ACCESS AND REGIONS

Big House Sharing Day

Submitted by Kelly Shopland

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

May 15, 2019 – The first Big House Sharing Day was well attended by faculty and staff. Participants enjoyed watching a couple of women’s dances, drumming and singing by David Dawson (former NIC student), and a keynote by Hereditary Chief, Wedlidi Speck. Break out groups rotated around six stations throughout the day, learning from Elders about various topics such as traditional medicines; history of the K’ómoks territory, people, and Big House; medicine wheel; button blankets and coming of age ceremonies; and, the Indian Act and its effects on families. Lunch was served by K’ómoks member, Toni Frank, and was so delicious it was a highlight of the day for many! The feedback is overwhelmingly positive and all who attended would love to see more similar events in future.
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Jan Meiers, Interim Department Chair

Busy winter semester with all four years of the program plus the Licensed Practice Nursing (LPN) to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) pathway bringing our student total to 148 full time students!

Our year four students are nearing the end of their BSN education. This final practice experience is equivalent to four months of full time hours and students are in practicum in acute care settings in Campbell River, Comox Valley, Port Alberni, and Nanaimo. They are also in as community placements in the areas of public health and community mental health. As they near completion of this transitional practicum, many have been offered jobs (or have multiple job offers) through Island Health. This is an exciting time for them and a privilege for the faculty to be present in this exciting time. We will have 31 graduates this year.

Our year three students are busy working within the community with exciting projects ranging from environmental health, homelessness, First Nation health, and public health. These are non-traditional nursing roles, in partnership with community groups. Below are highlights from the work a few of the groups.

In May and June, the year three students will enter their Consolidated Practice Experience (CPE) with many of them returning to more traditional practice settings. There have been challenges with obtaining practice placements for these students with many declines from agencies. Faculty is unsure of the rationale for this significant change but have been working to find placements that will support the students in their learning. There are currently 33 students in this cohort.

The LPN to BSN Pathway students are thriving! This group is preparing to enter semester six, which will be offered as a condensed semester over May and June. It will be a busy Spring for these students (and the faculty who are facilitating these courses). Over the summer months, these students will complete their CPE experience and in September, amalgamate with the current BSN Class of 2020 for the remainder of their education. There are currently 15 students in this cohort.

The year two cohort have worked hard for the year and are preparing to enter their Year 2 CPE. This is an instructor led practicum and they will be continuing to work with a variety of populations within the acute care and complementary community practice placements. There are 34 students in this cohort.

The year one cohort is completing their first year of their BSN educational journey and preparing for their first CPE! They are excited to be going into a traditional practice area and providing care. There are 35 in this cohort.

During Year 1 CPE, Joanna Fraser will be continuing with her “Raising Student Nurses” research and will be taking 19 students into the communities of Kyuquot and Huu-ay-aht for an immersion experience as an alternative to some of the health promotion activities within CPE.
FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

We currently have four faculty members who are also working on their graduate studies. Three of these faculty members will complete this education (through the UVIC MA) this spring. The fourth faculty member is in the final half of her Masters of Nursing through Athabasca University.

One other faculty member is working on her final research project to complete her DEd.

Dissemination of Work

Faculty continues to engage in scholarly activities, disseminating their findings through presentations at:

- Western/North Western Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (WNRCASN) conference (Edmonton, February 2019);
- Western Canadian Health Science Educators (WCHSE) conference (Kelowna, May 2019);
- Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) conference (New Zealand, June 2019).

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

3rd Year Student Projects - Land Stewardship/Composting

We are Nicolle Simon and Brandi Berry, third year nursing students who have been working on an initiative at the Comox Valley campus that combines land stewardship and waste diversion. We acknowledge that the College is on the unceded traditional territory of the Komox First Nation, and believe we have a duty to look after the land we are on. Our aim this semester has been to bring awareness to the importance of recycling and composting on campus, as well as making it more accessible. We ran a compost pilot project out of Puntledge building, from March 11 to March 29, which was entirely managed by us, with support from Facilities for the compost bins. We appreciate this support and all the great work that Facilities is already doing on campus around sustainability. In engaging with students and faculty members this semester, we've identified interest in a few areas in which the College can build on its current capacity. Our recommendations are as follows:

1) Provide composting bins inside every building on the Comox Valley campus;
2) Provide diverse recycling bins (i.e. papers, plastics, glass, etc.) within every building on the CV campus;
3) Provide receptacles for paper recycling in every room on campus;
4) Provide funding for a paid worker to manage these new additions, rather than having it be student or volunteer-led; and
5) Including recycling, composting, and mentions of environmental sustainability and land stewardship in the NIC 2025 Action Plan.

