

NIC doubles business course offerings in Campbell River

The start of the 2019/2020 academic year marked a milestone for NIC's business programming in Campbell River. More than 20 business courses are now being offered at the Campbell River campus – double what was offered last year.

“Current year's course offerings in Campbell River represents a significant expansion for us. More importantly, improved accessibility for students wanting to continue their business studies to get their diploma or degree without having to leave their home community,” said Ali Mayboudi, department chair of NIC School of Business.

Along with additional higher-level business courses, Post-Degree Diploma in Global Business Management is also offered at the Campbell River campus.

“These expanded offerings in Campbell River mark a fascinating time for the NIC School of Business,” said Mayboudi.

NIC business mentorship expanding to Campbell River

NIC's Global Leaders of Tomorrow mentorship program is preparing for another year of connecting local business mentors with NIC business students.



New this year, thanks to a partnership with the Campbell River Chamber of Commerce, the program is expanding to include Campbell River Chamber Members as well.

“Global Leaders of Tomorrow has been so successful in the Comox Valley, we're so thrilled to be able to expand and welcome members of the Campbell River Chamber to our mentorship program,” said Anita Budisa-Bonneau, NIC's coordinator, work-integrated education. “The mentorship

program allows students to connect with local business people, ask questions and pick their brain about working as a local business professional. For business people, it's a chance to tap into the students' enthusiasm and knowledge of current business trends.”

Mentors are asked to give six hours of their time between November and April, meeting with their mentees approximately once a month.

“We know that learning opportunities outside the classroom like this are invaluable for helping students with their career planning,” said Budisa-Bonneau. “As we expand our Campbell River business programming, this new partnership with the Campbell River chamber is a great opportunity for our students and chamber members to connect.”

Anyone interested in taking part in the mentorship program should contact the Campbell River or Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce.

NIC Employee Recognition

Each year, NIC recognizes employees who have reached milestones at the College of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 years of service. Congratulations to the NIC School of Business faculty and alumni celebrating milestones this year:

- Ingrid Burkholder, alumni, 15 yrs
- Ron Davis, faculty, 10 yrs
- Ali Mayboudi, faculty, 5 yrs
- Heather Buchanan, alumni, 10 yrs
- Rebecca Gurney, alumni, 5 yrs
- Disha Salhan, alumni, 5 yrs

MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIR Supporting growth

As we settle into a new academic year at NIC, I would like to highlight some of the exciting developments we're working on in the NIC School of Business.

This fall marked a significant expansion of our course offerings in Campbell River, improving access for students and allowing us to meet the growing demand for business training across the region.

We also continue to work to expand global opportunities for our students through partnerships with institutions around the world. I continue to work with our Office of Global Engagement on new agreements that will allow our students to go global with their learning.

As crucial as international connections are, so too are our connections with the local community. I was proud to be appointed to serve as a director with the Campbell River & District Chamber of Commerce. I'm looking forward to expanding our relationship with the Chamber as our Campbell River programming grows.

We were pleased to host our first Business-Student Networking Night in Campbell River this fall. It was beautiful to see our business students connect with members of the local business community. Our annual Comox Valley NIC School of Business Networking Night is taking place on November 5 at Crown Isle. I invite you all to join us to connect with business students.

As always, we are also looking for ways to connect our business community and students. We are also interested in other ideas and projects which allow for collaboration with our students. If you have an idea, please email me at ali.mayboudi@nic.bc.ca or connect with me on [LinkedIn](#).

Sincerely,

Ali Mayboudi,
Chair, **NIC School of Business**

NIC School of Business Networking Nights



NIC was proud to host the Campbell River & District Chamber of Commerce to celebrate a new partnership providing mentorship and internship opportunities for students and businesses alike. The celebratory gathering was the first ever Business-Student Networking Night in Campbell River at our new student commons space “The Bistro” at the Campbell River campus.

“We are thrilled to be able to connect businesses and students,” said Mary Ruth Snyder, executive director of the Campbell River & District Chamber of Commerce. “We’re looking forward to expanding our work with NIC to make possible those valuable networking opportunities for our current members and the next generation of business leaders.”

The annual Comox Valley Business-Student networking night is coming up on Nov. 5 at Crown Isle.

School of Business sponsors youth leadership award

NIC School of Business is proud to be the sponsor of You Rock Youth Award at the Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards.

The award honours an individual or organization that:

- Has made significant contributions to the community and/or their school over a period of time
- Demonstrates leadership, ingenuity and initiative in any endeavour(s) that improve the lives of others, the community, or the environment
- Is under the age of 25 or whose key members are under 25



L to R: Last year's #YouRock Youth Award winners Heather Riedle, Kristin Johnson, Nicolette Vinnedge, Madison Klassen and Kimberly Tran, with award presenter Ali Mayboudi.

Nominations are open now.

If you know of an individual making a difference, you can submit the nomination via the Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce website: www.comoxvalleychamber.com/2019-awards.html.

Business student going global with her learning



Third-year business degree student Georgia Rodgers is set to embark on her second study abroad journey through NIC.

Rodgers took part in the Disney internship for 6 months, studying at the University of California, Riverside and then working at Disney World in Florida. In January, she'll leave NIC for Germany to study at SRH Heidelberg University for 4 months.

“I looked at the Disney internship because I have always been a huge Disney fan and having an opportunity to work for the company was something I couldn't pass up,” said Rodgers.

Rodgers says the experience of studying abroad was invaluable.

“It's given me more confidence,” she said. “If I'm ever nervous about doing something I tell myself that I went to Florida and worked for one of the biggest corporations in the world by myself so I can do this.”

Business instructor Othman Bennis new NIC international advisor

NIC business faculty member Othman Bennis has expanded his role at NIC to include serving as an advisor for international business students.

The role works with business students, providing guidance, advice and educational direction to help them achieve their goals. It also works closely with the Office of Global Engagement and business faculty to meet the needs of international students.

“What interested me in the job was the opportunity to learn more about the students,” said Bennis. “Everyone is different and has individual goals. My role is really to listen to them, learn about them as people – their interests, goals, personalities – and help them onto a path that will get them where they want to go.”

Originally from Morocco, Bennis can also relate to the international student experience.

“I know what it's like to be in a new place, new culture, new country,” he said. “It is a wonderful and enriching experience, but it can also be challenging. Having someone to talk to who has been there and experienced it too can be very helpful for students.”

Having international students in business classes has enriched both the learning and teaching opportunities both inside and outside the classroom.

“The experience they bring to class provides a new level of richness to the learning for all students,” he said. “It's exciting to see the students not only learn from me as an instructor, but also learn so much from each other.”

Students interested in speaking to Bennis can reach out to him directly to schedule an appointment: othman.bennis@nic.bc.ca.

KEEP IN TOUCH

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