

**NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
 COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS REPORT
 JANUARY 2021**

TRADES AND TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

January 2021

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Welcome, welcome one and all to the start of a bigger and brighter year for NIC!

No doubt about it, 2020 could have done with a re-do or perhaps a complete overhaul, however, we played the hand we were dealt and here we are. Despite the challenges imposed upon us all by COVID-19, we have excelled and moved through and beyond to support students and quality programming.

WELL DONE, EVERYONE!

Before we dive into the 2021 agenda, let's do a quick re-cap of what was probably one of the most unusual Fall terms ever witnessed at NIC.

While foundation programs from September and October continue on into spring of 2021, faculty and students brought to a close three Electrical Apprenticeships, Heavy Mechanical Apprenticeship Level 2, Plumbing Apprenticeship Level 2 and two harmonized Carpentry Apprenticeships in December. Chef Alan Irving in Port Alberni saw the conclusion of the first ever Professional Cook Level 2 in the Alberni Valley and Chef Xavier Bauby and Chef Sunshine Layton had their hands full with Professional Cook 1, Culinary Diploma and Professional Cook 3 programs in Campbell River.

In October, instructor Stephen McIntosh launched the new curriculum for the Furniture Design and Joinery Certificate. Response from students has been positive and Stephen feels the new material is enhancing the learning experience of the program. Initially, students are required to complete two hand-tool projects prior to moving on to more detailed and complex designs. They have approximately eight weeks to complete a toolbox and then following that, another smaller box which takes about six weeks to make. As students progress further through the program, the next step is a table and chair then, if time permits, they can work on a project of their own choice. Seen below are the current projects from yet another talented group of students.



Two Level 4 Apprenticeships wrote their Industry Training Authority BC (ITA) exams on December 18th: Carpentry at the Comox Valley campus and Electrical at the Campbell River campus. Essential to Apprenticeship training are shop projects and practical labs. One of the final labs for Electrical Level 4 students was wiring up fire alarm systems which were built in-house at the Campbell River campus.



Professional Cook 2 students in Port Alberni completed their mandatory ITA Practical Assessments and Certificate of Qualification exams. Chef Al has every reason to put a feather on his cap for the maiden voyage of Level 2.

Chef Xavier and Chef Sunshine are equally impressed with student participation, motivation and engagement. Prepping for their mid-term theory and practical exams in January, students have been a constant presence in the teaching kitchen, and they are not afraid to show you how it's done! On a rotating basis to respect social distancing rules, both chefs had the students in two groups. The first shift started at 9:00 am to prepare and showcase their daily assignment, the second shift got to strut their stuff from 2:00 pm on. Not to be left out, Professional Cook Level 3 students are working on a well-received modified model of their program consisting of 12 hours per week spanning 15 weeks.

For the annual holiday luncheon, once again our future chefs prepared a turkey feast fit for kings yet brought all the comforts of home to the table. Any attempt to go back for seconds was swiftly foiled as this was one dinner that sold out before it started. Oven-roasted turkey, garlic mashed potatoes, citrus baked beets, glazed squash and carrots, apple cider gravy, stuffing and orange cranberry sauce were on the menu. When you are served a meal of perfection such as this, it will make you want to go home and glare at your own turkey for being such an uninspiring jerk!

Don't believe us? Look what's coming out of the kitchen.....



Follow the talent and progress of the Culinary students on Instagram [#nicculinaryarts](#)

Also of note, Chef Sunshine is leading a cohort of the Kitchen Helper Program. This part-time blended learning program began November 4 and runs until late February. Developed with NIC's Department of Accessible Learning Services (DALs), students spend six hours per week in the kitchen lab and six hours on online instruction. Focus is concentrated around the foundation kitchen skills of safety, sanitation, personal hygiene, tools and equipment.

We had to say goodbye to one of our seasoned instructors of 16 years. On December 18th, Lee Pollack left the building. While we may see him again from time to time, Lee's parting words were these:

Hello All:

It is with mixed feelings that I have decided to retire at the end of this year.

Mixed feelings because NIC is such a GREAT place to work and I will miss all the wonderful people that make this such a great place to work. I have never met anyone here that it wasn't a joy to see again and again. I am truly grateful to all of you for making this workplace such a fulfilling pleasure.

They say you retire to do the things you love to do, well by that definition I have been happily retired since I started at NIC in 2004 and have truly loved getting up in the morning to come here.

Having said that I do admit that lately there are more and more mornings that I would prefer to sleep in a little and enjoy living without the constraints of a schedule. My wife Carmen and I are blessed with good health and we wish to take advantage of that good health while we are still able.