Regarding point number 2, we've met with David Graham and identified that there is a barrier, in that there is no service in the community that has been able/willing to transport mixed recycling off campus. We are currently trying to make connections in the community to be able to meet this need. Funding was also mentioned as a possible barrier in achieving these goals. If there is any way that we as nursing students can support the College in this, we would welcome the opportunity for collaboration.

Choose Your Own Adventure book

My name is Keisha Korhonen Henry, and I am a third-year student in the BSN Program. I'm currently finishing up semester six, which included a self-directed practicum experience. I would compare it to a "Choose Your Own Adventure" book, as many of the experiences and opportunities for projects guide
other experiences you may set up for yourself over the course of the semester. I chose to focus on the homeless population for this practicum. Learning about the Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness and their *Point in Time* count in the first year of the program drew me to want to work with the homeless population.

I moved to the Comox Valley from Port Hardy to attend the BSN program. As housing is very affordable in Port Hardy and cheap apartments are relatively easy to come by, the homeless population tends to be comprised of people with severe substance use disorders. I was surprised in learning about the *Point in Time* count that people with severe substance use are the minority in the homeless population here, and that many people become homeless because of unfortunate circumstances regarding their health, evictions, marital breakdown, etc., the cost of housing has also become prohibitive here, and the availability of low-cost rentals is nil.

Through this practicum, I have had the opportunity to get to know many wonderful people who are homeless and/or living in poverty in the Comox Valley and come to know many of their stories. I have also had the opportunity to work with a group of tenants in Comox who are facing losing their low-income housing and working with the Coalition to help advocate for them and try to prevent them from becoming part of the statistics of people who become homeless by unfortunate circumstances by the next *Point in Time* count.

**RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Inter Professional Education Simulation Events**

The BSN program continues our partnership with the Strathcona Family Practice Residency Program for Inter-Professional Simulation Events (IPE) during this winter semester. This program continues to focus on BSN students working with the Family Practice Residents to learn and work together to support improved patient outcomes through the use of simulation scenarios of common clinical events.

The IPE events are non-evaluative and therefore optional for our students to participate. We limit the number of participants in these events to maximize learning of those who are interested and generally have a waiting list for those hoping to participate. Due to busy student schedules, we had limited participation this semester resulting in cancellation of both events.

This program has been highly successful and effective. It does not receive dedicated funding, although the BSN program graciously supports this program with ‘in kind’ funding for use of the Human Patient Simulation Learning Centre and supplies (as well as funding for refreshments for the participants) and nursing faculty choose to participate to support student success (it is above and beyond their assigned workload). This program is also well supported by our community experts who often attend and generously share their time and knowledge to our learners.
Health Care Assistant Department

Leslie Stuart, Interim Department Chair

HEALTH CARE ASSISTANT CERTIFICATE - ADDITIONAL PROGRAM OFFERINGS FOR 2019FA AND 2020WI

For the 2019-2020 academic year, NIC received significant funding from the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training Health Education Programs to offer one time only funding for an additional 70 seats in our region.

- In partnership with the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations, 20 students will begin a pre-health block of courses on the West Coast in the fall of 2019. We have a historical and positive relationship with the Vancouver Island communities of Ucluelet and Tofino and are pleased to provide education and employment opportunities to community members.

- There will also be an additional 10 seats for a cohort of 20 student at the Comox Valley campus for a Fall and Winter intake, and 10 seats for a Fall and Winter intake at the Campbell River campus.

- The HCA department will be offering 10 seats on the Mixalakwila campus in Port Hardy starting in February 2020.

