About North Island College

North Island College (NIC) is a leader in web-based education. NIC serves 159,000 people over 80,000 square kilometers on northern Vancouver Island. The region’s vastness has made us experts at distance education for 40 years. We have always valued the benefits innovative technology brings to distance education.

Albert Balbon has pioneered distance education delivery at North Island College for 29 years. In 2002, Albert and Ron Evans created a system to allow distance astronomy students to explore the universe from the comfort of home using a remote telescope. That technology paved the way for the RWSL in 2004.

Today, Albert works with North Island College and the North American Network of Science Labs Online (NANSLO) to further develop and share this technology with educators.

Interested in getting involved?

We’d love to hear from you. Learn how the Remote Web-Based Science Lab can help you meet your educational goals.

Contact

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Remote Web-Based Science Lab


The Remote Web-Based Science Lab (RWSL) is a North Island College innovation that gives students and educators access to high quality online labs in real-time, both from home or in the classroom. Users across North America access a variety of lab exercises when most convenient for them.

RWSL ARCHITECT ALBERT BALBON CONTINUES TO CREATE NEW LABS AT NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE.
What is the RWSL?
The Remote Web-Based Science Laboratory (RWSL) was developed by North Island College to give students with an internet connection access to high quality science lab exercises in real time. To date, the RWSL has received more than $1.3 million in grants from international organizations who realize its importance in providing innovative and engaging education to students across North America.

Why use the RWSL?
Students and educators manipulate equipment and collect data in real time supporting active learning at home and in the classroom.

Students access a greater number of lab exercises and equipment than ever before, adding depth to the curriculum.

The RWSL brings real labs into the lecture hall, improving traditional lectures and making it easier for students to understand and interpret the theory behind the science.

Institutions access high quality technology while reducing purchasing and maintenance costs.

What curriculum does the RWSL support?
North Island College facilitates instruction in many subject areas including physics, chemistry, engineering, and health. We are continually developing new lab exercises, based on instructor demand. For a full list of available labs, or to develop your own ideas, contact randall.heidt@nic.bc.ca.

What equipment is available?
To date, the North Island College lab provides access to more than $240,000 in Nikon microscopes, spectrometers with varying light sources, air tracks, E/M apparatus, robots and more. Our inventory is constantly growing to meet curriculum needs. For a full list of available equipment or to discuss new acquisitions, contact randall.heidt@nic.bc.ca.

“Distance students would never be able to do the E/M lab without the RWSL. Now, they can fire it up, modify the accelerating voltage, change the current for the magnetic field, and see the path of the electrons change.”
MICHAEL WILLERS, PHYSICS INSTRUCTOR, NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE

“In the classroom, the RWSL ensures students see what I am seeing. I can put my finger on the image and say, it’s this part right here.”
DR. TAKASHI SATO, PHYSICS PROFESSOR, KWANTLEN POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY

Our partners

[Logos of various organizations]