Again; I would like to thank you all for your part in having made my working life in the last 16 years such a positive experience. I hope you all know how lucky we are to have each other, to have NIC as our workplace, and how lucky we are to live in this wonderful part of the world. I wish you all the best.

Sincerely

Lee Pollack

Bye Lee! We wish you all the best 😊



HERE COME OUR THANK YOU'S

We wish to sincerely thank the BC Salmon Farmers Association. For several years, they have been an avid and proud sponsor of the North Island College Culinary Arts Program. Joanne Watson, our Cafeteria Supervisor, just has to reach out with a request and, without fail, let there be fish! Students have the opportunity to learn how to properly handle, process and present one of the greatest gifts the West Coast has to offer. What a fantastic learning experience: from tours of their facilities to sponsoring special events such as *Dance with Tapas*, the BC Salmon Farmers Association has been a huge presence in our Culinary programs.

In September, the Senior Education Team (SET) sent out an NIC community inclusive survey for the *Widening Our Doorways: A 10-point Plan to Reset, Reshape and Renew Learning*. SET recognized that everyone's voices should be heard and feedback was important and imperative to shaping the planning process. This was appreciated and resonated with many at NIC. Survey participants had the added treat of "NIC Cookies" prepared by the Culinary Arts students!



It would be remiss if we did not recognize and thank some very essential and important people to the Trades and Technical team. Without them, the assorted array of items needed to complete lab and shop activities could very well prove to be quite elusive. Banjo Bolts, Bessy Clamps, Dial Sleds and Bore Gauges are but a few of the sundry bits and pieces that make their way to the queue on a daily basis.

Need a sharkbite elbow fitting – Kim Stallknecht's got it covered. Want a valve spring compressor – Danne Pearson can hook you up! There are literally thousands of nuts, washers, bolts, screws, wrenches, saws and kitchen sinks that make up the Tool Crib at each campus. In the midst of this are four people that know exactly what you're talking about, what it's for and where to find it. Thanks to Joe Fornari, Dean Weslosky, Kim and Danne, there is a place for everything and everything in its place. From equipment maintenance to detailed inventory, they run a tight ship right down to the Rose Buds!

*Thank you
Santa's little helpers!*



WELL HIYA 2021!

Ready...Set....

We are full steam ahead as we start the new year off with full cohorts of Carpentry Apprenticeship Levels 1 and 2, Electrical Apprenticeship Levels 2 and 4, and Plumbing Apprenticeship Level 3. Don't forget we have Heavy Mechanical Level 1, a full cohort of Trade Sampler and not one but two Women in Trades programs in Campbell River and Comox Valley.

February starts with three cohorts of Carpentry Foundation: one at the Comox Campus, one in Campbell River and one at the Mixelakwila campus. Coastal Forest Worker Certificate and Technology programs are gaining momentum, followed closely by two cohorts of Electrical Foundation (Campbell River and Port Alberni), Welding Foundation, Plumbing Foundation and another Women in Trades at the Mixelakwila campus. AND METAL FABRICATOR IS BACK!!

Here comes March with two full cohorts of Carpentry Apprenticeship Level 3, three full cohorts of Electrical Apprenticeship Level 3, Plumbing Apprenticeship Level 4, Heavy Mechanical Level 3 and there may be one or two seats left in Electrical Apprenticeship Level 1.

That's how we roll!

Are you ready for this....

When Industry calls, we are all ears! As we seek to continually advance programming, Trades and Technical closely monitors labour market trends, opportunities and demands. Providing flexible learning formats and greater ease of access allows us to not only satisfy Industry needs but we can reach students that may otherwise be forgotten or overlooked be it a matter of location, finance or upgrading. We are continuing to pursue opportunities for learners in rural and remote communities, those who may have limited resources or individuals who have commitments and priorities that do not allow for full-time classroom instruction.

In addition to the new Parts and Warehousing Person Foundation and Motor Sport and Power Equipment Technician Foundation programs, development continues as we broaden the spectrum of what Trades and Technical has to offer with two exciting micro-credentials!

Motion Picture Production Assistant is a dynamic and integrated self-paced micro-credential designed to open the door to a career in film and television. Recognized by the Directors Guild of BC, this 100% online 7-week program offers students live scheduled virtual sessions with experienced film industry instructors. The program will guide students through on-set skills in communication, protocols, terminology and safety so they may confidently pursue employment as a Locations Productions Assistant.

Fundamentals of GIS Mapping and Drone Operations provides introductory training on emerging technologies, standardization of data collection methods, and industry best practices on low-level aerial data collection. Instruction incorporates an introduction to Geographic Information System (GIS) basic tools and applications, digital data collection and integration, query databases, and file management structures for GIS data. The program also encompasses training for Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS), commonly known as drones, and will equip students to obtain the basic small RPAS operator's license (250g - 25kg class) with the additional industry certification in Restricted Operator Certificate-Aeronautical. Skills gained are transferable across multiple sectors to include forestry, aquaculture, resource and environmental management.

