

**NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS REPORT
JUNE 2020**

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Practical Nursing

Submitted by Laurie Michaud, Interim Department Chair

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Like all faculty at NIC, the Practical Nursing (PN) faculty have been working hard since March to move our classes online. The PN faculty demonstrated their creativity and innovation in ensuring that student engagement and the quality of education were not impacted by this shift. The PN faculty have been attending teaching and learning sessions focused on online learning strategies and are working collaboratively with other health faculty to learn about new and creative ways of teaching in a virtual environment.

We are so pleased to announce that Rachel Goodliffe, former Bachelor of Science in Nursing faculty member, will be joining the PN program in Campbell River. We are so excited about the years of teaching experience and nursing expertise that Rachel brings with her to our program.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

The PN faculty wanted to extend an acknowledgement of the tremendous work of the PN students to make the shift to on-line learning. The students demonstrated their flexibility, compassion, and professionalism throughout this pandemic. Students in both years of the PN program have now returned to practice in both long-term care and acute settings. Both faculty and students are reporting back about the excellent learning experiences they have having in the practice setting.

RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

There is a lot of excitement happening in the Practical Nursing Department! Fall 2019 was the first offering of our one-program/two-campus PN program. Instruction for this program was offered via Interactive Television (ITV). This is a brand-new approach to PN education in the Province of BC, so we have been working collaboratively with the British Columbia College of Nursing Professions (BCCNP) throughout this process. The initial feedback from the students has very positive and we are looking forward to engaging in a more in-depth evaluation of the new delivery model in the fall.

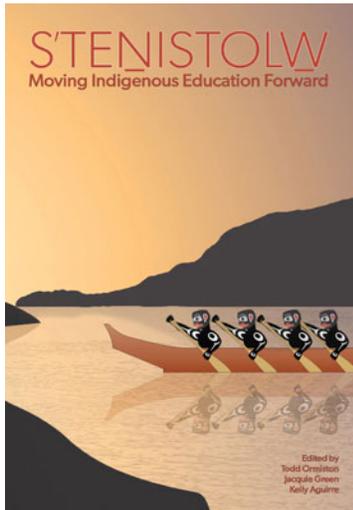
We are also very excited about the prospect of offering the Health Care Assistant to Practical Nursing pathway at NIC with an anticipated start date of January 2021. These courses are currently being taken through the Curriculum and Education Council Process. Once this pathway has been approved, health care assistants will be able to complete a one-semester, online bridge-in semester and will then be able to join the second year of the PN program.

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Submitted by Heidi Deagle, Department Co-Chair/Advisor

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

In early March, the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program (BSN), like others, seemed to change almost overnight. Despite being without a *How-To* Guide on the managing the vast implications of a global pandemic, our faculty, staff, and students responded swiftly, collaboratively, and creatively. We adapted, and continue to do so, with a shared focus on the well-being of students and the quality and integrity of their education. The innumerable ways in which faculty supported students to completion of the Winter term could never be fully quantified. As the BSN program continues into May and June, our faculty have continued to evolve- ‘driving the car as they re-build it’ to deliver courses, ensuring the continuation of nursing education for North Island College students. The dedication, resilience, and persistence of all involved, including the students, has been outstanding.



- A warm and proud Congratulations to our esteemed colleagues Joanna Fraser and Evelyn Voyageur on the publication of their Chapter in the new book: *S'TENISTOLW: Moving Indigenous Education Forward* (2020).
- This book highlights both the doing and being of Indigenous education; Dr. Voyageur and (soon-to-be Dr.) Joanna Fraser have shared the incredible work being done at North Island College in the BSN program to engage authentically in living TRC in education.
- “*S'TENISTOLW* is a wonderful feast of stories, experiences, teachings, and approaches of educational and community leaders involved in Indigenous post-secondary education. Practitioners-scholars-leaders receive gifts of hope, inspiration, and transforming potential to live Indigenous education in good ways through innovative Indigenous pedagogies, relational theories, authentic community and land-based programs, and critical engagement.”
- Jo-Ann Archibald, Professor of Educational Studies, University of British Columbia
- Our gratitude also goes to Liesel Knaack and her team from the Centre for Teaching and Learning Innovation at North Island College. Thank you for the invaluable, practical, accessible, and on-going assistance for us to learn about, and flourish in the digital learning environment.