- Both the Mixalakwila intake and Campbell River winter intakes are scheduled so that the secondary school students would be able to enter as dual credit students.

- At the Comox Valley campus, we will be offering an alternate delivery model to 10 students. The schedule will have daytime classes on Saturday and Sunday, and evening classes on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Human Services – Educational Assistant/Community Support, Human Services
Educational Assistant/Community Support with Indigenous Focus, Social Services Diploma, and Human Services Diploma

Submitted by Kelly Johnsen, Department Chair, Human Services

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

In Port Alberni, we delivered the fully indigenized version of the Educational Assistant/Community Support with Indigenous Focus certificate. After two years of curriculum design and course revitalization, the program is now being offered with all new course numbers and learning outcomes that reflect Indigenous knowledge and ways of being. In Comox Valley, our faculty worked with the Aboriginal Education office to ensure cultural content was included and built into the programs running in the K’omoks First Nations traditional territory. All of our faculty ensure that students receive trauma-based and anti-oppressive instruction, with an added focus on intercultural communication.

In January of 2019, Human Services Department Chair Kelly Johnsen, a member of Toquaht Nation, underwent her oral defense to complete the requirements of a PhD in Education: Curriculum and Instruction. She will walk the UVic stage in June 2019.
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Our student cohorts have been integral participants in community-driven events and gatherings for this academic year. They have worked on projects to help feed the hungry, promote awareness around gender based violence, and have volunteered in events to support children and adults living with disabilities. All of our 2018/2019 students had the opportunity to take part in cultural events including blanket exercises, villages workshops and colonial history immersion.

This year is one of the first for us to host a dual-credit student from Alberni District Secondary School in Port Alberni. We look forward to hosting more in the future, and three have already expressed interest for the 2019/2020 years.

Practical Nursing Diploma

Submitted by Barb McPherson, Department Chair

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

The Practical Nursing program has seen some significant changes in the last several months. We have welcomed three new faculty members since the start of 2019.

Faith Richardson has joined us in Port Alberni as a full-time sessional instructor. She recently moved from the Fraser Valley where she was an instructor from Trinity Western University instructing in the Masters program. She brings many years of experience and is a practicing Nurse Practitioner.

Sandy Robinson joined our program as a full-time faculty member in Campbell River. She has recently completed her Masters program at Royal Roads University with a focus on Leadership. She comes to us with many years of experience as a military nurse. Loretta Wolfe is working part-time in our program and is completing her Master’s degree with a focus on health leadership.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Our amazing group of 20 students in Port Alberni will be graduating in June. Many of the students are hoping to find employment in the Port Alberni Valley. They are preparing for their final clinical rotation and preceptorships. These preceptorships include rotations at several North Island hospitals and surrounding area (Campbell River, Comox Valley, Port Hardy, and Powell River), as well as residential care facilities in Port Alberni, Qualicum, Parksville, Courtenay, Cumberland and Campbell River. The Port Alberni students participated in the NIC Open House and were able to demonstrate their skills to several hundred high school students.

RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

The Practical Nursing program in Campbell River was very excited to see the opening of the new Learning Center and Community Health Lab last month. It is a beautiful, brand new Learning Centre that will better serve the learning needs of our students in all programs in the Faculty of Health and Human Services at NIC. There are two simulation rooms that will provide for an enhanced learning environment and provide for more experiential learning. The Community Health Lab will serve to provide a more realistic environment for students to have a better understanding of how to provide care for clients in the community.
TRADERS AND TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

PROGRAM OFFERINGS

The following Apprenticeship and Foundation programs commenced in May:

- Electrical Apprentice (Harmonized) Level 1 - CR  2019-05-21
- Heavy Duty Equipment Technician Apprentice Level 2  2019-05-27

Ending in May:

- Welding Levels 1, 2 and 3 along with the Level A and B  2019-05-31
- Heavy Mechanical Foundation  2019-05-17

Ending in June:

- Aircraft Structural Technician  2019-06-14
- Carpentry Levels 2 and 3  2019-06-14
- Plumbing Apprentice Level 4  2019-06-21

