

NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
 COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS REPORT  
 APRIL 2021

**TRADES AND TECHNICAL PROGRAMS**

April brings to close the Heavy Mechanical Level 3 Apprenticeship and two cohorts of the Carpenter Apprenticeship Level 3 programs.



Our pilot micro-credential for GIS Mapping and Drone Operations ended on the 16<sup>th</sup> with 19 successful students seeing their way through an Introduction to Geographic Information Systems, Restricted Operator Certification (Aeronautical) and Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems.



Topics included aviation regulations, navigation techniques, site surveys and drone safety with a simulator component all leading up to piloting the drones. Students practiced take-offs and landings, navigating obstacles and running through various emergency scenarios.

The 4-month Trade Sampler program has also concluded. Two weeks were spent with instructor Mark Stephens covering Heavy Mechanical – tearing down and rebuilding 4-cylinder Yanmar diesel engines. Students also got a feel for the controls of the mini excavator moving objects around the compound. Automotive followed with students learning the basics of vehicle maintenance and repair and just as they were finishing up, Mark brought in his personal dragster as a demo for students.



Students then moved into “Electrical Part 2” where over a two-day period, students were introduced to electrical meters and their function in relation to voltage and resistance and how it applies to various automatic control devices – ultimately connecting switches and pushbuttons that controlled the relays that were turning lights on and off. They explored a “premise cabling network” which entails how fiber optic comes into a building and is distributed to many different data cable branches that feed each computer, phone and printer linked to that system. Part 2 ended with a demo of exothermic cadweld equipment. When creating a solid ground system, electricians often weld grounding conductors together. Through the demo, students were able to observe two different methods of this process: an electric arc igniting metal powders to produce a molten metal and a spark ignition of powders.

The last two weeks were spent with Carpentry instructor Eric Patterson for the grand finale. Previous projects from the beginning of the program were dismantled and the materials repurposed for the design and construction of Adirondack chairs.

**A big THANK YOU to all of our instructors that participated and shared their know-how and skills with these future tradespersons!**

Heading into May, Nick Charette’s Plumbing Level 4 students will be writing their Inter-Provincial exam on May 21<sup>st</sup> and Electrical Apprenticeship Level 1 with instructor Robin Greig will be ending on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

It’s also a wrap for another two micro-credentials.

Motion Picture Production Assistant and Motion Picture Craft Services' curtain call will be May 21<sup>st</sup>. These programs proved to be highly successful and well received by students interested in exploring a career in the film industry.

The Coastal Forest Worker (CFW) certificate program that ran in partnership with the Homalco First Nation concluded on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and the Coastal Forest Worker Certificate and the Coastal Forest Technologist programs that began in our 2021 Winter term will be complete on May 28<sup>th</sup>. The CFW students will have completed their entire program while the Technologist students will break for the summer and return for their second term in September.

### **Spring Upstarts**

April and May will also see the start-up of four apprenticeship programs. At the Comox Valley campus, full cohorts of Carpentry Level 1 with Rob Laird and Carpentry Level 4 with Erik Hardin will run through to the second week of June. At the Campbell River campus, Byron Beaupre's Heavy Mechanical level 2 and Robin Grieg's Electrical Apprenticeship Level 2 will also be at capacity with a compliment of 16 students each.

### **On-going Programs**

There are a number of Foundation and Apprenticeships that will be winding down in the coming months.

Welding, Joinery, Electrical, Carpentry, Metal Fabricator and Parts and Warehousing foundation cohorts will have run their course from June to August. Electrical Apprenticeships in Level 3, Carpentry Levels 1 and 4, Heavy Mechanical Level 2 along with Professional Cook Level 1 in Port Alberni and Professional Cook Level 2 in Campbell River will finish out our spring and summer terms. All just in time to start all over again in September.

Continuing on are the students in our Fabricator-Welder Micro-Credential. This 32-week intensive program began March 8<sup>th</sup> with an end date of October 15<sup>th</sup>. Graduates of this program get the best of both worlds as they will have completed Level 1 in both Welding and Metal Fabrication, affording students the opportunity to work in a variety of fields in the metal trades. More updates to come as we get further into this exciting new program! Additional Ministry-funded programming still in full swing include Parts and Warehousing Person Foundation, Motion Picture Production Assistant and Motion Picture Craft Services micro-credentials. The Ministry-funded programming has provided over 195 students with access to skills training aligned with labour market demands.

### **New Cohorts**

The faculty of trades and technical programs has recently been awarded additional funding to support cohorts aligned with NIC's Widening our Doorways education plan and the Ministry's COVID-19 recovery plan. Programming will be announced within the month regarding a funded cohort of our Automotive Collision and Refinishing Technician Foundation and Heavy Mechanical programming. In addition, faculty of trades and technical programs has been chosen as a pan-Canadian partner with Conestoga College (funded by the Federal Government) to deliver a pilot Welder Foundation Harmonized enhanced program to include upgrading, transferable workplace competencies and internship placement.