Some additional acknowledgements include:

- Accepted for publication in *Witness: The Canadian Journal of Critical Nursing Discourse*, "Nurses Learning Our Way, From the Land, With the People: A Collaborative Experience", a collaborative piece including student authors, North Island College and Vancouver Island University faculty, as well as community members.
- Nursing Instructor Joanna Fraser is nearing completion of her Doctorate of Education from Simon Fraser University
- Nursing Instructor Vanessa Lowe completed her Master of Nursing degree from Athabasca University

- Nursing Instructor Tara Mayrhofer continued her Master of Education degree program through the University of Alberta
- Martha Russell retires this June. We wish her all the best for a happy and healthy retirement!
- Jan Meiers has accepted the position of Instructor/Learning Center Coordinator in the BSN program. We look forward to having her expertise and creativity in this role!
- Faculty members Karen Mason and Heidi Deagle attended the North Island College Student Leadership Retreat on Quadra Island this January.
- BSN Faculty continue to participate in a variety of initiatives on campus, including membership in EDCO, Research Ethics Board, and the Mental Health and Well-Being Committee.

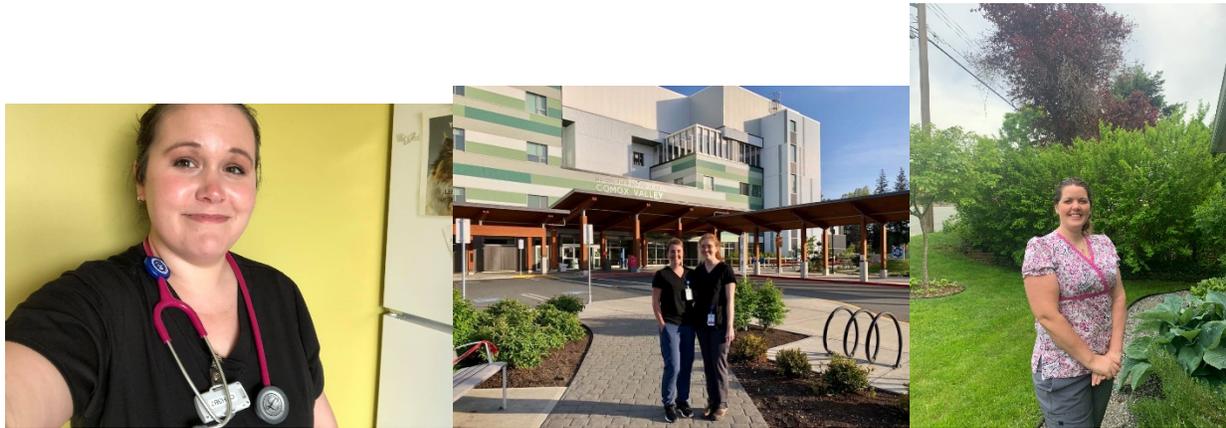
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Firstly, we want to acknowledge the forty-four incredible graduates who have completed their journey to achieve a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing (BSN). Nine of those individuals entered the program through our Practical Nurse to Registered Nurse option. This was the largest BSN graduate class and included two of our youngest grads ever! We are proud of them all and saddened that at this time, we cannot celebrate in person. However, we hope that a virtual ceremony and pinning will take place later this year.

We have heard from many BSN graduates that they are already working in full-time positions across Vancouver Island, including six at West Coast General Hospital. Some have already written and passed their Nation Registration exams and are fully qualified RN's.

Pictured below clockwise from top right: Meghan (RADU, Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria; Laura, Medical Unit, Comox Valley Hospital; Kerry, Medical Unit, Campbell River Hospital; Keisha, Medical Unit, Comox Valley Hospital; Maria and Natasha Farrant, Comox Valley Hospital, Carla, West Cost General Hospital)





Some additional acknowledgements include:



- 3rd year BSN student Courtney Blake (pictured) was elected President of the Canadian Nursing Students’ Association; she will also sit on the Canadian Nursing Association’s Board of Directors. Congratulation to Courtney on her incredible accomplishments! We are proud to have such a strong leader and advocate in the BSN Program.
- Two students, Julie and Holly, who have been very involved in campus well-being projects, attended the *Health Minds, Healthy Campuses* forum in Victoria
- One of our 2020 graduates will be entering into a Masters program this Fall in the Lower-Mainland
- Our Canadian Nursing Students’ Association (CNSA) group is continuing to pursue their dream of hosting the Western Regional Conference in October 2020, with the theme: *Uplifting Indigenous Voices*. This creative bunch have already shifted to planning an entirely on-line conference!
- Our BSN students are finishing their third year by hosting an E-Conference on Evidence Based Practice in Nursing. They presented research posters to their cohort and nursing faculty on topics such as: 1) Who cares for the caregiver?; 2) Clinical Preparation with Simulation; 3) Evidence Based Research: We got Barriers People; 4) Promoting Indigenous Health Through Culturally Inclusive Care.

