

**REPORT TO NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS
SEPTEMBER 2017**

CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Regional Overview

Submitted by Lynne MacFadgen, Regional Director

CET continues to strengthen Departmental structures and processes, while working with our instructional areas and community partners to enhance student access and pathway programs across our four regions.

Examples of our strategic priorities and collaborative programming include the following:

Human Resource Analysis & Stabilized Staffing

Over the past six months, the Regional Director has worked collaboratively with Human Resources to review CET work priorities, strengths and gaps, with the aim of creating an efficient and integrated operational structure.

The following positions have been filled (or are in process) to address HR priorities:

The Manager Contract & Training Services vacancy was filled in June/17; the positions were replaced in July-Aug/17 (due to retirements); and selection Administrative Officer Projects & Budgets, and the CV Program Assistant processes are now underway for the CR Regional Training Officer replacement and the new part-time PA Program Assistant.

During the cyclical review of the Regional Training Officer Job Description, the position description was updated to include contract training and curriculum development responsibilities. The review focused on addressing workload balance/efficiencies in contract work across regions, streamlining work procedures to reach performance targets, and offering professional development opportunities.

Extended Ministry Contracts & Regional Priorities

In July 2017, our Ministry Contract Manager (JTST) offered us a renewal of the 2016/17 Project-Based Training initiatives (with a 10% budget reduction). With this funding, CET is offering the following programs:

- *Coastal Forest Resource/Wildfire Training* – a Coastal Forest Resource Program in Campbell River (Oct 16/17-Jan 31/18), as well as two Wildfire Training Programs in Port Alberni and Campbell River (Feb 5-Mar 2/18, and Mar 5-16/18 respectively)
- A repeat offering of *Underground Mining Essentials Training* was also approved for delivery in Pemberton (Nov 22/17-Mar 3/18).

With deferred AVED Community Adjustment Funds, we were able to offer the following mix of programs:

- *Essential Skills Facilitator Training*, with an Aboriginal focus, at the Port Hardy campus (a collaborative project with ACCESS Futures and Douglas College, Aug-Nov/17)
- A series of *Marine Certification* courses for Nanwakolas Council members in July-Aug/17 in Campbell River
- A *Barriers to Balance* job-readiness training program, in collaboration with the North Island Employment Foundation (NIEFS) in Campbell River
- A weekend *Wildfire Suppression & Entrapment Training Program* at the Port Alberni campus (delivered on Sept 8-12/17).

Aboriginal Community-Based Programming

We are currently offering a *Taste of Trades: Introduction to Carpentry Program* in partnership with Toquaht Nation and Ucluelet First Nations to be delivered in Ucluelet (Oct 23-Nov 9/17).

We are in the planning stages with Huu-ay-aht Nation to support their Pathways to Employment initiative.

In addition, we are awaiting the results of the Aboriginal Community-Based Training Partnership Proposals (AVED) that we submitted in partnership with Port Alberni Friendship Center and our Faculty of Health and Human Services (*Working with People Pathway Program*), and in partnership with Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation and our Faculty of Trades & Technical Programs (*Carpentry Career Pathways Program for Foundation & Apprenticeship Training*).

We look forward to having additional opportunities to address Aboriginal education/training needs, given the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training mandate to address the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

New Initiatives & Innovative Partnerships

The Manager of Contracts & Training Services assumed his role in June/17 and has concentrated on building partnerships with Aboriginal communities, as well as with agriculture and marine industries. Examples of potential new developments include:

1. *Remote Indigenous Community Medic Development* to provide an enhanced level of medical assistance for citizens living in remote indigenous communities (training to Occupational First Aid Level 3 standards to support the set-up of first aid centres for life-saving care), with expressed interest from Ka:'yu:'k't'h' and Che:'k'tles7et'h' First Nations
2. *Controlled Environment Agriculture* to train participants in the operation of vertical container gardens and indoor hydroponic farms, with a focus on including local plants traditionally used for medicine and food by indigenous people in our regions
3. *Enhanced Marine Certification* that combines Essential Skills training with traditional First Nations knowledge to assist First Nations youth in obtaining essential workplace skills and marketable marine skills for seeking viable and rewarding careers in their home territories.

Programming Activities

CAMPBELL RIVER

Coastal Forest and Underground Mining

Ministry funding was approved for the delivery of the *Coastal Forest Resource Program* in Campbell River, and *Underground Mining Essentials* in Pemberton BC. We will be working with the Naqu'qua First Peoples, members of the Lillooet First Nation in D'Arcy, BC to provide the *Underground Mining Essentials Program*, in partnership with Avino Gold and Silver and Sandvik Technologies. An information session was held at the end of August for the *Coastal Forest Resource Program*. As a result, we have engaged five enthusiastic and qualified candidates and are anticipating additional recruitment.