Trades Sampler 2019

April 26th saw the completion of another successful Trade Sampler cohort of students from Timberline and Carihi. Thirteen students had the opportunity to try their hands at Welding, Plumbing, Electrical, Heavy Mechanical and Carpentry. As parents and students become more informed about this fantastic opportunity, the program is flourishing. The 2019-2020 school year is just around the corner and 10 students have already submitted applications for the Construction Trades Sampler – an impressive number considering it is scheduled for the 2020 winter term. Timberline currently has two students who participated in the first Trades Sampler program and this year, in Grade 12, these young people are in the Electrical Foundation program and are doing very well.

In the 2019-2020 school year, we will also be offering a Culinary Trades Sampler. This program will feature cooking, baking, horticulture, design, electrical and plumbing with the hope of also including instruction for the mechanics of starting your own business.
Joinery Program

Joinery is an art unto itself. This is an often overlooked trade of designing, constructing, finishing and repairing a wide range wood products. Graduates can pursue a career in furniture restoration or manufacturing, millwork and cabinets, marine joinery, residential finishing carpentry, sales or as self-employed artisans.

From instructor Stephen McIntosh: “This has been another very successful year for the Joinery program. This year students from the UK, Israel, South Africa and various locations across Canada have created some wonderful pieces of furniture while meeting all courses outcomes. These pictures represent a small portion of the projects completed this year.”

Culinary Business Operations Diploma Info Session

On Tuesday, May 28th, NIC welcomed 10 prospective culinary students to the Campbell River campus for a Culinary Business Operations Diploma Info Session. As part of the session, students had the opportunity to meet our culinary staff and instructors, tour the new student commons and kitchen spaces, and receive a detailed presentation about the program, culinary pathways, and NIC.

Of the 10 students that attended, some had already applied to NIC but had not completed their application, while others had not yet applied. As the session drew to a close, we assisted students with questions and applications and arranged follow-up advising appointments where needed. One new application was received and several advising appointments for both assessments and financial aid were also booked.

As follow up, recruitment will be reaching out to all those who attended the info session and continue to promote this program at all upcoming community and school events.
Foundation Students Work Experience

Ten employers from the Comox Valley and Campbell River areas hosted two groups of Electrical Foundation students for electrical work experience placements from January 14 to 25 and February 4 to 15. In total, 21 students spent two weeks on the job site gaining valuable ‘real world’ exposure to industry and the specific needs in the trade, while supporting direct engagement with employers and industry.

From May 13 – 17, 13 Heavy Mechanical students took part in work experience placements to complete their Heavy Mechanical Foundation program at the College.

Through these placements, local employers received first hand insight into the student’s core competencies which is of great value to inform prospective opportunities for employment and potential opportunities for apprenticeships.

Fourth Year Electrical Apprentice Field Trip

North Island College fourth level electrical apprenticeship students got an up-close look at the unique features of airport lighting systems at the Campbell River Airport early in May. They had the opportunity to preview some of the equipment and information that was part of a five-day airfield lighting maintenance course the following week.

An introductory presentation was held in the maintenance shop with emphasis on safety precautions and required qualifications and training to work on the specialized series circuit equipment. The information session included a range of light fixtures installed at the airfield lighting training centre and the evolution of light fixture design. Students finished off their field trip with a tour of the facility in the afternoon.

STUDENT SERVICES AND REGISTRAR

LLC Highlights May 2019

Submitted by Mary Anne Guenther

In April, the Comox Valley Library & Learning Commons (LLC) hosted Hayden Lloyd, a Library Technician student for a two week practicum. Hayden had just completed his first year of the two year diploma program at Langara College. It was a pleasure having Hayden at NIC and see him utilize his library learning in practice.

Three library staff attended the Vancouver Island Library Workers Conference at the University of Victoria and one staff member attended the annual conference of the British Columbia Library Association in Surrey.

