



## **SHARCNET awards funding for College Research Chair**

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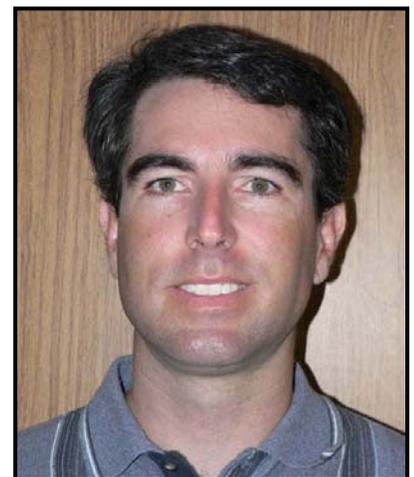
January 26, 2009

The Shared Hierarchical Academic Research Computing Network (SHARCNET) is pleased to award \$80,000 in funding, over two years, for its first College Research Chair at Sheridan College. This funding will be supplemented with a \$10,000 Fellowship from the Colleges Ontario Network for Industrial Innovation (CONII) and a \$10,000 Proof of Principle award from CONII.

The position will be filled by Dr. Ed Sykes, a full professor at the Sheridan Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning in the School of Applied Computing and Engineering Sciences (ACES). The SHARCNET College Research Chair is a two-year research secondment, commencing January, 2009.

In his new role as SHARCNET College Research Chair, Dr. Sykes will contribute to the advancement of SHARCNET's aims and objectives by leveraging the value of enhanced College participation. As a SHARCNET College Research Chair, Dr. Sykes aims to:

- i) Conduct high caliber research and publish in top journals;
- ii) Forge new inter-institutional linkages;
- iii) Encourage and enhance research in SHARCNET College members; and
- iv) Increase the number of HPC Highly Qualified Personnel by involving outstanding students in research projects.



*Dr. Ed Sykes*

"I am very excited about this SHARCNET College Research Chair position. I will strive over the next two years to conduct high caliber research and publish in highly recognized conferences and journals. I am also very motivated to encourage others to use SHARCNET, in particular Fanshawe and other colleges in Ontario. Additionally, I am also interested in establishing relationships with local companies to encourage the use of SHARCNET facilities for industrial-oriented HPC research," says Sykes.

Dr. Sykes will be conducting visits and talks at other colleges in Ontario to foster HPC research initiatives. Fanshawe, George Brown, Conestoga and other colleges have already approached Dr. Sykes and have expressed an interest in HPC research. Closer to home, Dr. Sykes believes Sheridan is an excellent candidate for conducting Digital Humanities research as Sheridan is world renowned for its Arts and Animation. Fostering the use of HPC in the Digital Humanities at Sheridan and other institutions will be another objective of this Chair position. Dr. Sykes also wishes to pursue establishing relationships with local companies to encourage the use of SHARCNET facilities for industrial-oriented HPC research.

SHARCNET wishes to acknowledge *Hewlett Packard* and *Silicon Graphics* for their financial contribution which provides funding for this initiative.

### **About the SHARCNET College Research Chairs Program**

The SHARCNET College Research Chairs Program is a pilot initiative, building on the existing SHARCNET Chairs Program targeted at the universities. Its primary goals are to encourage and enhance research by the colleges; forge new inter-institutional and industrial linkages; and help build a community of expertise in HPC.

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