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Fall enrolments down slightly at NIC

Fall 2013 student enrolment at North Island College is down 4% when compared to fall 2012.

According to NIC's Lisa Domae, Vice President, Student and Educational Services and Planning, this figure captures all enrolment for programs confirmed to begin during the fall 2013 semester. "It is a point in time 'snapshot' of enrolment at the start of semester, a traditional measure of semester based programming, that is becoming less pertinent as NIC continues to shift towards more community and industry responsive programming which occurs throughout the year and is not yet on the registration system," Domae adds.

In-community programming is expected to outpace last year as programs planned for later in the year begin. Examples of confirmed in-community programming include: Bridge to Success, An Introduction to Pulp and Paper offered in the Port Alberni region; Health Care Assistant program offered to Hornby and Denman Island residents; Kwakiutl Language Revitalization program in the Mount Waddington region; Adult Upgrading which will be delivered at the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nations; and, North Island Manufacturing Employment Skills training which will be delivered in the Mount Waddington region.

Domae further explains that shifts in enrolment patterns are to be expected, particularly since the college has celebrated historic highs with respect to enrolment in the past few years. "Our communities should continue to expect that we will deliver relevant programming in our region as the need and funds arise. The college is doing more and more programming throughout the year and prospective students should drop by their local campus or give us a call to hear what is available now and what is planned for their community in the coming months."

The overall fall enrolment picture shows decreases in enrolment in all major instructional areas and across most campuses. The Early Childhood Care and Education Certificate and Human Services programs have strong enrolments with a greater number of full-time students this year. Trades and Technology enrolment is slightly lower; however, Electrical Foundation, Plumbing and Heavy Duty Mechanics enrolments are at capacity and Automotive Service Technician enrolment is up over fall 2012. University Studies Arts (English, Humanities and Social Sciences) enrolment is down from the

historic highs seen in the last few years while University Studies Mathematics and Science remains strong. Fine Arts and Tourism enrolments have seen increases over fall 2012.

Enrolment at the Campbell River campus is down significantly (-15%) due to changes in program offerings and lower enrolment in most of the major program areas. The transition to an on-line Business certificate and the relocation of the Tourism programs are the major changes in program offerings. The move of the Marine Training programs from the Comox Valley campus to the Campbell River campus, with programs beginning later this semester, will partially offset this decline.

Enrolment at the Comox Valley campus is slightly down (-1%) mainly due to softer enrolment in Applied Business Technology and Humanities and Social Sciences. Enrolment in Computer Science courses has been boosted by new certificate and diploma offerings in Mobile Applications Development.

Port Alberni campus enrolment is also down (-8%) mainly due to soft Applied Business Technology and Adult Basic Education enrolments. All of the Health and Community Care programs offered at the Port Alberni campus are showing strong enrolment.

Mount Waddington Regional campus registrations have increased moderately and enrolments in Adult Basic Education and University Studies are on par with fall 2012.

International Education enrolment increased by 45% over fall 2012, with 141 international students attending NIC this September compared to 97 students at this time last year. Business, Tourism, Interactive Media and English Language program have experienced strong interest from international students.

For further information about North Island College programs, services and events, please visit www.nic.bc.ca or call 1-800-715-0914.

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