

**July 13, 2010**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MR10-040**

## **International Students to Call the Comox Valley Home**

North Island College is very excited to welcome six students from Nigeria who will arrive in the Comox Valley later this week. The students, all of whom are receiving full scholarships from Nigeria's Rivers State Sustainable Development Agency, will be enrolling in NIC's University Transfer program this September. Arriving mid-July gives them the opportunity to undertake some preliminary study in both English and Math as well as become familiar with the community in which they will be living.

"This is a wonderful chance for these Nigerian students to ease into Canadian culture and the Canadian education system," explains Colleen Hanley, NIC's Associate Director, International Education. "They will be exposed to a culturally diverse learning environment, have the opportunity to interact with domestic students and benefit from instructors who are making an effort to unify the curriculum across courses as much as possible. I am so happy with how layered this experience will be for them."

International students generally work with an agent who helps them choose a school and community best suited to their needs. These students have been working with Maple Education Canada's Temitope Michael Olukoya. She describes what motivated her to suggest North Island College, "University Transfer [at NIC] provides avenues for the students to study in a college environment which means room for interpersonal relationships between students and instructors. NIC is a small and nice place conducive for learning."

By increasing the number of international students, North Island College will create an education environment influenced by diverse language and cultural perspectives. The result will be rich learning opportunities for students, staff and faculty. "Our vision at North Island College is to be a premier community and destination college that inspires and prepares students for success in a rapidly changing world," states NIC's President, Dr. Jan Lindsay. "To achieve this vision we must provide our students with opportunities to expand their global awareness and to develop the skills necessary to work and live in multicultural environments."

The six Nigerian students are only the first of many international students who will be attending NIC this fall as the college continues to integrate an international dimension into its instructional, research and service functions. The 2010/2011 academic year will see students attending from Nigeria, India, China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Philippines, United States, Mexico, England, France, Poland, Moldova, Ukraine, and Namibia.

"These students are coming to Canada for the first time," adds Olukoya. "They will need lots of understanding. The community should show the Canadian trademark of friendliness to them. The students are friendly and peace loving and embarking on an exciting and courageous adventure."

"North Island College's plan to bring more international students into the region will, over time, change the demographic make-up of the communities we serve. We look forward to working with our communities to support this shift," Lindsay continues.

North Island College intends to serve in a leadership role to assist local communities with the promotion of cultural integration and the development of welcoming environments. For further information about NIC International, please contact Colleen Hanley at 250-334-5021.

-30-

**Media Contact:**

Susan Auchterlonie  
Director, College & Community Relations  
North Island College  
tel 250-334-5271  
cel 250-898-4146  
[susan.auchterlonie@nic.bc.ca](mailto:susan.auchterlonie@nic.bc.ca)