

**REPORT TO NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS
JANUARY 2018**

OFFICE OF GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Winter Intake

Submitted by Cathy Mutis

A total of 187 new international students arrived for the winter term! In an effort to support this unprecedented increase, the Office of Global Engagement (OGE) implemented the following additional services:

- expanded library hours
- increased homestay/peer stay placements – a total of 115 currently in place
- restructuring of orientation to allow for more assessments
- growth of the peer mentoring program
- development of a schedule of workshops for transition support
- expansion of Learning Commons offerings, including the addition of several instructional assistants
- calendar of subsidized socio-cultural activities

OGE Christmas Dinner

Submitted by Cathy Mutis

On December 15th 2017, the OGE held its annual Christmas/Host Family Appreciation Dinner – as a way of saying thank you to all the host families who work so hard throughout the year to ensure their students are well taken care of. The dinner was held at the Native Son’s Hall in downtown Courtenay, with over 140 students, host families and members of the college in attendance. Following dinner and dessert, activities included the opportunity to have photos taken in a giant snow globe, origami, and pictures with Santa.



Workshops Provided

Submitted by Cathy Mutis

OGE ran a series of workshops in the first couple of weeks of January for both new and continuing domestic and international students. These workshops were aimed at students taking track two courses.

Workshops included Academic Integrity Workshop, Pre-Employment Lecture and Lab, Writing Paragraphs Workshop, Resume Rescue Workshop, Paraphrasing, Summarizing and Quoting Workshop, Renting in BC Workshop, and Adapting to Canadian Academic Culture Workshop.

STUDENT SERVICES AND REGISTRAR

Peer Tutoring

Submitted by Erin McConomy, Peer Tutor Coordinator

In the Fall 2017 semester, we had 27 active tutors offering a total of almost 800 student appointments in areas including University transfer, Business, Nursing, and trades.

In November, two of our highly qualified math tutors began offering drop-in math support as part of the Library & Learning Commons math support program. This support will be in place for the Winter 2018 semester as well, and students have already been accessing the services.

As we begin the new semester, we are fielding numerous applications for new peer tutors and requests by students looking for tutors. We are already seeing a high demand for tutors in areas such as Business, Math, English, Health Care Assistant, and Nursing.

In December, our application to the College of Reading and Learning Association (CRLA) for the International Tutor Training Program Certificate was approved for another three years. This confirms our high training standards for our peer tutors and allows us to continue providing certificates to our tutors to take with them to future educational institutions or employers.

Writing Support

Submitted by Erin McConomy, Writing Support Faculty

Writing support appointments were steady through the end of the Fall 2017 semester, right up until the middle of December. During the Fall 2017 semester, writing support had approximately 130 student appointments, with a great deal of drop-in traffic, particularly at the Comox Valley Campus.

In December, an additional 100% faculty position was added to the Library & Learning Commons Writing Support for the Comox Valley Campus. This position is being shared by Suzanne Schiller and Ben Hecht, two of our very qualified and experienced English Language Program instructors. With this additional position, Writing Support will be offered 10am-6pm Monday through Friday for the winter semester at the Comox Valley Campus. This gives us the opportunity to meet many more students' needs for ongoing writing support and to develop resources for our students to access. Writing support will continue at all campuses via Skype multiple times a week, and in-person in Campbell River and Port Alberni alternating weeks.

NIC student submissions to our online writing support consortium, *WriteAway*, continued to be high during the remainder of the Fall 2017 semester, with a semester total of 95 submissions. This is over 5% of the total consortium submissions for the semester, which is quite high for an institution of our size. Because *WriteAway* is an entire online service, it offers students taking courses at the smaller campuses, online or ITV access to excellent writing support from home.