In recognition of National Indigenous History Month, the NIC Library & Learning Commons will be highlighting the bestselling book 21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act by Bob Joseph, a member of the Gwawaenuk Nation. The book is available for borrowing at each of our four campus libraries.
For the first 21 days of June we will be sending a link to each of the 21 things Joseph identifies in the book. We will also be celebrating the work of Indigenous authors by featuring displays for the month of June at all NIC campus libraries. Our hope is that we can use these projects as a way to engage with the reconciliation process and learn about our history. More information can be found at https://libguides.nic.bc.ca/21things/intro

Plans to move the Campbell River library into the new space are underway. We anticipate to be settled by the end of June. The Port Alberni library footprint is currently under review and efforts are being made to maximize student space and opportunities to work and study.

**Mental Health Support Programming**

*Submitted by Felicity Blaiklock*

1. The development of Early Assist (previously Early Alert) is continuing. We have had some excellent conversations with colleagues at UBC, KPU, BCIT and Selkirk College. The information they have provided, is really helping us with the creation of a format that will be relevant and effective here at NIC.

2. In early May, Felicity Blaiklock and Kelly Muir presented a proposal for an NIC Mental Health and Well-being strategy. The proposal received a very positive response, and we look forward to bringing the presentation to the Board of Governors in June.

3. NIC has received one-time funding of $40K from the Ministry towards peer mental health support programming. This is a welcome and timely contribution which will enhance the supports we currently have in place, and in the development of further peer-led initiatives.
CET Regional Highlights

CET has recently provided annual updates for strategic College reporting, enabling us to share CET results and highlights more broadly for this June submission. This report captures summarized data to demonstrate how the Continuing Education and Training (CET) Department ‘lives’ its mandate, at the heart of NIC’s commitment to providing: equitable student access, supported learning pathways, and efficient workforce transitions for local community members and under-represented groups across our four major regions. Highlights of the wide range of CET courses and programs offered in 2018/19, include:

- 4,281 CET students were enrolled -- estimated as more than half (53%) of all NIC students;

- 578 short-term vocational and personal interest courses and 68 credit-based courses were offered youth, re-entry adults, First Nations citizens, and other adult learners;

- Skills gaps and labour market needs were met locally and regionally, in relevant work-related areas, including: marine transport/safety, wildfire, introductory trades, building service and security, and retail/customer service and computer training;

- Personal interest and professional development options were also addressed by Metal Jewelry Design, Coastal Log Scaling, Animal Care Aide and Hospital Unit Clerk (CET enrolment in cohort-based credentialed programs catered to 53 students);

- Certified skills training was provided for 1,288 registrants in 118 first aid and safety courses (addressing the needs of community members, local employers, as well as providing first aid and occupational health and safety industry certification for students enrolled in our NIC applied programs in Trades and Technical, Health and Human Services, and Tourism and Hospitality);

- Working with a vibrant ElderCollege Executive at our three main campus locations, 266 general interest courses were offered for 1,376 ElderCollege members in Comox Valley, Campbell River, and Port Alberni (the largest membership and mix of courses were offered at ElderCollege Comox Valley, and you can read more about celebrations underway for their 20th Anniversary in the Fall 2019); and

- Lastly, CET has an expanded ability to provide student access and educational opportunities within our four campus regions, in partnership with a broad range of key stakeholders. Over the past year, CET delivered 72 training contracts that included on-campus, in-community, and online offerings. Please browse the regional sections of this Report to learn more about CET’s increased delivery of training contracts and in-community programming.
Comox Valley Campus

General Interest Programming (GENI)

We delivered a wide variety of general interest programs this winter serving 114 students representing 82% of capacity. This spring we are offering a Permaculture: Abundance in Small Spaces course that will provide the students with the opportunity to apply the skills they learn by creating an herb spiral and vegetable garden on the CV campus.

We worked with the Aboriginal Education department to help provide a free Anishinaabe Hand Drum workshop for students from NIC and SD 71.

Health & Safety Training

We continue to explore and expand our Health & Safety training by accessing local specialty instructors allowing us to offer our students the best possible training including Joint Health & Safety Bootcamp, Workplace Inspections & Incidents and Risk Assessment & Hazard Identification.