Barriers to Balance

Advanced Education funding will be used to deliver a cohort of *Barriers to Balance* in Campbell River this term. This program is in collaboration with the North Island Employment Foundation (NIEFS) to provide job-readiness training, and support back-to-work activities for office settings. The Ministry of Advanced Education is planning to feature a student 'Success Story' from the Port Hardy *Barriers to Balance* program that took place last Fall at the Mount Waddington campus.

TV and Film Crew Training

Continuing Education is providing program coordination support to our Faculty of Trades and Technical Programs to facilitate their pilot project in *TV and Film Crew Training*. Production Assistant calendars have been finalized for Port Alberni and Campbell River campuses, and student recruitment interviews

have begun. Section requests and calendar preparation assistance has been requested for the six Trades-focused training sessions that will be offered at both campuses in November 2017 and January 2018.

Metal Jewellery Design

We organized a booth at the Campbell River, River City Arts Festival in July for three Metal Jewellery grads, including our instructor Ernest Smith, to promote our jewellery programs while selling their jewellery. We held Metal Jewellery instructor meetings for a curriculum review of the program and drafted Approved Course Description and program revisions to submit to EdCo. The *Metal Jewellery Design Certificate* started in September with nine students, including three First Nations students, one student from Japan, one from Holland, and one from Ontario.

Marine Skills Training

Advanced Education funding was used to deliver a series of *Marine Certification* courses for Nanwakolas Council members in July and August. The students who completed the program are now pursuing careers in archaeological surveys, adventure tourism, and commercial fishing. We hired a new Marine instructor, Dianna Hay, to add to our training capacity and we are working to expand our course offerings in this important sector. Marine courses from Transport Canada, including the *Marine Emergency Duties* and *Small Vessel Operator Proficiency Training* courses, have new course requirements. We are working on updating our curriculum to meet these needs.

Cruise Line Service Training Program:

We have finalized course outlines for *Cruise Line Service Training Program* for Global Education and we created a Facebook page to connect to the industry and attract potential instructors.

Elder College

ElderCollege hosted their information session in Campbell River on September 15th and ElderCollege newsletters, registration forms, and the *Joy of Lifelong Learning* brochures were distributed. Students will be advised to start planning now for academic offerings in the Winter term.

COMOX VALLEY

Our *Hospital Unit Clerk* and *Activity Assistant* Programs started with excellent enrolment. The *Animal Care Aide Program* is full (20 students) and starts on Oct 2/17. Our promotion plan is being implemented for the *Landscape Horticulture Level 1 Apprenticeship Training* to start January 2018, and we are hoping for increased enrollment.

Open enrolment classes are off to a good start with classes filling up nicely.

With thanks to Facilities Management, the Annex 3 office renovations are complete and comfortably accommodate CV staff, including the CET Manager of Contracts & Training Services, and the CET Program Assistant.

First Aid Training

Contracts are starting to pick up with inquiries from The District of Ucluelet and SD#71. We organized *Occupational First Aid Level 2* training for SD#71 *Introduction to Trades Programs*. Our Port Hardy instructor is still off on a medical leave from BC Ambulance Service and is expected to return to work in four to six weeks. We are currently in the middle of providing training for all of our new trades programs that started in September.

ElderCollege

ElderCollege is very active this fall. We hosted the Information Forum and had more than 250 people in attendance to learn about the fall programming. There are over 60 courses scheduled for the fall and currently more than 600 registered ElderCollege members with more joining each week.

Joy of Lifelong Learning

The *Joy of Lifelong Learning* initiative is going very well, with 15 mature learners participating in the Fall program for a total of 45 individual course registrations. Only five of our registrants are ElderCollege

members, so we are pleased to be recruiting new registrants who are seeking academic offerings.

PORT ALBERNI

Applications are coming in for the upcoming Ministry-sponsored *Building Service Worker Program* (in collaboration with Vancouver Island University) starting at the Port Alberni campus on Oct 16/17. We will be conducting interviews at the end of September to recruit participants.

With funding from The Ministry of Advanced Education, we held *Fire Suppression and Wildfire Entrapment Avoidance* courses in September to help with the demand for wildfire fighters in BC. Because many of the current fire crew members went back to school in September, there was a demand for trained replacement personnel.

