


NIC

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Connect with your community

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Creating virtual connections

NIC is holding new virtual events to connect students and employers during COVID.

"We know we're in challenging times right now, but we've also heard repeatedly from our students who are excited about their future careers and want to make industry connections before graduation," said Anita Budisa-Bonneau, NIC coordinator, work integrated learning.

NIC School of Business and Student Employment Services (SES) teamed up for a first-ever virtual networking event for accounting students, which brought together 5 accounting firms and 25 students.

"It was our first foray into this format for networking, and it worked really well," said Budisa-Bonneau. "Because it was specific to accounting, students were able to ask very detailed questions and have in-depth conversations about their field and where they could go after graduation while learning more about the different work cultures from a few local accounting firms."

A major event held this fall was the Beyond 2020 Career Fair – a virtual career and connections fair which was held in partnership with Camosun College, Vancouver Island University and Royal Roads University. The

event brought together students and employers from across Vancouver Island for networking opportunities, speakers, presentations and panel discussions on the future of work and the shifting demand gaps in the new job market.

"The transition to a virtual career fair has expanded the boundaries of the event, allowing employers to connect with students across the island without having to incur travel time and costs," said Budisa-Bonneau. "It also makes the event more accessible for students, who can connect from wherever they are."

SES is working on other industry/sector-specific events in early 2021.

"We're hoping to connect with our School of Business alumni working in human resources and marketing to offer tips to our students and to share their stories of success," said Budisa-Bonneau. "We're very excited about these new opportunities, both because it allows us to hold smaller, more specialized events and also facilitate richer conversations between our students and professionals in their fields."

If you would be interested in taking part in a virtual event, please contact Budisa-Bonneau at anita.budisa@nic.bc.ca.

NIC & VIU launch regional work-integrated learning hub

NIC and Vancouver Island University are working together to boost work experience opportunities for students and support employer access to the future workforce.

The new online hub called Vancouver Island Work-Integrated Learning (VIWIL) aims to create new, mutually beneficial opportunities for students and employers north of the Malahat and includes a partnership with Mitacs and RBC Foundation to focus on rural employer needs.

Roughly 90% of mid- and north-Island businesses have 20 or fewer employees, which means employers don't have a lot of extra time or resources to take on and mentor students.

The new VIWIL online hub will provide one place for employers to promote their job postings to VIU and NIC students and will

provide access to supports such as information on student funding programs and assistance with every aspect of hiring a work-integrated learning student, from creating job descriptions to arranging interviews and onboarding.

"Active participation in work-integrated learning has never been so important for the future of our workforce and our economic recovery," said Anita Budisa-Bonneau, NIC's coordinator of work-integrated education. "Work-integrated learning opportunities such as co-ops and internships give students relevant work experience in their field, which helps them make a successful leap from their studies into the workplace."

Please visit www.viwil.ca for more information or contact info@viwil.ca to speak to an employment engagement facilitator.

Message from the chair

Hello to all our NIC School of Business students, alumni and supporters in the community.

As we approach the end of 2020, it's hard to believe how much has happened in the last year. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our daily lives, both personally and professionally.

In the School of Business, we transitioned our courses to digital delivery and started our new academic year in a fully online environment. This would not have been possible without the incredible hard work and dedication of our faculty and support staff. I am forever grateful for their commitment to our students.

I am also grateful to our wonderful network of NIC alumni and supporters in the community who have stepped forward to continue to support our students as they look for co-op and internship opportunities – a vital component to the applied learning they do at NIC.

We continue to work to improve access to our programs and courses. While the transition to digital was challenging over such a short period, the opportunities it provides for our students to continue their degree from wherever they live is an exciting change and is a source of great potential for future course and program delivery post-pandemic. This is something we will continue to look at developing as we plan for 2021 and beyond.

While we likely will not be able to connect in person this year, I invite you to connect with us virtually, either through one of our online networking events, our career fair opportunities or through social media.

If you have a story you'd like to share, please reach out to me at ali.mayboudi@nic.bc.ca or connect with me on [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ali-mayboudi/).