TRADES AND TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

Highlights

We're Back!!

Electrical Apprenticeship Levels 2 and 3 both began May 25th in the virtual classroom. Instructors Jason Taylor and David Johns are utilizing a combination of the online Blackboard platform and an alternating reduced class size for the face-to-face mandatory shop/lab components of their programs. Electrical Foundation has also resumed with the same model and students will have Foundation under their belts by July 10th.

June 1st saw the gradual return of students, faculty and staff to our campuses. Professional Cook Level 1 has students returning to Port Alberni to join Chef Al Irving after their hiatus from face-to-face instruction and, at the Campbell River campus, Chef Xavier Bauby will be guiding 10 Culinary students through Professional Cook 2 and the Culinary Diploma and Advanced diploma programs.

Instructor Byron Beaupre has been busy preparing for his Heavy Mechanical Level 2 commencing June 29th at the Campbell River campus with a full cohort followed by Carpentry Apprenticeship Level 4 July 13th in the Comox Valley with instructor Erik Hardin and his compliment of 11 students.

It would be remiss if we did not mention the amazing Cafeteria team in Campbell River. They are back and better than ever! While gathering in the Commons and seating areas is temporarily unavailable, it doesn't mean the same friendly smiles and services can't be found where they've always been! Joanne, Mel, Hans, Kathy and Brandon have been diligently preparing *individually packaged* homemade meals with the added feature of "Take-Out". Selecting items from the breakfast and lunch menus are still options but now students and staff can also *pre-order* from the Take-Out menu by choosing an item(s), indicating a preference time for pick-up and their selection will be ready and waiting.

PROGRAM OFFERINGS

What will 2020 Fall look like?

We have six program start-ups set for September. Electrical Foundation (waitlisted), Heavy Mechanical Level 4 (14 students); Professional Cook 1 will be at the Campbell River campus and Professional Cook 2 at the Port Alberni Campus. Carpenter Apprentice Level 3 (waitlisted) is happening at the Comox Valley campus.

Our 2020 Fall term is going to be one like no other but, even with delayed start dates into October and programs beginning in November, interest remains high. Based on our current fall programming numbers, we are confident Trades and Technical programs will maintain the same attendance levels as previous years across most, if not all, programs. Our calendar is bursting at the seams with Automotive Service Technician, Heavy Mechanical Foundation and Apprenticeship Level 2, Coastal Forest Worker, Welding, Electrical Apprenticeship Levels 2, 3 and 4, Plumbing level 2 and Carpentry levels 2 and 4. We are piloting an afternoon/evening cohort for Professional Cook Level 3 while other trades are also under review with expanded programming.



BUT WAIT...WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED!

There are 2 new Upstarts for October!

The pilot of the newly developed Coastal Forest Technology Certificate and Diploma programs. This highly anticipated program has been designed and developed with the direct input of Industry Leaders. A two-year program, the first term of Technology Diploma will run concurrently with the Coastal Forest Worker Certificate program. From there, it branches off into more in-depth study of the Forest sector, preparing students with a wide range of theory and applied science required for highly skilled technical roles as a forestry professional.

Last offered in Campbell River in 2016, we are excited to be able to announce the re-launch of the Metal Fabricator Foundation program. Karl Plautz joined the Faculty of Trades and Technical programs in 2019 and has developed and refined the Fabricator program content in keeping with industry trends. Karl is highly skilled and holds his Red Seal in both Welding and Metal Fabrication as well as spending over nine years as an educator. Metal fabricators build, assemble and repair products made of steel and/or other metals for use in a wide variety of manufacturing and construction industries. As an instructor, Karl is committed to his students and their success throughout the program and beyond the walls of NIC. He is actively involved with industry representatives to ensure we meet or exceed the high standards of the Industry Training Authority.

There may be a slight competitive streak between campuses?

For the first time ever, Professional Cook Level 2 is scheduled at the Port Alberni campus in September! This exciting new development is the opportunity culinary students in the Alberni valley have been waiting for. For some students, having to pick up and move can be very daunting and expensive. Being able to stay in their community to pursue the next level of their Culinary careers means they can do so without incurring the added cost of travel and alternate accommodation.

With the month of June quickly passing, we are in the final stage of our advanced Joinery projects with students being grateful that they are back on the shop floor. As our 2019-2020 cohort nears completion, we are now planning for the future.

