

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

**STUDENT SERVICES AND REGISTRAR**

**Student Employment Services (SES)**

*Submitted by Anita Budisa-Bonneau*

**8<sup>th</sup> Annual Career Fair**

NIC is hosting our annual Career Fair event on Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11:00-3:00pm at the Courtenay Filberg Centre. We hope that most of our students will be able to take advantage of this event to explore career paths, learn about upcoming employment opportunities and develop their networking skills with industry stakeholders.

This year, for the first time, Student Employment Services introduced sponsorship options for the Career Fair and we are very pleased with the employer response! Our event was sold out three weeks prior to the date, which is another first.

**BC Ferries** is our Platinum sponsor, **WorkBC** (*Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills & Training*) and **The Job Shop** are our two Gold Sponsors and **Grieg Seafood** is our Silver Sponsor. The online Career Fair booklet with all the details from the exhibiting employers is now available for the public in the [event listing](#) as well as being posted on myNIC for students.

**Event Summary**

40 Employers in total:

- Nine in tourism and hospitality: Old House Hotel & Spa, Best Western, Chances – Match Eatery, Browns Bay, Black Rock Oceanfront Resort, Wickanninnish Inn, Tofino Resort, North Coast Resort Hotels (DBA April Point and Painters Lodge), Dolphins Resort
- Five in finance industry: MNP, Coast Capital Credit Union, First Credit Union and First Insurance, CIBC, Interfor (Hiring for Accounting co-op positions)
- Seven in education/health and community care: Island Health, SD 71, Beacon, Communitas, Milieu, Classic Lifecare, Kardel
- 10 in trades and technical: BC Ferries, Grieg Seafood, Broadstreet Properties, Nelson Roofing, Western Canada Marine Response Corp, Catalyst Paper, Marine Harvest, DND – Canadian Armed Forces, The Canadian Scottish Regiment, AKVA Group.
- Three in customer service/retail: Costco, All in One Party Shop, McDonalds
- Six Service Providers: Work BC, Job Shop, Comox Military Family Resource Centre (CMFRC), Skilled Trades Employment Program (STEP), North Island Employment Foundations (NIEFS), Chartered Professional Accountants of BC

**CareerCentral**

SES recently launched an online career platform, CareerCentral. Students can now book appointments online, access online job boards that are exclusive to NIC students, view career-related events and access resources online to help create job searching tools like resumes/cover letters, etc.

CareerCentral provides an online tool that is easy to use for all NIC students across our region as well as providing a better tool for employers to connect with NIC talent. This will have a positive impact for our students who are interested in connecting with industry and making a successful transition to the workplace after or during their studies.

## Library & Learning Commons

*Submitted by Mary Anne Guenther, Librarian*

The Library & Learning Commons (LLC) has been exceptionally busy this semester. Saturday/Sunday hours at the CV campus have been well received, with record attendance this past weekend of 155 and 82 people respectively (March 10-11). With the scheduling of a librarian on Saturdays, research help and library instruction classes are scheduled and weekly citation workshops are being held.

Following the popularity of laptop lending at other post-secondary institutions and with the support of IT, the LLC has purchased four laptops for student lending, which will be piloted during the summer semester.

Many of the library staff members will be attending the 3rd annual Vancouver Island Library Workers Conference on April 27<sup>th</sup> at the University of Victoria. This year's conference theme is Transformation and keynote speakers include Indigenous artist Carey Newman in conversation with UVic Anthropology professor Andrea Walsh, entitled "Translation to Transformation: Reflections on Alternative Histories and Record Making."

This past year, campus libraries have put together numerous amazing displays, honoring International Women's Day, Autism Awareness, 130 years of National Geographic, Louis Riel and various topics such as aquaculture, business, forestry, recreational reading, cooking, jewellery making and social media.

