

Connecting Communities Through Research on Vancouver Island

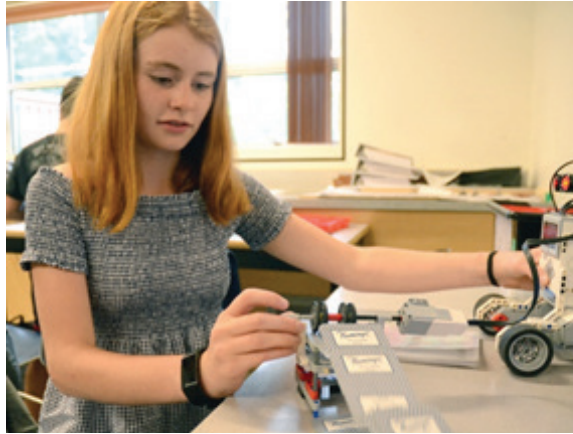
SPOTLIGHT: NICBotCamp SURPASSES 700 STUDENTS

NICBotCamps came alive in the halls of NIC again this summer with beginner and advanced camps as well as a Girls Only camp held in Comox.

A total of 226 students, including 45 females and 20 self-identified Indigenous learners, learned valuable Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) skills in the robotics camps. In the past four years, more than 700 students have participated. Participants were able to build, program and control robots in a fun, hands-on weeklong camp.

“The growth in the NICBotCamps exemplifies the importance of offering STEM-related, hands-on learning to northern Vancouver Island students,” says CARTI manager, Naomi Tabata.

Funding was received for these camps from Navigate NIDES, Engineers & Geoscientists British Columbia, BC Hydro, The Hamber Foundation, Houle Electric, Campbell River Creative Industries Council, and the Government of Canada.



NICBotCamp participant Sarah McQueen works on her card shuffling robot for the showcase.

SPOTLIGHT: KATE MOYNIHAN, BSN STUDENT

Name: Kate Moynihan

Project: Raising Student Nurses in Remote First Nations Communities

Role in Project: Student Co-Explorer

Briefly Describe the project: The Raising Student Nurses in Remote Communities inquiry/research project aims to create opportunities for first year BSN students to experience immersion learning in remote Indigenous communities. We wish to discern if having first year students participate in these learning experiences helps to decolonize perspective, and assist in reconciliation.

How is this project related to your studies? Research is integral to the evolution of the nursing profession, and thus understanding research is vital to my work as an RN. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s call to action #24 beseeched that nursing schools be part of decolonization and reconciliation by providing courses dealing with Indigenous health issues. I took part in this research in response to this call.

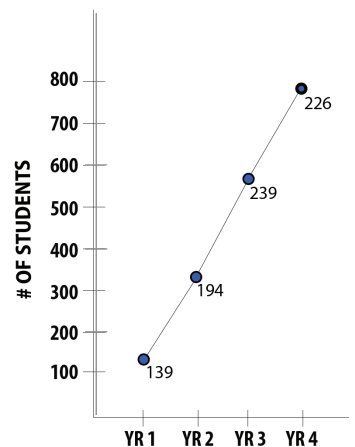
Most Valuable part of being involved in this project? Being in the room with such wise, knowledgeable, open, compassionate and brilliant people has changed my life. The wisdom I have been exposed to in this process is unforgettable, and a true gift in this life.



2019 NICBotCamp Community Impact Statistics

- 226 Participants
- 20 Self-identified as having Aboriginal ancestry
- 45 Female participants
- 3 Student instructors
- 3 Volunteers
- 12 Week-long camps
- 1 Girls-only camp
- 1 VIU robotics club
- 5 North Vancouver Island communities
- 7 Community partners

The Road to Over 700 Students



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BSN STUDENTS IMMERSE IN LEARNING



BSN students learning through Huu-ay-aht story telling at Kix̱in ancient village site.

The Raising Student Nurses in Remote First Nations Communities (RSN) project continues to learn from the successful provision of immersion learning opportunities early in the nursing curriculum.

Two groups of first year students attended one of two immersion learning experiences in May 2019. One was in Huu-ay-aht from May 14th to 17th and the other in Kyuquot from May 21st to 24th. Both experiences were attended by NIC Elder Evelyn Voyageur, NIC Faculty Joanna Fraser and student co-explorers.

Discussion circles, field trips to old village sites, attending community events, participating in school/day care activities, community dinner and ceremonial activities were some of the activities the students took part in. The student co-explorers conducted information gathering sessions, focus groups and interviews during and following the immersion learning experiences to gather information from student participants, facilitators and community members/knowledge holders about the benefits and challenges of the project.

Five of the inquiry team members representing NIC students, faculty and Elders as well as partner communities

members, presented at the 2019 NAISA (Native American and Indigenous Studies Association) Conference held in Hamilton, New Zealand (Aotearoa) at the University of Waikato from June 26-29. They each shared stories from being involved in the project highlighting the benefits and transformational learning that has occurred.

The RSN project is continuing this fall and winter, with inquiry team members working on data analysis and planning follow up community visits and celebrations in the two participating communities. Feedback from the first-year students who participated has been positive and team members are looking at how to sustain this immersion learning as part of the curriculum for future students.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Awards Program Donor Appreciation Reception

Campbell River: Oct. 29; 4:30 pm - 6 pm
 Comox: Nov. 13; 4:30 pm - 6 pm
 Port Alberni: Nov. 25; 1 pm - 2:30 pm
 For more information: <https://www.nic.bc.ca/life-at-nic/nic-news/news/donor-appreciation-cr-2019/>

Comox Chamber of Commerce Member Mixer

Coastal Community Credit Union
 Nov. 6, 5 pm - 7 pm
 Cost: \$15
 For more information: <https://web.comoxvalleychamber.com/events/Member-Mixer-Coastal-Community-Credit-Union-542/details>

Team BC Culinary Event

The Bistro, Campbell River
 Nov. 22, 6 pm - 8pm
 Cost: \$100 per ticket
 Indulge in a world-class meal prepared by Culinary Team BC as they prepare for the IKA World Culinary Olympics 2020.
 For more information: <https://web.comoxvalleychamber.com/events/Member-Mixer-Coastal-Community-Credit-Union-542/details>

TO SUBMIT A STORY TO OUR NEWSLETTER, CONTACT APRIL WHALEN APRIL.WHALEN@NIC.BC.CA

Upcoming Funding Deadlines

Please contact CARTI to discuss your ideas for research submissions in advance of the funder deadline or regarding any projects that may involve NIC. There may be additional funding programs that will suit your initiative. Additional information is available on the NIC CARTI portal site. You can contact CARTI at 250-923-9771 or carti@nic.bc.ca.

FUNDING PROGRAM	DEADLINE
NSERC - Engage and Applied Research Development Grant	Ongoing
NSERC - Applied Research Tools and Instruments Grant	Nov. 15, 2019
NSERC - College and Community Social Innovation Fund	Dec. 2, 2019