We are working on a contract with Toquaht Nation & Ucluelet First Nations to provide a three-week, in-community *Taste of Trades: Introduction to Carpentry Program* in Oct /17. The training will be conducted at the Ucluelet First Nations' Fire Hall.

We are working with Huu-ay-aht First Nation to potentially offer a “Taste of Forestry” program in the spring of 2018, which would include a sampling of the different careers in the Forestry industry. This training will be delivered in Port Alberni.

CET staff and Fine Arts faculty met with the Directors and members of the local Arts Council about potential partnerships to bring Fine Arts education to the Alberni Valley. At this point, we are exploring the possibility of offering an Arts Series through Elder College, and the possibility of offering a Dual Credit Fine Arts course in collaboration with SD#70.

We are also assisting with student recruitment for the *TV & Film Crew Training Program*, which is planned for delivery in Nov /17, at the Port Alberni campus.



Coastal Forest Resource Certificate (Mt Waddington)



Animal Care Aide Certificate CV



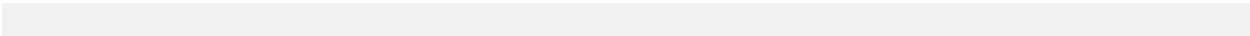
Fire Suppression & Wildfire Avoidance Training (Port Alberni)



Metal Jewellery Design Certificate (Campbell River)



Red Cross Emergency Medical Responder Training (CV)



TRADES AND TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

September 2017 Report

Submitted by: Cheryl O'Connell, Dean

PROVINCIAL AND REGIONAL

Harmonization

The Canadian Council of Directors of Apprenticeship (CCDA) is responsible for the Red Seal Program, which develops common interprovincial standards and examinations. The CCDA is undertaking the Harmonization Initiative in 30 Red Seal trades by 2020. British Columbia is an active participant in this initiative. The goal is to substantively align apprenticeship systems across Canada by making apprenticeship training requirements more consistent in the Red Seal trades.

NIC Harmonization Progress

- *Carpentry Foundation Harmonized* as of September 2017; replacing Carpentry Foundation – core content is consistent, however, sequencing of which modules are delivered when is the main adjustment. The intent is to ensure that if a student completes this program in BC, they can easily transition into a program in central or eastern Canada.
- *Carpentry Apprenticeship* is being gradually introduced.
- *Welding Foundation Harmonized* as of September 2017; replacing Welder Foundation.
- *Welder Apprenticeship Harmonized* as of September 2017; replacing Welder Apprenticeship 1,2,3
- *Automotive Technician Harmonized* as of September 2017; replacing Automotive Technician

Future Conversions:

- Heavy Mechanical fall/spring 2017/18
- Electrical – January 2018
- Plumber – TBC expected January 2018
- Culinary 2019/2020

Along with ITA's Manager of Training Investment, Gwyn MacGregor, ITA's New Director of Training Investment, Paulette Sangalang, visited our Campbell River and Vigar Road campuses in August to meet our team and see our facilities.

Ms. Sangalang is responsible for the management of ITA's annual training investment ensuring that supply of apprentices meets the future needs of the economy and industry. Paulette leads high performing teams that support Trades Training Investment, Youth Programs and the Canada BC Job Fund Program for under-represented groups.

National Council of Deans of Technology and Council of Deans of Trades and Apprenticeship Canada will hold their general meeting October 11-13, 2017 in Kitchener, Ontario.

HIGHLIGHTS

Fall registrations are strong in the Faculty of Trades and Technical Programs, with the following programs beginning in September:

- Aircraft Structures - CR
- Automotive - CR
- Automotive - PA
- Carpentry Apprenticeship – Level 2 - CV
- Carpentry Foundation - CV
- Cook 1 - CR
- Cook 1 - PA
- Electrical Foundation - CR

- Heavy Duty Foundation - CR
- Joinery - PA
- Plumbing Foundation
- Plumbing Apprenticeship – Level 3 – CV

Applications are coming in for our new *TV and File Crew Training* courses with the first cohorts of Production Assistant set to begin in Campbell River in October and Port Alberni in November.

Aquaculture development continues with approximately one third complete.

Annual Trades Fall Gathering

Faculty attended the annual Trades and Technical faculty meeting on August 29, 2017. The afternoon event had a full agenda and included topics such as Campus Expansion, Supporting Students, NIC Policies, and Work Experience Initiative. Guest speakers included Erin McConomy (English Support Services for Students), Margaret Hearnden (Academic Integrity), Doug Podetz (ITA updates), Randall Heidt with our new Campaign Development Officer, Rachel Pearsall (Campus Expansion and Fundraising Initiative) and Dana Simison (Windows 10 Update). It was a great way to kick off the new school year.

