that includes more than 20 academic programs at the diploma, degree, graduate-certificate and apprenticeship level. The division includes the technology skills centre, which houses facilities for technology and skilled trades training and is currently undergoing a 15,000 square-foot expansion. The responsive, applied programs in the Technology Division play a critical role in Niagara College's response to the shortage of skilled labour in Niagara and Ontario.

"I'm very pleased to become part of the Niagara College team," said Dr. Cecil. "My background in technology, consulting and manufacturing brings a hands-on, applied perspective to the needs of our students, their future employers and our community partners."

Dr. Cecil will relocate to the Niagara Region with his wife Lynn, who is a writer and artist, and their two children. His appointment is effective August 18.

With 6,500 full-time students, Niagara College offers more than 90 certificate, diploma, post-graduate and degree programs at campuses in Welland, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Niagara Falls and St. Catharines. Areas of specialization include hospitality and tourism, viticulture, technology, community safety, and media studies. The College is home to the globally recognized Niagara Culinary Institute and to Canada's first commercial teaching winery.

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