STUDENT SERVICES AND REGISTRAR

Student Services

Submitted by Felicity Blaiklock

Okanagan Charter Commemoration Plaques

In May 2020, NIC became the 21st post-secondary institution in Canada and one of the first colleges in BC to endorse the Okanagan Charter: An International Charter on Health Promoting Universities and Colleges. This month, plaques commemorating the signing and formal adoption of the Okanagan Charter will be mounted on each of the four campuses.



These plaques will serve as a reminder of NIC's commitment to health and well-being, including in its strategic planning process, developing a campus wide Mental Health and Well-Being Action Plan, establishing culturally relevant systems and tools to connect students with campus and community resources, coordinating health and well-being programming across campuses, and embedding student health and well-being supports in courses and programs.

Campus Suicide Prevention Grant

The Canadian Mental Health Association's BC Division (CMHA BC), in partnership with BC's Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, has invited proposals from publicly-funded post-secondary institutions in the province to engage in campus suicide prevention initiatives focused on student populations. The intent of this project is to assist post-secondary institutions in developing and implementing new or expanded campus suicide prevention frameworks and strategies with assistance from the Healthy Minds | Healthy Campuses (HM|HC) community-of-practice network. NIC has submitted a proposal for the \$50,000 grant and is hoping to hear whether we have been successful in mid-late January.

Orientation

Winter Orientation was offered to all students the week of January 4th with a variety of live and pre-recorded sessions offered to assist new students starting in the winter with their transition to NIC, as well as to support all current students in their continued adjustment to digital learning. The live sessions were held via BlueJeans and were well attended with an average of 50 students per session. Sessions included navigating NIC's digital learning platforms, tips for a successful term, North Island Student Union (NISU) supports and services, Student Life engagement opportunities, and a fun start of term celebration. Live sessions were recorded and placed on the [Winter Orientation webpage](#) for those unable to attend.

Library and Learning Commons Update

Submitted by Lynette Gallant

Social Media Platform Launch (September 2020)

The Library & Learning Commons (LLC) launched LLC Instagram and Twitter accounts this Fall allowing us to connect with and listen to the NIC community while promoting LLC services and resources.

Late Night Against Procrastination (November 2020)

LLC once again hosted this annual event with all events and supports offered virtually. Librarians, Writing Support, Student Tech, and Counselling staff were on hand from 5:00pm to 11:00pm, to support students with research and writing, troubleshooting technology issues, and connecting students with counselling supports. Compared to the 200+ students that typically attend, we saw only 19 students during the evening. An overarching goal of this event was to instill a sense of accomplishment and community at a stressful point of the semester compounded by the anxieties of the pandemic.

Grab & Go Bundles (December 2020)

We started a new campaign this year to increase the circulation of our print books - Grab & Go Book Bundles. LLC staff customized book bundles for patrons based on a short form describing the patron's reading taste. The campaign was quite successful with 48 staff and students participating and we plan to run this event a few times throughout the year.

LLC Workshops

In 2020 and in addition to research/writing/math support appointments, the LLC focused on supporting students virtually by rolling out new workshops and reintroducing old favorites, including:

- Citation Workshops (APA, MLA & Chicago)
- Summarizing & Paraphrasing
- Integrating Quotations
- Becoming Better Math Students

Curbside Pickup / Print & Video Borrowing

Students, staff and faculty may borrow laptops as well as items from our print and video collection by using the Curbside Pickup service. Library users can place a hold on a book or video from the library catalogue online. When they arrive to pick up their items, they contact lending services and staff bring the requested items to the entrance of the building.

Laptop Borrowing

Students may borrow laptops from the library hourly or by the day/week. If they would like to borrow a laptop, they can call ahead or buzz the library and staff will meet them at the entrance of the building to complete the transaction.

Library Statistics (April 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020)

- Curbside Pickup
 - 758 books were checked out using curbside pickup
 - 57 laptops were borrowed
- Orientations
 - 461 students received library instruction
- Room/Computer Bookings
 - 480 students booked study rooms or computer space in the campus
- Research Appointments
 - 511 research appointments

Student Technical Services Statistics of Note (October 2020)

- Overall ticket count went up from 238 to 328 – a 38% increase;
- Total phone traffic increased from 82 to 194. The average call length was ~10 minutes;
- Online requests also doubled - 31 to 62;
- Web site traffic was 6,665 - our highest monthly total ever (set in 2017 at 6,300);
- We had 44 students attend our “Blackboard and More...” drop-in sessions via BlueJeans (new);
- ~60 Workshops in September 2020. Attendance was slightly higher than last year, which is an impressive feat! We found the online orientation was conducive to our content (able to share content, links, chat, etc.).