ElderCollege - Comox Valley

ElderCollege wrapped up its busy Winter term in mid-April 2019. The organization finished the academic year with 1,174 paid memberships, and a record 1,681 active email subscribers. Volunteers completed the AGM in early May, focusing on the continued success of the thriving group. Meanwhile, course and lecture planning is well underway for the Fall 2019 semester, with over 80 short and regular courses, in addition to a series of inspiring lectures. ElderCollege will officially launch its 20th Anniversary celebration branding shortly, which will form part of their recognition event, scheduled for September 13., 2019. ElderCollege is also launching a new series of Discovery Lectures this fall. The intellectually stimulating and academically oriented events will friend-raise and fund-raise for worthy local charities in the Comox Valley.
Animal Care Aide Certificate Program

The Animal Care Aide Program held its annual Info-Session for the Fall 2019 in-take on Wednesday, April 10. The event attracted a record crowd - more than 35 prospective students for only 20 available placements in September. The program has also implemented a strategy to showcase the NIC bursary application during the info-session, in an effort to help eligible students defray tuition costs. As of early May, the fall cohort is almost full.

Activity Assistant Certificate Program

The Activity Assistant Certificate Program expects to see its few remaining student placements spoken for in the next few weeks of May, as eager prospective students apply from as far away as Victoria, BC. Special effort is being made to find suitable practicum placements for all students based on their home region to reduce commuting and defray student costs and carbon footprints.

First Aid Training

The 2019 winter term was very busy with a total of 742 students receiving first aid training in classes ranging from the very basic to advanced OFA Level 3.

We welcomed students from the entire region including students from Cortes Island and even Nanaimo. Our classes included NIC students, NIC staff, open registration students and students from 19 community training contracts delivered throughout the region.

We offered two Mental Health first aid courses during the 2019 winter term in collaboration with the Mental Health Commission of Canada. This training has been very well received by NIC staff and the general public and we will continue offering it on a regular basis. Another of our new courses is the Red Cross Psychological first aid which is a perfect complement to the Mental Health first aid.

“While mental health first aid programs teach how to help someone experiencing a mental health emergency, Red Cross Psychological First Aid is a resiliency-based program for everyone that offers prevention and coping strategies for dealing with different types of stress resulting from various types of trauma.”

Red Cross communications
Marine Training

Marine training continues with very high demand into the Spring term. In past years, we’ve offered weekly courses ending in mid-June. This year, we are far busier and have been adding additional sections as we see more and more courses at full capacity with waitlists. We are offering several courses a week all the way until the end of June. To meet this demand we have recruited a new marine instructor who will start training in June and continue training as well as be ready to offer contracts and courses this in the fall term. We continue to offer additional private contracts for multiple courses from April through June with organizations such as Mowi Western Canada in Port Hardy, Nuxalk College in Bella Coola, and the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council in Ucluelet. We have two additional marine contracts currently in negotiation as well that will also be in off campus locations.

We have also purchased three new extra small immersion suits, as we are seeing far more women entering our courses than ever before. Due to the demand for the Domestic Vessel Safety course, we have also purchased another set of fire extinguishers and brought on a part-time instructional assistant to try to help deal with the extensive equipment demands of offering this course.

In April an auditor from Transport Canada's Vancouver office attended our Small Vessel Operator Proficiency (SVOP) course and reviewed our lead instructor, Jock Palmer, as well as our Quality Management System and curriculum documents. The audit was successful and has garnered us full approval to offer SVOP until May 31, 2024. This is the first time a marine course at NIC has undergone this type of audit and this is the first time that NIC has received full approval for one of its marine courses. We also received an extension of our provisional approval for the other marine courses that we currently offer, which will expire May 31, 2020. We are preparing for audits on all of our courses this coming Fall and Spring to garner full approval from Transport Canada by the end of Spring.