## TRADES AND TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

### Program Offerings

Winter has been very busy in the Faculty of Trades and Technical Programs with the ITA awarding additional funding to support demand/waitlists. The following foundation and apprenticeship classes are beginning in January, February, and March:

#### *Programs starting in January 2018*

- Carpentry Foundation – CVC
- Carpentry Foundation – PAC
- Carpentry Apprentice Level 2 – CVC
- Electrical Foundation – CRC
- Electrical Apprentice Level 2 – CRC
- Electrical Apprentice Level 3 – CRC
- Heavy Mechanical Foundation – CRC
- Heavy Mechanical Level 3 – CRC
- Plumbing Foundation – CVC
- Welder Foundation – CRC

#### *Programs starting in February 2018*

- Electrical Foundation – CRC
- Heavy Mechanical level 2 – CRC

#### *Programs starting in March 2018*

- Carpentry Apprentice Level 3 – CVC
- Carpentry Apprentice Level 4 – CVC
- Electrical Apprentice Level 2 x 2 offerings – CRC
- Electrical Apprentice Level 3 – CRC
- Electrical Apprentice Level 4 – CRC
- Plumber Apprentice Level 2 x 2 offerings – CVC
- Professional Cook Level 2 – CRC

## Film Programming at NIC

Film Programming, in collaboration with the Vancouver Island North Film Commission (INFilm) and industry programming, was launched at NIC in November 2017 and concluded in February 2019!

February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 – North Island College celebrated the completion of its TV and Film Crew Training program, a pilot project that has prepared more than 135 students for careers in an industry hungry for behind-the-scenes talent.

The college held a special event with graduates, instructors and industry and government representatives to mark the successful program Friday, Feb. 2 at Vancouver Island Film Studios in Parksville. Two professional sets built by NIC students will be on display.

“Delivery of this training was possible due to the subject matter experts, industry and government partners who have been instrumental to this project’s success,” said Cheryl O’Connell, dean of Trades and Technical Programs at NIC.

“The pilot initiative has created a regional workforce ready, qualified and excited to advance their careers in the world of TV and film,” O’Connell added.

NIC launched development of the program last year, after the federal and provincial governments allocated almost \$500,000 to deliver TV and film crew training.

The Vancouver Island North Film Commission (INfilm), which provides liaison and location services to film, television, commercial and media companies filming from Nanaimo northwards, played an essential role in helping NIC develop the pilot program.

INfilm commissioner Joan Miller said a lack of local, qualified crew has been a barrier to attracting more professional filming projects to Vancouver Island, due to increased costs production companies face from bringing in crew from elsewhere.



*TV and Film Crew February 2018*

“We all had a stake in this program’s success,” said Miller. “To quote a colleague from the film industry, ‘supporting this program is a no brainer.’”

“The program was common-sense driven, creating employment opportunities by focusing on transferable existing skills,” Miller continued. “This fills a current need for more local, qualified, trained film crews while

providing certificates that can be used in many sectors.”

Students received hands-on set construction, film grip, set lighting and production assistant training. The first group of students completed training in Campbell River last fall. The second wave completed their program this month in the Parksville area.

In addition to intensive, specialized training for different roles on set, graduates also received key certifications they need to work on productions, such as the Motion Picture Industry Orientation ticket.

According to figures released by the province, a record-breaking \$2.6 billion in motion picture production expenditures was recorded in BC in the 2016/17 fiscal year. The Hallmark Channel’s hit TV show *Chesapeake Shores* begins filming its third season in the Parksville-Qualicum Beach area this spring.

“We are incredibly proud of what these students were able to accomplish in just a few weeks,” said film grip instructor Jeff Smith. “I expect to see many of them working and earning solid wages on film or TV projects right here in BC.”

<b>Program</b>	<b>Final Combined Registrations – January 2018</b>
Production Assistant – Film Training	41
Carpentry and Set Construction – Film Training	31
Lighting – Film Training	34
Grip – Grip Training	31
<b>Total Registered</b>	<b>137</b>
<b>Total Number of Student Completions</b>	<b>132</b>

### **Prep Cook Certificate**

Students celebrate program completion in March with a Spring Buffet in Campbell River! The program was launched in November and students have been engaged in expanding core competencies aligned with entry level culinary positions.



***Campbell River Prep Cook students join Port Alberni Culinary Professional Cook Level One students for a Community Taste Event in Port Alberni on Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>.***

This event gave students an opportunity to profile their culinary talents while networking and engaging with potential employers. A great evening was had by all!

## Trades Sampler

In collaboration with School District 72, the Trades Sampler program launched in January 2018. Fifteen students are enrolled in the program which encompasses a review and reinforcement of Trades Math, applied lessons specific to Electrical, Welding, Carpentry, Culinary and orientation to Heavy Mechanical and Automotive, with the program running through to late April.

