

# THE GOOD ROAD

Official Newsletter of Iohahi:io Akwesasne Education & Training Institute

## Iohahi:io Accreditation

In October 2024, Iohahi:io's Akwesasne Education and Training Institute celebrated a significant milestone: our organizational review received official approval from the Indigenous Advanced Education Skills Council. This approval brings us closer to providing our own independent programs that are deeply rooted in Indigenous knowledge, traditions, and values. The Honourable Minister Quinn, along with Associate Director Norma Sunday, AMBE Director of Education Donna Lahache, MCA Education Portfolio Chiefs Sarah Sunday-Diabo, and AMBE Board of Trustees Chairperson Kathleen Papineau, toured the facility and participated in the festivities, marking our progress toward educational sovereignty and self-determination.



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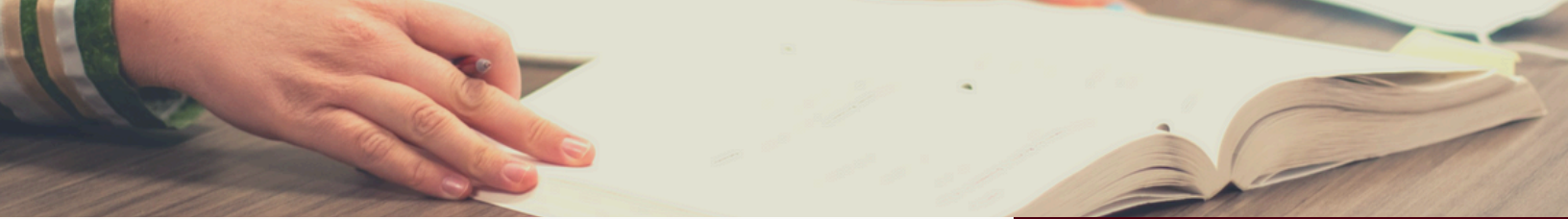
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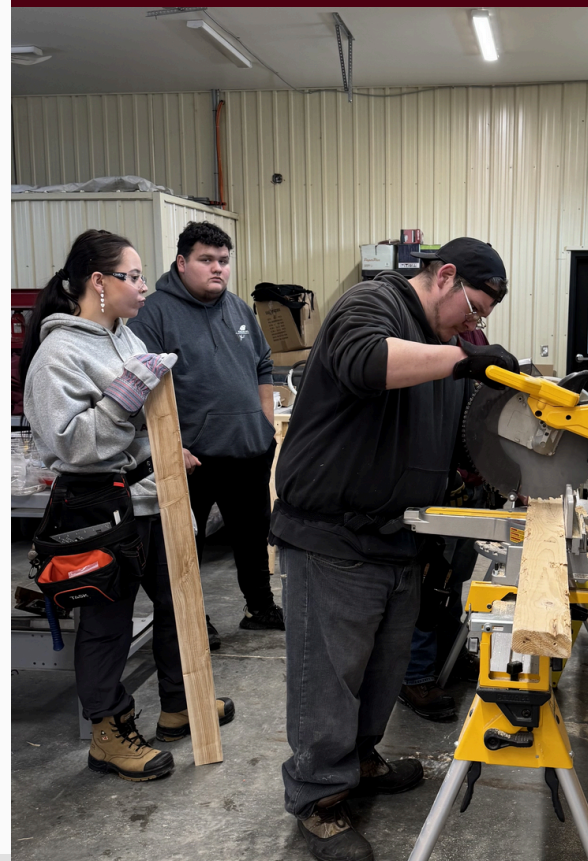


## Grand Opening Iohahi:io Trades Building

January 2025 celebrated the official launch of “Kaheri:io,” the Iohahi:io Trades Building. This initiative was made possible through collaboration with our partners: Akwesasne Career and Support Services (ACCESS), the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Community Support Program, and the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Department of Infrastructure, Housing, and Environment. This facility represents a significant advancement in empowering our community by providing essential skills and hands-on training. It is designed to serve as a learning hub, offering specialized programs in woodworking, construction, welding, and more. With skilled instructors and state-of-the-art equipment, it creates an environment where individuals of all ages can acquire practical, in-demand skills that lead to meaningful employment and entrepreneurial opportunities. Built by students, for students.

**"Education is  
not the filling  
of the pail  
but the  
lighting of a  
fire."**

WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS





## Pathways to Trades

Over the past ten weeks students took part in a hands-on training program designed to sharpen their trade skills and prepare them for real-world job opportunities. This program emphasized practical experience in the trades, balancing classroom learning with hands-on application.

In the classroom, students developed essential skills such as blueprint reading and trade-related math (key foundations for any successful tradesperson). One of the most rewarding aspects of the program was the students' work on community-based projects. They constructed picnic benches for local daycare as well as repairing a former Iohahi:io student's roof after a windstorm caused significant damage. Not only did they complete the repair work, but they also took full ownership of the project--developing a budget, compiling a materials list, and ensuring everything was in place before beginning the repairs.

Upon completion, most graduates secured employment with local companies, stepping directly into the workforce. Others have chosen to continue their education in post-secondary programs, further expanding their knowledge and skill sets.



