

**NIC****SCHOOL OF BUSINESS****ALUMNI NEWSLETTER**

Connect with your community

SPRING 2020

WWW.NIC.BC.CA/BUSINESS

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 2

First Global Business Management grads in Campbell River

NIC is celebrating the graduation of its first Global Business Management students in Campbell River.

Student Nilakshi Kundu was working as a software engineer in India to become a business analyst when she decided to come to NIC.

"I wanted to be on the west coast of Canada, and the program was a great starting point for me," she said. "The program touches on many subject areas like marketing, management and accounting. It gave me a strong understanding of the business world in Canada."

Classmate Agalya Kathirvelu was drawn to NIC because of the well-designed curriculum and the small class sizes to compliment her experience in international education.

"The uniqueness of NIC is its very friendly environment with highly supportive staff," she said. "Experienced instructors from the industry gave me great insight about the business course in an international perspective. The classroom discussions and group projects helped me to

work closely with people from different parts of the world and analyze the course from multicultural dimensions."

Both say being among the first class of international students at the Campbell River campus was a wonderful experience. They greatly appreciated the warm welcome they received from the community.

"I grew up in big cities in India, so when I first came to Campbell River I was surprised how small it is, but I was blown away by the generosity of the people in this city, was mesmerized by its picturesque scenery and fell in love with its gorgeous summers," said Kundu. "I feel proud of my decision to come here."

"Being the first international class for the Campbell River campus and to the community, it was a privilege for us connect with the community and participate in the job market very easily," said Agalya. "Overall, it was a wonderful journey."

New NIC employment engagement facilitator working with local businesses

The School of Business welcomes Dayna Kneeland to her new role as NIC's new Employment Engagement Facilitator. Her role works with NIC's Student Employment Services team, specifically focusing on developing relationships with local businesses that can be beneficial to both NIC students and companies.

"I'm very excited to connect with local businesses, learn more about their needs and see where we can develop opportunities to connect them with NIC students for work-integrated learning opportunities," she said.

Before her new role, Kneeland supported student learning in both the School of Business and the Tourism & Hospitality department. She saw first-hand the benefit of work-integrated education for both her students and the employers with whom they worked.

"Internships and co-ops are hugely beneficial for both students and employers," said Kneeland.

"For our students, it gives them a chance to take their learning outside the classroom, apply it in a business environment and gain confidence in their skills. For employers, it's a great opportunity to fill short and long term hiring needs while also bringing fresh ideas and energy into their organization. It's really a win-win."

NIC students participate in co-op work terms, which include 420 hours of full-time work and internships, which range from 180 – 360 hours and can be full or part-time, paid or unpaid.

For more information on how work-integrated learning can help your business or organization, please contact Dayna Kneeland at dayna.kneeland@nic.bc.ca.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIR

Coming together

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

The last few months have been a challenging time for all of us. We at NIC have been working hard to ensure our students have access to the resources and receive the supports they need to continue their studies. We are thankful for the support of our co-op and internship employers, mentors and all those in the business community who have stepped forward with offers of assistance at this time.

Work continues expanding opportunities for our students. As always, our focus is on being responsive and providing access. It continues with our switch to alternate delivery methods to finish out the winter term. Those delivery methods will extend to our spring/summer course offerings, which include a range of business courses.

We also continue to work to expand global opportunities, including a new Double Degree offering with Université Savoie Mont Blanc. We have seen how interconnected our world is today and how crucial it is for our students to gain international experience.

We know this has also been a challenging time for businesses in our community, perhaps the most challenging time we have ever seen, but there are still good news and stories out there. Our Alumni Feature is an opportunity to celebrate the hard work and incredible achievements of our alumni.

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](#).

Sincerely,

Ali Mayboudi, Chair,
NIC School of Business

Alumni feature: Two journeys, one destination

NIC joins two grads in celebrating a significant milestone in their careers – passing their Common Final Examination (CFE) on their path to becoming chartered professional accountants.

Bachelor of Business Administration, Accounting major degree graduate Laurel Koorn and Post-Degree Diploma, Pre-Professional Accounting graduate Mania Qumarsy passed the exam earlier this year. The two work together at MNP Courtenay.

“I’m excited for this next step,” said Koorn. “But right now, mostly just glad it’s over. It was incredibly stressful to go through.”

Spanning three days, the examination requires students to demonstrate their depth and breadth of knowledge and prove they meet the competency requirements to become Chartered Professional Accountants.

While their destination was the same, their journeys to get here could not have been more different.

Koorn was born and raised in the Comox Valley. She decided to go to NIC because she could stay at home and save financial resources.

“I really didn’t know what I wanted to do, but I knew I needed to go to school to figure it out,” she said. “Being able to live at home and work while going to school helped to take some of the pressure off.”

She decided to study business because of its flexibility and versatility.

“The program gives you skills and knowledge you’ll use no matter what you end up doing, whether you’re working at a non-profit or running your own business, or at an accounting firm,” she said. “Plus, being able to do my full BBA in my hometown was great.”

Koorn said she never intended to become an accountant but instead fell into it.

“We had to start specializing in the second year,” she said. “I met someone who worked as an accountant and learned more about what they did on a daily basis. It seemed interesting and that it would be a good fit, so that’s where I went with it.”

“That’s one of the reasons I’d recommend the BBA to anyone – you can really do anything with it,” she added. “Plus, the ability to put your skills to the test with co-ops and internships really helps with the transition into the workforce when you’re done school.”

While Koorn stayed close to home to pursue her career, Qumarsy came to NIC from half-way around the world. She moved to Canada from Iran and ended up in the Comox Valley after her spouse found a job in the region.

While she has a Bachelor’s degree in Mining Engineering, job opportunities on the North Island were limited. She began looking for a career change to an industry less prone to ups and downs.

“I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do,” she said. “I heard about this program, and I liked the idea of working with numbers, which is something I knew I’d enjoy.”

For Qumarsy, the focus of the post-degree diploma appealed to her.

“I liked that the courses were all focused on accounting,” she said. “Holding a bachelor’s degree, I didn’t want to do another 4-year program and take many elective courses that wouldn’t be relevant to what I wanted to do.”

Qumarsy also found the transition to the workforce an easy one. She landed a job during



Alumni Laurel Koorn and Mania Qumarsy are celebrating the next step in their careers - passing the Common Final Exam and becoming Chartered Professional Accountants.

her second semester and then connected with MNP at NIC’s Career Fair.

“I was interviewed and offered a job when I was finished my program. So, I was able to transition seamlessly.”

For both students, passing the Common Final Examination marks the final step in their journey, for now.

“It’s a life-changing accomplishment for me,” said Qumarsy. “It looms over you for a long time. Now that it’s done, I can focus on work and enjoy my life without school.”

Koorn agreed. “I’m not sure what I want to do eventually, but for now, I want to enjoy this milestone. After spending so much time and energy working towards it, I think it’s important to take time and celebrate.”

School of Business sponsors #YouRock award

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

Congratulations to this year’s winner, Montana Pistell, who was presented the award by Ali Mayboudi and Diane Naugler, Dean, Business and Applied Studies.



Annual Spring Social postponed

Due to the risks of the current pandemic, and following the Provincial Health Officer’s order of no gatherings greater than 50 people, we have decided to postpone our annual Spring Social event.

While we cannot gather in person, we know how important it is to stay socially connected while physically distancing. Please connect with us on social media, share stories, memories of NIC or the latest news and updates from your business. We look forward to hearing from you.

Join us on social media: [f](#) [You Tube](#) [in](#) [t](#)