Annual Welcome Back (CR) event

Sarah Deagle and Cheryl O'Connell welcomed staff and faculty back for the 2017-18 school year at the Campbell River Campus on August 29, 2017. This annual event showcased brief updates on initiatives from Senior Leadership and the Senior Education Teams, as well as providing a welcoming message to all new and returning staff and faculty. This year staff were treated to a delicious buffet prepared by our talented Cafeteria staff and Chef!

Cafeteria Schedule and Menu Changes

The Campbell River Campus cafeteria menu has changed for the 2017-2018 school year, with a focus on healthier choices to accommodate a broader range of dietary needs. We are also adjusting our hours of operation to better serve students and staff. Hours of operation are 8 am – 1 pm, Monday – Friday.

Welcome to our new Faculty and Staff

Tony Yaklin (CR)

We are pleased to announce that Tony Yaklin will be joining our Faculty of Trades and Technical programs as the newest member of the Heavy Mechanical Instructional team. Tony will commence in his new role with North Island College on September 18, 2017.

Tony brings over 25 years of experience as a Technician, Field Mechanic, Manager and Business Owner spanning the mining, logging, oil, gas and construction industries. The companies to which Tony has provided his expertise include Finning, Golden Hill Ventures, Toromont Industries, Ledcor Industries, Tercon and Cantex Mining and Pelly Construction.

Tony is joining us from Vancouver Community College where he has been instructing foundation through to apprenticeship programming, while also supporting the advancement of key priorities associated to the pan-Canadian Harmonization initiative.

Tony is passionate about program development, instruction, mentorship and student success. He looks forward to joining North Island College to support ongoing quality programming, the advancement of industry engagement and our Work Experience initiative. Tony's credentials include: Journeyman Heavy Duty Equipment Technician and Mechanic; Provincial Instructor Diploma and a range of industry credentials to include: CFC/HCFC/HFC; Mine Safety; CSTS; H2S Alive; Surface Electric and Non Electric Blasting; Hoisting and Rigging; Fall Arrest; Elevated Platform and more.

Darrell Block (CR)

We are pleased to welcome Darrell Block as the new Trades and Technical Assistant for the Dogwood

Campus effective August 28, 2017.

Darrell has been working within our Faculty as a Lab Tech over the last year during which time he has supported Electrical, Welding and aspects of Heavy Mechanical and Automotive. Darrell is very much looking forward to joining the team as a regular employee to support programming, students and faculty.

Darrell brings impressive experience having been in the Navy for over eight years as a Electrical Technician. During his time with the Navy, Darrell worked-on and led a range of confidential initiatives and retrofits, while supporting training, system upgrades and ongoing quality improvement projects. Having held the positions of Control Technician and Shop Supervisor in the Navy, Darrell is very accustomed to equipment and materials purchasing, maintenance and management.

Prior to the Navy, Darrell worked for over five years at Timberwest Elk Falls Sawmill supporting a range of tool-crib and maintenance priorities which provided him with a great opportunity to learn many aspects of welding and millwrighting, which will be of great value to his new position.

OFFICE OF GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Chinese HS Student Groups

Submitted by Cathy Mutis

This past summer, two groups of Chinese high school students visited NIC and the Comox Valley:

- July 26/27
A group of about 20 students and instructors from the High School attached to North East Normal University
- August 15
A group of 59 students from Beijing Daxing No. 1 and Xinghua Middle School

Both groups were welcomed to NIC with a campus tour and informational session. In addition, the group visiting in July were treated to a hike in Elk Falls with NIC student volunteers and led by Jennifer Barth. Lots of smiles all around.

Uniterra Leave for Change

Submitted by Cathy Mutis

In October 2015, NIC signed an agreement with World University Services Canada (WUSC) and the Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI) to offer Uniterra's Leave for Change program to NIC staff and faculty. Uniterra's Leave for Change offers employees an opportunity to undertake a challenging and rewarding professional and personal growth experience in a developing country, all while contributing to lasting change. Since signing, NIC has sent six staff and faculty abroad on this program. In 2017, two faculty and one staff member took part in assignments in Vietnam, Peru, and Tanzania. The program represents an excellent way to advance internationalization at NIC.