While our methods of contact may have shifted due to COVID-19, our effectiveness has not. It was helpful to have a third technician, as we saw a 38% increase in our overall load. The students have been quite optimistic, and extremely patient as we work with them and their instructors. The tools we have at our disposal are working quite well – ability to share desktop using BlueJeans has saved lives. We feel confident in our ability to provide support for students in this time of uncertainty.

Looking to 2021

- Student Tech is now open Saturdays!
- Extended hours 8am-6pm
- Blackboard and more drop-in sessions Monday through Saturday, morning and afternoon
- New Kaltura app for mobile (video uploading)

Writing Support

Submitted by Caitlin Hartnett, Coordinator, Peer Tutoring, Writing and Math Supports

Given ongoing COVID precautions, we offered Writing Support guidance through online video appointments, phone, and email in the Fall of 2020. Appointments were available during the week and on Saturdays. In the Fall 2020 semester, students booked 313 appointments with Writing Support. Several NIC learners shared their positive experiences with us as well:

"The Writing Support staff is very friendly and has been extremely helpful in providing excellent feedback, replying immediately, and guiding me through any confusion I may have. I highly recommend the Writing Support staff!" – Liam L.

"Being an international student and never done academic writing, I do not know where I would be, if not for Writing Support Help. Their support has helped me to get good marks for my assignments and close the gap in understanding the instructions better from my teachers. Writing support is available at a wide range of times, and when needed, I can connect via video chat to get more clarity on the feedback." – Maria V.

In addition to individual writing support appointments, Writing Support faculty also offered several online workshops throughout the semester; 16 students attended these workshops. Writing Support faculty went into one class to provide in-class workshops tailored to the individual needs of faculty and their students as well. Writing Support will offer eight virtual writing workshops throughout the Winter 2021 semester.

NIC Students also regularly took advantage of WriteAway, the provincial online writing support platform. NIC students submitted a total of 114 submissions to WriteAway in the Fall 2020 term. One NIC learner has this to say about their experience with WriteAway:

"I appreciated the amount of comments and suggestions the tutor wrote. Her knowledge of several online resources was expansive and I found them very helpful for this assignment and for those in the future. A big thank you to WriteAway during this strange time in education."

Math Support

Submitted by Caitlin Hartnett, Coordinator, Peer Tutoring, Writing and Math Supports

Faculty math support was also offered through online video appointments, phone, email, and drop-in sessions. In Fall 2020, students booked 120 appointments with Math Support. Math Support faculty will be offering four virtual workshops throughout the Winter 2021 semester.

Peer Tutoring

Submitted by Caitlin Hartnett, Coordinator, Peer Tutoring, Writing and Math Supports

Through the Fall 2020 semester, we had seven active peer tutors. Peer tutors were available for appointments in which they supported student content and skills learning, including general study skills as well as area specific skills. As with math and writing supports, these appointments were offered on our online video platform, BlueJeans. Fall 2020 saw students booking 70 appointments with peer tutors. In the beginning of the Winter 2021 semester, we have seen an increase in peer tutor applications and have hired additional peer tutors in a wide variety of disciplines including Business, Math & Sciences, English, Sociology, Digital Design, Adult Basic Education (ABE), Health Care Assistant, Practical Nursing, English, and Spanish. With new and returning tutors combined, we will have 15 peer tutors tutoring in Winter 2021, more than double the number of peer tutors we had in the fall.

Looking Forward - 2021

The Library & Learning Commons events schedule reflects the current environment with the majority of students studying off-campus. The delivery of our events in the Winter and Spring will be delivered virtually with plans to return to on-campus events in the Fall dependent on guidance from British Columbia's Provincial Health Officer (PHO). We will run an event in March similar to the *Love Your Library* event with additional academic support appointments, daily contests and events. We also plan to participate in *Thrive* and host *Late Night Against Procrastination* – in November 2021.

With the success of the Fall semester's virtual workshops, we are offering the following workshops for the 2021 Winter semester:

- Citation Workshops (APA, MLA & Chicago)
- Preparing to Write: Strategies for Beginning the Writing Process
- Estimating and Rounding
- Summarizing and Paraphrasing
- Integrating Quotations
- Comma Use and How to Join Sentences
- Research Essay Writing: Responding to Sources
- Tips for Writing Clear and Concise Sentences
- Tips for Revising
- Solving Word Problems
- Using Advanced Sentence Structures to Improve Your Writing
- Getting to x – Solving Equations