One of our most significant and exciting changes at NIC is with the Furniture Design and Joinery Certificate program as of Fall 2020. The curriculum has been refined and two new courses have been added to enhance the student experience.



The popularity of the Joinery program is reflected by over 60,000 YouTube views, more views than almost all programs combined. With the program start scheduled for October 13th, we have received 27 applications (to date) with eight students already registered and six more at the various stages of enrolment – **and it's only June.**

It is clear that the international reputation of the Instructor and the quality of the program has made this a destination program. There are students from all over Canada and about three international students per year that enroll in the program. Even with this success, Joinery/Cabinetmaking Instructor Stephen McIntosh has taken the program content and refined, refinished and reassembled it.

Most significant in the new curriculum are two new courses:

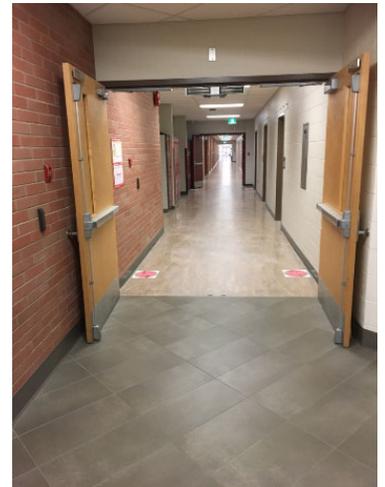
Woodshop Business Operations and Kitchen Cabinets - This course presents essential business and marketing skills for future opportunities for both employees and employers' long-term economic goals. Emphasis will be given to best business practices for entrepreneurship as artists or joinery masters. This course also encompasses developing a photographic portfolio and learning how to market one's work.

Casework, and Millwork. Woodshop Business Operations - The course blends theory and applied learning through the process of planning, fabricating, and installing kitchen millwork.

Stephen says, “The refinements in the program are a response to the feedback from past students and an acknowledgement of the wide range of outcomes that students who take the program are looking for. About 1/3 of these students are looking to move through an apprenticeship, another third are artisans and artists who are looking for more experience working in the wood medium, and the rest are people looking to start a small business or want to experience the passion of woodworking first hand in retirement.”



Activity across the campuses usually adopts a somewhat slower pace during the summer months allowing us to reflect on our previous year and gather our thoughts for the coming fall term. This year we will be using this time to review our approach to protocols that have come into play these last few months. What can we improve? Do we need to change anything? What we do know is North Island College can be proud of the resourcefulness, creativity and initiative taken by our faculty to ensure program standards did not waiver amidst a rapid turnabout to the teaching platform. Our students also need to be recognized for their dedication. They have shown remarkable resilience to an unexpected disruption and demonstrated an impressive ability and willingness to adapt quickly to new learning strategies and formats implemented for the new “norm”. As restrictions continue to slowly relax within the province and our communities we are and always will remain steadfastly committed to our students.



OFFICE OF GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Updates from the Office of Global Engagement (OGE)

Submitted by Mark Herringer

International Continuing Student Survey

A survey has been distributed to all continuing international students at NIC to determine their study plans for fall 2020, check how their digital study experience has been, and determine how they are coping with the present pandemic response. Once the results have been received, a summary will be completed by OGE and distributed as appropriate.

International Student Peer Mentor Program

NIC's Office of Global Engagement is looking for student peer mentor volunteers to help welcome our new international students to the NIC community.

This is an exciting opportunity for continuing students to help new students settle and adjust to life in Canada and at NIC. This volunteer opportunity is not limited to international students and domestic students are encouraged to apply.

The following was sent to present international students to encourage them to use appropriate technology to study digitally.

Funding Available

Are you using a smartphone for your classes because you cannot afford to buy a laptop?

Did you know that there is emergency funding for eligible international students?

This includes financial help for technology needs or help with groceries or other issues.

Students will be assessed on the basis of financial need.

NIC Applicant Communication Under Way

NIC International Recruitment Team has been working tirelessly to connect with our applicants one-on-one to ensure that their concerns and questions are addressed in a timely manner. With some applicants, we may need your help in communication with students as we are not receiving responses from applicants.

For each country, we have designated staff. Please communicate with one of our staff if you have any questions!

Victor Liu :	China (including Taiwan and Hong Kong)
Linh Mai :	Vietnam, Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia
Agnel Worth :	India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal
Lisa La Rose :	US, Great Britain, Europe, Australia, New Zealand
Ewerton De	Latin America, Carribeans
Silva :	Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Japan, Korea,
Junko Leclair :	Philippines, Middle East, Africa