**“There are two  
educations.  
One should  
teach us how  
to make a  
living and the  
other how to  
live.”**

JOHN ADAMS



## Akwesasne FabLab

The Akwesasne FabLab is a youth initiative program that focuses on bringing knowledge of modern forms of personal manufacturing to the community while integrating that knowledge into our culture and tradition. It is a space for creation, innovation, and collaborative fabrication that is open, secure, and designed for Indigenous youth.

Teaching technologies like CNC engraving, laser engraving, 3D printing, graphic designing, programming, silk screening, sublimating, vinyl cutting, sewing, and embroidery. Giving students experience in entrepreneurship, employability skills, and cultural teachings. This 24-week program gives students the base knowledge of many different technologies that they can use to either start their own business or go into the professional fields.

Look for the announcement of a new co-hort starting in May 2025!



“The purpose of education is to replace an empty mind with an open one.”

MALCOLM S. FORBES





## Instructor Highlight

Jean McFeely, M.Sc, C.S.C.S., is one of our skilled and knowledgeable instructors for the Personal Support Worker program. Throughout her time at Iohahi:io, she has taught various health science courses in different programs. She fosters an interactive learning atmosphere, employing diverse strategies to enhance education. Her excellent communication, presentation, and organizational abilities shine through her charismatic and humorous approach, making her seminars both engaging and enjoyable.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication during the 2024-2025 school year. Your expertise and positive support have empowered our students to achieve remarkable successes!



"A good teacher can inspire hope, ignite the imagination, and instill a love of learning."

BRAD HENRY





## What's Coming Up

Here's a list of the upcoming events:

- Open House May 2025 - Fall 2025 Programs are Early Childhood Education 2 Year Diploma, Social Service Worker 2 Year Diploma, Pre-Health Sciences 1 Year Certificate, General Construction Carpentry Techniques 1 Year Certificate and Part-Time Leadership Development 1 Year Certificate
- 5-Week PADDLE for Success Trades Stream May 2025
- CBW Welding May 20 - Aug 20 in the evening
- Trade Fair June 2025
- Pre-Employment Pathways to Trades June 2025
- 4-Week Introduction to the Pre-Health Sciences Certificate program beginning April 21 - May 23 on Mondays & Wednesdays from 4-6 pm



- Part-time "Recoding Futures - Social Media Design, UX Design and Programming" beginning in May, offered 2x's per week/evenings through October
- Micro-credentials will be offered in September 2025 - stay tuned for the announcement
- Akwesasne FabLab Co-hort #5

**To stay up to date, Like and Follow us on Facebook and Instagram!**  

"The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet."

ARISTOTLE





## Student Life

This school year, our students started the very first Student Council, where they had a voice on what kinds of events and workshops they wanted to have. We also increased the size of the Student Resource Room and our Student Success Team is available to them in there throughout the day, whether it's a study group or just to chat, this space has become so welcoming for them to engage with their peers and the Iohahi:io staff.

Students are currently attending workshops for ribbon shirts/skirts, beadwork, and moccasins to create their own graduation ensembles.

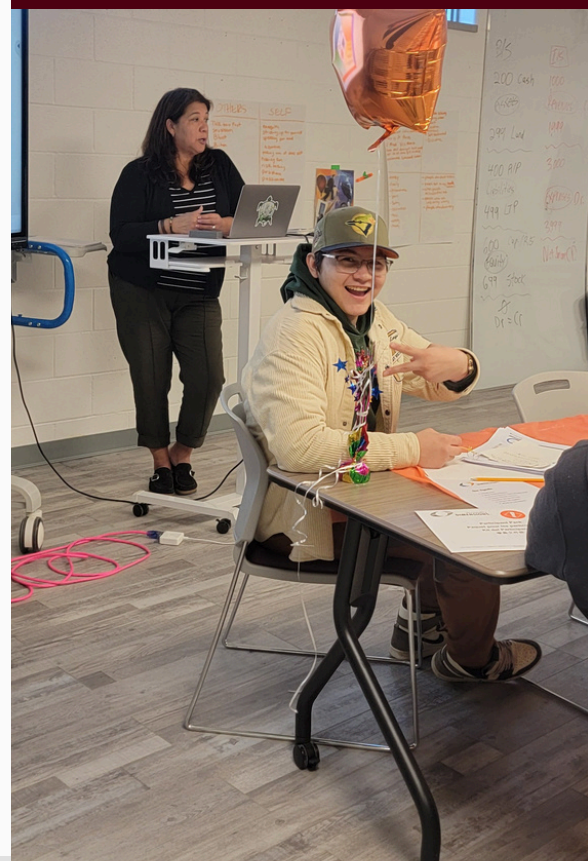
We've organized various mental health services for the students to partake in such as Lunch & Learns with H.E.A.L. Lodge, massage, sound bath, tea tasting, etc.

Once again, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Community Support Program was able to offer funding to us so that our students were provided breakfast and lunch for free. Healthy Eating for Better Learning also provided food for our students such as yogurt, fruit, cheese, granola bars, etc. We are grateful to the organizations that help our students succeed.



**“Education is  
learning what  
you didn’t  
even know you  
didn’t know.”**

DANIEL J. BOORSTIN





## Around Campus



"A well-educated mind will always have more questions than answers."

HELEN KELLER

