

# COLLEGE CONNECTION

Learn what you can do at your community college

## TOP STORIES



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Young, trades-focused and ready to learn 2



### FINE ARTS & DESIGN

Coast to coast fine arts education 3



### TOURISM

Seeking out Sonora 4

## KEY FEATURES

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## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Getting a job offer six weeks into the program says a lot about the quality of NIC’s program. Sanjel hired a graduate from last year’s class and they’re confident I’ll have the skills they need.”

*Misko Valent,  
2013 Industrial Automation student*

## UNIVERSITY TRANSFER

# ENGINEERED TO SUCCEED

**From Indonesia to Comox, first-year engineering students say college is their key to success**

Alexander Julianto travelled halfway around the world to take engineering at North Island College.

The 19-year-old left his family behind in Bandung, the third largest city in Indonesia for the relatively tiny Comox Valley last summer, looking for a quiet place to start his degree.

The move was part of a long-term plan to study engineering in Canada that started more than three years ago, when he applied for his permanent resident status while he was still in junior high.

“I was looking online for a good college and found NIC,” Alexander said. “I think Comox is a good environment and NIC has a strong engineering program.”

Next year, after his sister graduates from high school in Indonesia, his family will join him in Vancouver when he hopes to study engineering at UBC.

North Island College has been working with BC’s top universities in recent years to help students move easily from college to university. This year, it improved course transferability to UBC and, in 2010, the college created the UVic Engineering Pathway.



Instructor Dennis Lightfoot explains how to measure the speed of sound to engineering students Alexander Julianto and Queen Esther Nankabirwa.

As a result, more students are starting their engineering degrees at NIC with the support they need.

“We’ve had a good batch of students over the last two years who are making better adjustments to university programs,” said Dennis Lightfoot, an instructor in the Math and Sciences department.

“When I got to UVic I felt more prepared and I was really ready to do well,” said Nolan Dewitt, who transferred to UVic this fall.

“If I had gone to a university first, instead of starting at NIC, I probably wouldn’t have passed. I didn’t have to worry about living arrangements and commuting through traffic to school in my first year.”

Now that he’s at university, he appreciates NIC’s focus on teaching and smaller class size even more.

“It’s easier to learn at NIC,” said Dewitt. “The instructors focus on teaching and are all really good at it. Plus, it’s more personal. At NIC they know your name.”

Find out more: [www.nic.bc.ca/artsscience](http://www.nic.bc.ca/artsscience)

## INSTITUTE OF WAR & PEACE

Three North Island College instructors have joined together to offer the Institute of War and Peace this spring.

This May, Anne Cumming, Dan Hinman-Smith, and Jeff Lawrence will offer three linked second-year university transfer courses, including:

- **War, Memory, Myth and History (HIS-220)**
- **Selected Topics in Literature (ENG-230)**
- **Contemporary Moral Issues (PHI-230)**

Students can register for one, two, or three courses, which feature two independent classes per week and a joint plenary session. Every Wednesday, students get together for wide ranging discussions, guest speakers, and films.

Extracurricular movies, art shows, and dance performances are also planned.

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