New Partnerships

Submitted by Thevi Pather

The Office of Global Engagement has recently formed new partnerships and signed Memorandums of Understanding with the following International Institutions:

- Saigontourist Hospitality College (Vietnam)
- Beijing College of Finance & Commerce (China)
- Cebu Normal (Philippines)
- Pioneer International Education Inc. Canada (China)

Fall Intake & Orientation

Submitted by Thevi Pather

One hundred and twenty two students joined the student population at NIC this Fall, with new students coming from Norway, India, Mauritius, Nigeria, Japan, Zimbabwe, Uganda, China, Philippines, Kenya, Singapore, Pakistan, Korea, United Kingdom, Denmark, Vietnam, France, Yemen, and Burundi.

Orientation spanned the course of three days, ending with a field trip picnic to Kye Bay!

Seventh Annual Comox Valley International Welcome

Submitted by Cathy Mutis

On Sunday, September 10th, 2017 the Office of Global Engagement and SD 71 hosted the Seventh Annual Comox Valley International Welcome at the Native Sons Hall. Approximately 120 people attended this public family event and enjoyed a traditional welcome from the K'omoks First Nation, NIC President John Bowman, photos with RCMP, a cultural dance performance from Axe Capoeira and Canadian folk music.



New Vietnam & Africa NIC Representatives

Submitted by Candace Jesson



Thuy (SOPHIA) DƯƠNG, Manager - Vietnam, Marketing and Business Development

DƯƠNG NGỌC THỦY, Đại diện tuyển sinh & Marketing, Việt Nam

Provides support for NIC's recruitment efforts within Vietnam, which include recruitment of students, marketing, outreach, networking, and market development.

Aresi Thylamay Mooroooven, Manager – Africa, Marketing and Business Development

Provides support for NIC's recruitment efforts within Africa, which include recruitment of students, marketing, outreach, networking, and market development.



STUDENT SERVICES AND REGISTRAR

Library & Learning Commons Update

Submitted by Mary Anne Guenther

The CV campus Library & Learning Commons (LLC) renovations took place over the summer and are near completion. Phase 2 renovations added group study rooms equipped with technology, a dedicated silent area and a larger library classroom/lab. Temporary signage and furniture are in place while we wait for deliveries. Minor renovations, including adding computer stations at the end of the book stacks and modifications to the service desk are scheduled for later fall.

Students were surveyed late spring about the academic supports provided in the LLC (research, writing, math, peer-tutoring and IT) and feedback was positive. While not all services were used by all, we felt that the survey provided awareness about the space and technology, including online bookable group study rooms, computers, multi-media projectors and Skype facilities. The Ebsco Discovery Search and Springshare room booking software both received favorable comments.

Weekend hours at the CV campus library commenced September 9th – 10th from 10:00 - 4:00. Saturday hours will continue to April 30th and Sunday hours are being piloted until Christmas to determine demand.

The LLC staff participated in a number of events in late August, including library orientations to new international students, the Teaching & Learning professional development event and new employee welcome tours. Fall orientation events at each campus included tours and sessions about the LLC, highlighting the various services available, including research, writing, math, technical help and peer-tutoring.

The CV Library partnered with the Office of Global Engagement to organize a Living Library event on June 3rd in downtown Courtenay as part of the Elevate the Arts festival. The theme was Diversity Matters and “books” shared their stories as an obese person, as a homeless person, as a survivor of domestic violence, as a gay woman, as an adopted child, and other topics, where some level of stigma, stereotyping or discrimination had been experienced.

Library staff continue to achieve lofty goals – one staff member recently completed the Masters of Library Science (MLIS) program and two other staff members are enrolled in the Library Technician diploma program. Five staff members attended the Vancouver Island Library Workers conference at UVic on April 28th. During the last few months, staff concentrated on updating website content, building research guides and implementing the fulltext finder/LinkResolver resource to support interlibrary loan functionality.

Peer Tutoring

Submitted by Erin McConomy, Peer Tutor Coordinator

Our fall semester is getting underway with lots of interest in Peer Tutoring, both from students interested

in becoming peer tutors and those interested in receiving peer tutoring. We have several peer tutors returning to peer tutoring from last year, and the applications from new tutors are beginning to flow in. Peer tutor training will take place close to the end of September and will be supplemented with a new BlackBoard LEARN training site where tutors will be able to access training information and resources, as well as communicate with the coordinator and each other to build a community of learning and shared experience.

