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MEDIA RELEASE

Health tech, innovation highlight AVED Minister's visit to SFU's Surrey campus

January 26, 2015

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Simon Fraser University researchers and students had the opportunity to meet with B.C.'s new Advanced Education Minister, Andrew Wilkinson, during his visit to the Surrey campus today (Jan. 26). The minister toured health tech and engineering research facilities and engaged with students on innovation and their post secondary experiences.

During his visit the minister had a round-table discussion with SFU co-op students from a diverse range of programs, including interactive arts and technology, engineering, business and health sciences.

Austin Lee, a client of SFU's Coast Capital Savings Venture Connection program and chemistry PhD student, shared how he created Shield Diagnostics, which is building the first fully integrated smartphone glucometer. SFU's Venture Connection program's mentoring of young innovators is one of many ways the University encourages and supports innovation among young entrepreneurs.

"It is important for me to meet with students, staff and faculty," said Minister Wilkinson. "Education and training is much more than just a classroom activity. Many students at SFU Surrey told me that some of their most valuable experience has been through the co-op program."

"We appreciate the Minister's interest in meeting our students and seeing first-hand why SFU is proud to call itself Canada's most community-engaged research university," said SFU President Andrew Petter. "Not only does the Surrey campus provide students with a wide range of relevant programs, but it is also a significant partner in the economic and social development of the city and region." SFU is a founding partner of Innovation Boulevard, a key factor in Surrey's recent designation as one of the world's most intelligent cities.

During a brief tour of research labs the minister visited SFU's Digital Health Hub (DHH), which fosters the development of health technologies. The minister met with Dr. Ryan D'Arcy, SFU professor and neuroscientist and co-lead of Surrey's Innovation Boulevard, and DHH Director Maryam Sadeghi, whose product Molescope, helps to detect the onset of skin cancer.

Researchers also shared how SFU is a key player in the field of health technology and aging. Through AGE-WELL, a new \$36.6 million national initiative co-led by SFU, they will be investigating health technologies' impact on improving the lives of the aging.

As Canada's engaged university, SFU is defined by its dynamic integration of innovative education, cutting-edge research and far-reaching community engagement. SFU was founded almost 50 years ago with a mission to be a different kind of university—to bring an interdisciplinary approach to learning, embrace bold initiatives, and engage with communities near and far. Today, SFU is a leader amongst Canada's comprehensive research universities and is ranked one of the top

universities in the world under 50 years of age. With campuses in British Columbia's three largest cities—Vancouver, Surrey and Burnaby—SFU has eight faculties, delivers almost 150 programs to over 30,000 students, and boasts more than 130,000 alumni in 130 countries around the world.

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