Sincerely,

Ali Mayboudi, Chair,
NIC School of Business

Faculty recognition

Each year, NIC faculty and staff gather to recognize the service of those who make the NIC community what it is.

This year, while our in-person celebration has been postponed, we wanted to take this opportunity to publicly recognize the individuals in the School of Business who work so hard to support, encourage and mentor our students.

Retirements

Kim Gibson

Following 10 years of exceptional service to the College Kim has decided to retire and pursue other exciting adventures. Kim's dedication to her students, her willingness to collaborate and her enduring kindness and selflessness will be greatly missed. Kim was greatly respected by her colleagues and students alike. She brought her energies not only to teaching but also to a general engagement in the College community serving on Education Council, Board of Governors and multiple hiring committees where her professionalism, judgement and insight were always valued. Congratulations Kim on your retirement and we wish great happiness on your new journey.



Linda Jay

It is with mixed emotions that we celebrate Linda's retirement. Linda has been a valued faculty member at North Island College for over 30 years!



Linda's contributions to the School of Business and to the college at large are many and varied and have helped the college cement our place in the North Island. Linda was a passionate advocate for her students and was instrumental in developing several on-line business courses which increased access to business learning for students in remote communities. Linda has been very active in her community of Campbell River and we're sure her retirement will only increase this involvement. Congratulations on your retirement Linda!

Years of Service

Norma Pelletier: 30 years of service

Norma is a dedicated professional in all areas of college faculty life: instruction, service and culture. Norma has been critical in evolving Accounting credentials and courses in the School of Business to ensure the currency of students' learning and has successfully adapted our programming to ensure graduates can smoothly transition to the CPA Professional Education Program.



In addition to her long-term commitment to teaching and learning, the department has leaned heavily on her program structuring and organizational skills to expand and update curricula across the School of Business. Norma is the Program Review Chair for our current reviews of both undergraduate and post-degree diploma offerings. A wonderful colleague, committed educator, the School of Business congratulates Norma on 30 years of excellent service to NIC.

Cynthia Zhao: 5 years of service



Cynthia joined the College in 2015, bringing a wealth of experience from prior teaching positions at NAIT's JR Shaw School of Business and College of the Rockies as well as several post-secondary institutions in China. Cynthia has been a kind and thoughtful addition to the School of Business and has applied her experience to teaching a range of courses from 1st to 4th year across several credentials. Cynthia has distinguished herself as an advocate for our learners for the academic standards that are foundational to the credentials we offer in the NIC School of Business. We congratulate Cynthia on five years of service to North Island College.

NIC signs new international partnership agreements

NIC continues to work to provide opportunities for our students to go global with their learning. While international travel is currently on hold, agreements are being put in place to ensure students have access to study abroad and exchange opportunities in the future.

"Going abroad is a life-changing experience for students," said Mark Herringer, executive director of international education at NIC. "It not only allows students to immerse themselves in another culture, but also provides them with many important life skills that serve them well throughout their education and career."

Three new agreements have been signed since June. The new articulation agreement with Kapiolani Community College in Hawaii and Kyoto University of Foreign Studies in Japan provide exchange opportunities for NIC's business diploma and BBA students. The agreement with UC Leuven Limberg in Belgium provides research and short-term

programming opportunities, along with exchange opportunities for both NIC students and faculty in Belgium, the seat of the EU government.

NIC has also updated and renewed its previous transfer agreements and degree completion agreements with Portland State University (Oregon, USA) and Robert Gordon University (Aberdeen, Scotland) and Limerick Institute of Technology (Limerick, Ireland) which provide diploma students with undergraduate degree completion options; and in the case of the latter 2 options, 1 year masters degree completion opportunities for BBA graduates.

"We're very excited to see these agreements come online and the opportunities they will provide for our students in the years to come," said Herringer. "International travel, exchanges and transfers give students invaluable experience and skills that set them up for success as they look for employment opportunities and planning their careers."

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