A great focus this semester will be placed on promoting the Peer Tutoring program to both students and faculty at all campuses to ensure that all students who may benefit from the program are aware of it. Promotion efforts include the traditional print and digital signage used at all campuses, in addition to numerous orientation sessions for both students and faculty, and visits to both department meetings and individual classes. Particular effort is being made to inform faculty in the Trades and Technology division of how their students can benefit from peer tutoring and encourage faculty to facilitate their students' participation in the program.

The application for a further three-year CRLA International Tutor Training Program Certification was submitted in early September. We expect to hear confirmation of the extension of our re-certification by the end of the calendar year.

Finally, the physical renovations to the Comox Valley Library & Learning Commons will provide more available space for peer tutors to meet with students and more of a physical hub for peer tutoring activity.

Writing Support

Submitted by Erin McConomy, Writing Support Faculty

Writing support services at NIC continued during the 2017 intersession with WriteAway, which saw 27 submissions in the Spring/Summer 2017 semester. NIC will continue to participate in WriteAway for the 2017-18 academic year. The consortium is focusing more energy this year on keeping wait times for paper responses down during peak demand times in the semester.

Drop-in writing support started again in early September and will be offered at least three times per week in person and via Skype to all NIC campuses. Continued effort will be made through bi-weekly visits to Campbell River and Port Alberni, as well as participation in the Mount Waddington student orientation event, to create a physical presence at all campuses for writing support to ensure that students feel supported and that they know where to go when they need help with their writing.

Writing support is also available for faculty to book in-class workshops. Workshops are available on numerous topics including academic writing and documentation, but also program-specific topics. Workshops have already been booked for both the Practical Nursing Program in Port Alberni and the Automotive Service Technicians program in Campbell River.

Efforts are being made this semester to continue promoting the writing support services to both faculty and students through faculty and student orientations at all campuses, department meeting visits, and classroom visits, in addition to print and electronic signage.

ORIENTATION

Orientation Day introduces and welcomes new and returning students to the NIC community. The NIC Student Orientation Day provides an opportunity to establish relationships with peers, faculty and staff. It is designed to be fun, engaging and purposeful. Below is a 'snapshot' of the day from three of our campuses.

Campbell River Campus

Weather forecast was for heat, making our decision to host the Campbell River Orientation outside this year a particularly good one. Students came together first at the Gathering Place for light snack, the opportunity to participate in an art project on the theme of "welcome," and an adroit welcome by Daryl Mills, one of the campus Elders. From there, an address in the outdoor amphitheatre from the Dean of Trades & Technology and the Assistant Registrar. This had a more informal, interactive feeling than in

previous years, partly thanks to the involvement of James Quattell, Laichwiltach Elder. A choice of four workshops to follow before the program introductions.

The NIC café/cafeteria prepared a delicious lunch with a menu that was selected to highlight ‘diversity,’ support the President’s “Diversity Matters” initiative.

Student Employment Services was integral to expanding our Marketplace, which features NIC services and community services as well. Quoting Bob Haugen, Manager, NIC Contract & Training Services, “I was impressed with the involvement of community partners such as North Island Employment Foundations and NVIATS and the welcome atmosphere of the event. Your event exceeded my expectations.”

Port Alberni Campus

Orientation Day was held on August 31st at the Port Alberni Campus and over 100 students attended this welcome back event. Twenty-three community groups joined in on the Marketplace, providing giveaways, student rates, and resourceful information.

Alberni Valley Lions Club served a BBQ lunch.

Board of Governors member Eric Mosley was present at this event and joined in on welcoming the students. Alberni District Secondary School Career Counselors stopped by to support their students and enjoy the event. This was a day of community!

The Student Leadership Team held a session called “Been there. Done that,” which gave students an opportunity to ask questions and hear success stories.

Many participated in the tug of war with PA Campus staff being undefeated!

On Tuesday Sept 5th the corridors were brimming with students attending workshops dedicated to their success. All workshops were filled to capacity and deemed a success.

Students commented on their surveys that the staff and faculty were very friendly, helpful and welcoming. Many made new friends on this first day of the semester.

Comox Valley Campus

The Comox Valley 2017/2018 Orientation day was held on Tuesday September 5th with great success. The weather cooperated and helped to make the day an enjoyable experience for all attendees.

For the second time, we held a mini hiring fair where we invited employers from the community to attend with the intention of letting students know of potential part-time job openings. This year we had 16 employers join us.

We also had various community groups and vendors let our students know what they could offer them by way of services or supports.

After the free BBQ lunch, which is a highlight for the students, we offered workshops such as Study Abroad, Academic Integrity, Funding Your Education, and introducing the Learning Commons and what supports are there for students.

Feedback from students was positive and constructive.