Metal Jewellery Courses

Our lead instructor, Tracey Gibbons, has worked with the team of instructors to develop nine new course offerings for Fall 2019, some of which will include intermediate level courses for the first time, in hopes of attracting more registrants. We are also currently exploring new opportunities to host workshops at various art centres on Vancouver Island next Fall.
Metal Jewellery Design

Over 75 people attended the Metal Jewellery Open House on April 10th, where the Metal Jewelry Design program students were showcasing their work. Many former graduates, past instructors, NIC current staff and faculty, and students' family members attended. At this event, we also recognized the dedication of Ernie Smith, who has been teaching the Northwest Coast First Nations Art and Engraving courses in the Metal Jewellery Design program. He is a graduate of the program and leaves his teaching role for the best possible reason: the success of his own business, the Awatin Aboriginal Art Gallery in Campbell River.

Marketing initiatives are ramping up for the Fall 2019 intake for the Metal Jewellery Design Certificate program. We hosted an information session for prospective students in early May, and we will have instructors and graduates of the program promoting at various festivals this summer including the Solstice Arts Festival in Port Alberni in June and the River City Arts Festival in Campbell River in July.
Coastal Log Scaling

Coastal Log Scaling completed the 12-week program on May 5th as the students finished the practical portion of training. This has been a very committed group with everyone putting in 100% effort. NIC hosted the Ministry exam on May 27th. The 11 NIC students will be joined by approximately 16 other examinees to write the exam. If there is sufficient demand we will consider offering the program in 2019/20.

Hospital Unit Clerk

A very successful info session was held and to date, 50 applications have been received. Out of 12 available seats, 4 seats have security deposits paid for the Fall 2019 program.

Pathways to Carpentry – Port Hardy

The 12 week Pathways to Carpentry program will complete on June 13th. Students spent the first 6 weeks of the program working on Essential Skills, Conflict Resolution, First Aid and other safety related training. They are now immersed in the Tool Time component of the Program where they will get experience with carpentry tools and touch on Plumbing and Electrical areas. Some of the students have been working on Math upgrading through ABE. The cultural component has provided students the opportunity to visit a local copper maker gallery, Kawat’si Construction Reno, a chance to make Glubok Sticks and to participate in a cedar bark harvest.

Wildfire Crew Member Training

A cohort of 12 students started the 4 week, Wildfire Crew Member training on May 6th. The training has been negotiated in partnership with Strategic Natural Resource Management, through the Community Workforce Grant, Emerging Priorities stream. Students will gain valuable job ready skills to increase their employability in the job market. Claire Tveena, MLA for North Island, visited the Campbell River campus on May 22nd on behalf of Melanie Mark, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training, to highlight the Wildfire training and the additional way government is supporting communities and sectors addressing wildfires and wildfire prevention in BC.
Wildfire Crew Member Training

In partnership with Strategic Forest Management, CET offered a 4-week Wildfire Crew Member Training program that was sponsored by the Emerging Priorities Stream of the Community Workforce Response Grant provided by the Ministry of Advanced Education. The program was offered in both Port Alberni and Campbell River with 12 students in each cohort. Wildfire Crew Member program is designed to provide the fundamental theory and practical skills necessary to fulfill job requirements of an entry-level, wild land firefighter. Training is comprehensive and includes an introduction to fire behaviour, basic fire suppression, fire entrapment avoidance, pump operations, helicopter safety, fire communications, heavy equipment, air tankers, incident command systems, WHIMIS, Transportation of Dangerous Goods-Ground & Air and power saw training, as well as the VHF Radio Operator Certificate exam. The PA students celebrated program completion with some having already gained employment as a result of the training.

Minister Scott Fraser, on behalf of Minister Melanie Mark, announced the funding at North Island College Port Alberni campus at the Aboriginal Gathering Place.

Market Gardener Program

In partnership with the Port Alberni Shelter Society, CET is offering an eight-month Market Gardener Training program on the Shelter Society Farm in Port Alberni. Students are learning the theory and hands-on skills needed to be successful market gardeners. The program includes plant science, soil science, pest control, as well as greenhouse operation and commercial market gardening hands-on skills. At the completion of the program each of the students will be offered a one-acre plot to operate as their own incubator business with a share of their produce going to the Shelter Society. The program is based in part on Jean-Martin Fortier’s Market Gardener handbook and his very successful market gardening practice in Quebec.

The program is was sponsored by the Emerging Priorities Stream of the Community Workforce Response Grant provided by the Ministry of Advanced Education.