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Engineering students help in Third World

AMEC contribution ensures long-term stability of UBC program

Krisendra Bisetty

The challenges facing impoverished communities in various parts of the world will be uppermost in the minds of five engineering students from Vancouver who will, over the next five years, help them gain access to life-changing technologies and resources.

AMEC, B.C.'s largest project management and engineering services company, is providing \$30,000 to the University of British Columbia chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB) to send one student each year for five years to work on development projects in various countries. EWB, a fast-growing Canadian development organization, has

sent more than 70 future engineers to 20 countries since its formation in 2000.

AMEC's contribution is the largest single donation received by EWB in Canada, said UBC chapter president **Kathleen McLean**.

The students will travel for four months during the summer, and are likely to be placed in poor villages in Third-World countries

where people face the daily struggle for basic needs such as water.

As a result of AMEC's sponsorship, the chapter would send two students – **Nick Jimenez**, a third-year civil engineering student and **Troy Barrie**, studying third-year engineering physics – next year; one as a result of its own fundraising initiatives.

Although their specific projects

have yet to be finalized, the two are likely to work in Ghana and Zambia, McLean said.

EWB works in partnership with developing communities around the world and with non-governmental organizations to help provide knowledge and expertise in areas where they are needed.

AMEC's vice president of Mining, **Peter Lighthall**, said the EWB program will help young engineers gain a global perspective. "Rather than just serving North American business interests it allows them to see how the rest of the world fits in."

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