Expanding Horizons: Educational Outreach at CLS

We were impressed by the amount of resources spent by CLS staff for outreach to the younger audiences. It is a fact that generating an interest in science for the younger audience is increasingly difficult. The Committee lauded this initiative by the CLS and noted that such enterprises are a key aspect of the facility access and make the CLS a good corporate citizen in its community. Once more, the committee wanted to commend the CLS for its active role in training the next generation of scientists.

– From one of many recent review committees

Education on the Web

The CLS website offers an array of educational content. Visitors can access plain language explanations of synchrotron science, ideas for classroom activities, and descriptions of high school student synchrotron experiments. The site also offers details for our annual summer school and workshop for teachers.

Summer Schools

The 2007 Saskatoon Synchrotron Summer School (SSS) started the CLS staff’s tradition of commitment to supporting new and beginning users. The first two summer schools were general, with the intention of helping all types of users become more familiar with the techniques offered at the facility. In 2009, we focused on environmental sciences, and in 2010 spotlighted life sciences. The 2010 school was associated with the Synchrotron Environmental Sciences conference, and was renamed CS3, the Canadian Synchrotron Summer School.

This year our theme is materials studies. A key feature of the school is practical hands-on experience at the beamlines, in sample prep, and in data analysis.

Workshops for Teachers

Every teacher that we share our enthusiasm for science with teaches the lives of a thousand students. We believe that working with innovative and interested teachers will support science education for generations.

Students on the Beamlines

Telling is forgetting; showing is understanding. (Chinese Proverb)

Introducing students to authentic scientific inquiry with synchrotron experience. Students on the Beamlines connects high school science with world-class research. The program enables students to become part of the research — to actively participate and learn directly from experimentation, not demonstration.