### Fun Friday in the Trades Sampler

*Submitted by D. Camerin, SD 72*

It's a fun Friday with Trades Sampler students learning about the Prep Chef program and cooking up a storm in the kitchen.

Meanwhile, down in the shop area the first group of Trades Sampler students take the practical exam for their forklift ticket.

We're excited to hear the results from Skills Canada as one Trades Sampler student competes in carpentry and a Train in Trades student competes in the electronics program.

All of these students are well on their way to a career path of their choosing and SD72 is proud of the ongoing relationship with North Island College as they come together to offer great opportunities to our youth.



### Skills Canada BC Gold Medal Winners!

Two NIC dual-credit students won gold in the March 9<sup>th</sup> Skills Canada BC regional competition. Joe Pigeon in Welding, and Kaleb Link for Electronics

Regional Competitions allow BC students from grade 6 to grade 12 to showcase their talents in the skilled trades and technologies.

Students in secondary grades compete in a variety of skills competitions, with those in the lower grades competing in a series of Junior Skills Competitions specially designed for their

skill levels.

Winners in each competition area are awarded gold, silver or bronze medals, with the majority of those gold medal winners qualifying to compete in the annual Provincial Competition.

Regional Competitions, which are hosted by post secondary institutions and secondary schools located within each region, are attended by thousands of student spectators.

### Donations

The North Island Hospital Project has kindly donated various sizes of steel-toed gum boots, high-viz vests, hard hats, and safety glasses to North Island College. Island Health has requested these items be given to NIC Trades students in need.

E&B Helicopters has donated a section of a fuselage from a Bell 206 Jet Ranger helicopter. It will be used by our Aircraft Structure Technician students to perform repairs.



*Fuselage section of Bell 206 Jet Ranger helicopter donated by E&B Helicopters*

### **Welcome to our new Faculty and Staff**

#### ***Matt Melgaard – Port Alberni Campus – Carpentry***

NIC welcomes carpentry instructor Matt Melgaard to Port Alberni this month, bringing experience and a passion for lifelong learning to meet a community request for carpentry training.

“We heard from industry that there is a demand for skilled carpenters in the region,” said Cheryl O’Connell, NIC’s dean of Trades and Technical Programs. “We are happy to be able bring this program to Port Alberni.”

Through the 24-week Carpentry Foundation Harmonized certificate, students learn residential framing, footing and wall forming, site layout, work site safety and more.



*NIC’s new Carpentry Foundation Harmonized instructor Matt Melgaard teaches in Port Alberni this term.*

“We’re thrilled to welcome Matt to the team,” said O’Connell. “We were able to find an instructor with a breadth of experience, both in the industry and in instruction. Matt will be a great resource for students as they begin their carpentry careers.”

Melgaard has previously taught at Vancouver Island University and in the Trades Skill Awareness and Knowledge program with School District 63 and Camosun College.

“I like working with students just starting out on the path to become a journey person,” said Melgaard. “I try to encourage my students to become lifelong learners. There’s so much you can do in carpentry, whether you want to get into general contracting, furniture building or do specialized construction like green building, you can really make it your own.”

Green building is something Melgaard studied after he got his ticket. “I started taking courses on insulated concrete forms, structurally insulated panels and then photovoltaics, solar hot water heaters – things like that,” said Melgaard. “That’s the great thing about this trade, there’s always more to learn if you’re interested in expanding your skills.”

Melgaard is also looking forward to working in Port Alberni. “I really like the community here,” he said. “I play rugby here all the time and I’m really excited about being able to teach in the community.”

**David Johns – Campbell River – Electrical Foundation**

Electrician instructor David Johns will be joining NIC’s faculty this month to teach its popular Electrical Foundation certificate.

“We’re thrilled to welcome David to our team here at NIC,” said Cheryl O’Connell, NIC’s dean of Trades and Technical Programs. “It’s very important for us to find expert faculty to lead trades and technical programs aligned with the labour market – David will be a great fit with the team.”

Johns is a Red Seal Electrician who is joining NIC from the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT), where he’s been teaching for almost a decade.

“I enjoy the interaction with students,” said Johns. “I like to bring in demonstrations to show the applications of principles and theoretical concepts, being able to fully describe some of the funny, unique situations on the electrical side that students might not get from a textbook.”

