

NIC alumni reach milestone

NIC School of Business has reached 150 alumni, a significant achievement for business education on Vancouver Island.

The college launched the province's first applied business degree with its Bachelor of Business Administration program back in 2006, offering students the opportunity to specialize in accounting, marketing or general management. It was also the first degree independently established by the college.



Heather Buchanan, a budget analyst in NIC's finance department, was one of the first two students to graduate from the program.

"It was the first of its kind when it launched, and it's neat to be part of that legacy," said Buchanan. "It certainly helped me in my career path, and it's wonderful to be part of a growing group of alumni."

To celebrate the milestone, Buchanan surprised current student Keisha Disher with a bouquet to congratulate her on being one of the class of 150.

"It's a little surreal to be done," said Disher. "I'm happy to be done, but also sad that it's over. It was a wonderful experience, and I'm excited to now become a member of the alumni group."

The entire class will be recognized at the upcoming Spring Mixer on May 30.

Spring Mixer set for May 30

NIC's growing body of business alumni are invited to meet at the 7th annual Spring Social event on May 30.

The event is set to take place at 6 pm in the Lower Banquet Room in the Blackfin Pub, located at 132 Port Augusta Street in Comox.

The evening will include dinner and a great conversation with business faculty and fellow alumni. Those interested in attending are encouraged to RSVP with [Ali Mayboudi](mailto:Ali.Mayboudi@nic.bc.ca) by May 17.

Alumni are also invited this fall's CPA-sponsored Business-Student Mixer, a networking event where students have the opportunity to introduce themselves to employers looking to fill accounting, finance, marketing and human resources positions. This event is also an excellent opportunity for alumni who are now employers to connect with current NIC faculty. More details are set to be announced in June, but businesses who are interested in attending can email [Anita Budisa-Bonneau](mailto:Anita.Budisa-Bonneau@nic.bc.ca).

MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIR

Celebrating success, exploring possibilities

As we head into spring and summer, I would like to highlight some notable achievements and exciting developments from NIC School of Business.

I travelled to Ireland earlier this year with an NIC colleague from the Fine Art & Design Department with the support of the Office of Global Engagement. Alongside representatives from other post-secondary institutions, we discussed ways to support students through building and enhancing partnerships.

I continue to sit as a member of the College Plan20-25 and Diversity Matters steering committees. Both working groups are laying the critical groundwork to make NIC a better place for students.

As you will read in this newsletter, we are continuing to expand our business course offerings at our Campbell River campus. It means offering better support to domestic students by allowing them to complete more of their studies in their hometown.

I am pleased to invite our School of Business alumni and 2019 graduates to our 7th annual Spring Social event on May 30 at the Blackfin Pub in Comox. It will be an evening of delicious food and great conversation. I look forward to seeing all of you; please be sure to RSVP by May 17.

Later this spring, I will take part in our 2019 graduation ceremonies as we wish our departing students the best in their future endeavors.

Lastly, we are always looking to work with local businesses who want to collaborate with our students. If you have a suitable project, please email 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**



NIC 9th annual Career Fair grows to 48 employers

The sold-out Career Fair, held at Courtenay's Florence Filberg Centre on March 21, welcomed employers from across a range of sectors, including business, financial services, tourism and trades.

"This community event is the perfect opportunity for local employers to showcase and promote their organizations," said Anita Budisa-Bonneau, NIC's coordinator of work-integrated education. "Our own NIC alumni are now attending behind the employer table as hiring managers, and it's great to see them make connections with our current students."

Hundreds of students and job seekers attended the event, making direct contact with multiple employers. The Career Fair was also a chance for applicants to practice interview skills, learn more about employers, or even be hired on the spot.



NIC supports annual Chamber Awards

NIC made a strong showing at the Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce 2018 Chamber Awards, earning the Not for Profit Award and presenting two awards to other recipients.

NIC School of Business was proud to sponsor and present the #YouRock Youth Award to the Georges P. Vanier Secondary chapter of Jack.org, a national charity that empowers youth to tackle mental health issues. Ali Mayboudi presented the award on behalf of the NIC School of Business.

The college also presented past Chamber chair Andrew Gower with the 2018 President's Merit Award, which recognizes chamber members who have made significant contributions to development or recognition of their profession. Gower's partner Camille Douglas accepted the award on his behalf from Randall Heidt, NIC vice president, strategic initiatives.

NIC was presented the Not for Profit Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions to the community through services to others. President John Bowman accepted the award on behalf of the college.

"The Chamber is a valued community partner as we strengthen relationships with local business to support student learning and professional development," Bowman said. "NIC and the Chamber are both committed to growth and community, and it's great to see our collaboration recognized through these awards."



L TO R: #YOUROCK YOUTH AWARD WINNERS HEATHER RIEDLE, KRISTIN JOHNSON, NICOLETTE VINNEDGE, MADISON KLASSEN AND KIMBERLY TRAN, WITH AWARD PRESENTER ALI MAYBOUDI.

NIC students to wrap up mentorships

Four NIC business students are wrapping up mentorships with business leaders through the Global Leaders of Tomorrow program.

The program is a collaborative mentorship program between NIC School of Business and the Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce.

It connects top students with working professionals in the business community who share their knowledge and experience with a new generation of business leaders.

The program pairs student mentees with their mentors between November and April, with a time commitment of six hours over the mentorship period – a commitment of one hour each month.

Mentees build networking skills and gain valuable business contacts, while mentors have the opportunity to share their knowledge and tap into student perspectives on current business trends.

"It was rewarding to grow and expand my ability to teach and at the same time to impart some of my knowledge about the business world and the community," said past mentor Jeff Lucas. "You have to build other people up in order for them to be able to take the reins."

Businesses interested in mentoring a student this fall can contact Anita Budisa-Bonneau, NIC coordinator, work-integrated education at 250-334-5007 or anita.budisa@nic.bc.ca

KEEP IN TOUCH

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