“One of the exciting things about the trade is the variety of jobs that are available for qualified electricians,” noted Johns.

“Everything is becoming more electrified in every sector, so there’s great growth opportunities out there,” he said. “There’s also all the new technology that’s coming into play – things like solar and renewable energy resources; it’s a varied sector.”



**OFFICE OF GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT (OGE)**

**NIC celebrates Holi**

*Submitted by Cathy Mutis*

On Tuesday, March 6, OGE sponsored a Holi festival event organized by several NIC international students from India.

Holi is a Hindu festival celebrating spring, the forgiveness of grudges, and new beginnings. It’s celebrated with coloured powder, which celebrants throw and smear on each other. There was also a DJ and lots of dancing. The event was well attended by both international and domestic students, community members, as well as NIC faculty and staff.



## Snow Tubing Activity at Mount Washington

*Submitted by Nadine Biggs*



Twenty-four international students and peer mentors attended the “Snow tubing on Mount Washington” activity.

This was a new experience for almost every student who participated.

It was the second group to attend an organized activity at Mount Washington Alpine Resort (snowshoeing took place in January).

One more group activity up the mountain will be organized before the end of the winter season.

## Multi-Faith Panel Hosted by the NIC Office of Global Engagement

*Submitted by Cathy Mutis*

Local representatives of various spiritual and philosophical traditions were invited to present at the Stan Hagen Theatre at North Island College on Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm for an evening of sharing and discussion.

The event was hosted by the North Island College Office of Global Engagement and, in keeping with March 21<sup>st</sup> (the international day for the elimination of racial discrimination) was meant to raise awareness of the spiritual diversity in the Comox Valley and to promote mutual respect and understanding.

Within a 15-minute timeframe, representatives presented the main tenets of their faith/worldview while addressing how their tradition reaches across culture and language to touch a common humanity.

Speakers included representatives from the Buddhist, Humanist, Kwakwakawak, and Islamic traditions.

A moderated discussion and Q&A session took place after the presentations.

FREE PUBLIC EVENT

### Multi-Faith Panel Discussion

Hosted by NIC's Office of Global Engagement

Join us in welcoming representatives from various spiritual and humanist world views for a panel presentation meant to raise awareness of the spiritual diversity in the Comox Valley and to promote mutual respect and understanding.

Each panelist will share a 10 to 15-minute presentation on the main tenets of their tradition and provide an overview of how their philosophy reaches across ethnicity and language to a deeper common humanity.

**Tuesday, March 20, 6:30 pm** (doors open at 6 pm)  
 Stan Hagen Theatre | Everyone Welcome  
 A moderated discussion and Q&A session will take place after the presentations. Refreshments will be provided.

For more information  
 Email Nadine Biggs: [nadine.biggs@nic.bc.ca](mailto:nadine.biggs@nic.bc.ca)

**NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE**

[www.nic.bc.ca](http://www.nic.bc.ca)



**STUDENT SERVICES AND REGISTRAR****Peer Tutoring**

*Submitted by Erin McConomy, Peer Tutor Coordinator*

We currently have 32 active peer tutors in the peer tutoring program. These tutors have a combined total of over 600 hours of tutoring from January to the first week of March. Tutors in math, business, nursing, English, and trades have been the busiest this semester.

Two of our math tutors continue to offer drop-in math support to supplement the faculty math support offered through the Library & Learning Commons at both the Comox Valley and Campbell River campuses.

**Writing Support**

*Submitted by Erin McConomy, Writing Support Faculty*

The extended Writing Support introduced in January at the Comox Valley Campus (10am-6pm Monday-Friday) has been very popular and well used by students. Since the middle of January, Writing Support has had 400 student appointments, including 100 appointments in the first week of March alone. This is an average occupancy rate of 75% for the semester so far.

In addition to using the face-to-face writing support services, NIC students are still submitting their work to the online writing support provided by the WriteAway consortium to which we belong. NIC students have made 72 submissions to WriteAway so far this semester, which is a 225% increase over the number of NIC submissions from the same period last year.

Here is a NIC student's comment on the WriteAway services they received this semester: "I love this program. The tutors help you a lot and make you think... I appreciate the feedback."