### **New Equipment**

We have recently received new gear that will benefit students across all levels of our electrical apprenticeship programs. We purchased autotransformers and have built a lab that is in line with several learning outcomes in both second- and third-year levels where the effects of voltage transformation can be seen with realistic equipment. Our Programmable Logic Controllers (PLC) trainers also have some new accessories. We received a shipment of photo, limit, inductive and capacitive sensors that can be incorporated into the existing Logic controls to add reality and current industry equipment to the lab

environment. Typically, fourth year students have struggled with motor control concepts in relation to PLC's. With this new equipment, we are confident that students will be able to see the instruction information in a different format where they will be learning by installing, not just through text and lesson. We also received new resistors to act as our load banks for the transformer labs. Our new technician Iam Talbot has been working hard to refurbish some of our older enclosures and incorporate the new resistors, resulting in an amazing training aid that the students can use to visually see some of the typically hidden theoretical concepts.



### New Faculty Member

We are pleased that Darren Hall has joined Trades and Technical programs as our newest Plumbing Foundation instructor. Born and raised in Victoria, Darren is an alumnus of the Camosun College plumbing program and has pulled out all the stops graduating in 2009 with a Red Seal in Plumbing, a “B” ticket in Gas Fitting, a Cross Connection Control certification, and Medical Gas Piping certified installer. He believes in lifelong learning and recently took some Small Wastewater and Small Water System courses through the BC Water and Waste Association (BCAWWA).



In his spare time, he enjoys playing and watching hockey, fishing/boating, photography, skiing, golf and travelling. He also has a passion for running full marathons and live music.

## STUDENT SERVICES AND REGISTRAR

### Updates from the Student Record Office

*Submitted by Heather Howie and Miriam Jones*

The Student Records Office (SRO) has been working diligently to prepare for the 2021-22 “Timetable Posting Day” (May 18th). This yearly event is highly anticipated by students, faculty and staff. Last year COVID-19 necessitated a rapid pivot in our timetable offerings in May after posting day, and this year COVID continues to present new challenges and opportunities to rethink some of our tried and true timetabling strategies. We have a new scheduler in place, Wayne Hopwood, who has done a fantastic job with the steep learning curve associated with the scheduler's role. We are currently in the process of making adjustments to the draft in preparation for finalizing the schedule prior to May 18<sup>th</sup>, then on to the usual coding, coding, coding and checking, checking, checking in anticipation of registration start on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

In addition to these yearly activities in SRO, there are many projects we have been working on. NIC recently purchased the Curriculog and Acalog software programs from DIGARC Connected Curriculum. SRO worked with the deans and Marketing over the last year to transition from our PDF calendar format to the new and much improved Acalog system and launched our first online calendar in October 2020. This is an exciting ongoing project in which we will continue to see calendar enhancements each year.

Curriculog is a curriculum management software that integrates with Acalog to create a streamlined process that takes curriculum from initial stages of development through to implementation and inclusion in the NIC academic calendar and our Colleague system, as well as facilitating future curricular revision processes. SRO is currently in the process of testing of the forms, workflows and training documentation to implement this software.

We are also working on many relatively smaller projects such as:

- change to the Education Planner BC (EPBC) provincial application process with EPBC, moving to an XML data transfer format that will enhance the student and staff experience of application submission and processing;
- post-secondary transcript exchange;
- completion of high school transcript exchange;
- transfer of remaining processes to the new Colleague Self-Service platform from the old Webadvisor platform;
- development of new processes in support of micro-credentials and other customized, responsive programming.

## Student Services

*Submitted by Felicity Blaiklock*

### Well-Being Strategist

NIC Student Life is delighted to announce that Rachel Birch has been offered (and accepted) the position of Well-Being Strategist starting March 29, 2021. Rachel is a recent NIC Bachelor of Business Administration graduate and has many years' experience with the NIC Student Leadership Team.

This is a brand new one-year 50% position at NIC, made possible through grant funding received from the Canadian Mental Health Association's BC Division (CMHA BC), in partnership with BC's [Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions](#) (MMHA).

The Well-Being Strategist will be responsible for promoting a culture of health and well-being on campus by developing, implementing and evaluating a variety of programs, services and events to encourage healthy decision-making and healthy behaviour. Rachel will work with key stakeholders to identify the most effective means to promote well-being among NIC students including suicide prevention, substance education, and healthy relationships as well as initiatives designed specifically to connect and engage. Her work will be guided by the College strategic plan, NIC's Mental Health and Well-being Action Plan, Widening Our Doorways 10-point academic plan, and the Okanagan Charter: An International Charter for Health Promoting Colleges and Universities.

### CARE (Compassion, Accessibility, Resilience, Engagement) Grant Applications Now Open

We are delighted to announce two new pilot grants for 2021/22 to promote and enhance mental health and well-being at NIC.

These grants are made possible thanks to a one-time funding from the Canadian Mental Health Association's BC Division (CMHA BC), in partnership with BC's [Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions](#) (MMHA). They will provide up to \$3,000 to support NIC employee initiatives that promote and foster health and well-being in the teaching and learning environments and/or in the wider campus communities.

1. The **CARE Teaching and Learning Grant** may be used for expenses related to the enhancement or promotion of mental health and well-being in a teaching and learning environment.
2. The **CARE Campus Community Grant** may be used for expenses related to the enhancement or

promotion of mental health and well-being in the NIC campus community.

For more information: <https://www.nic.bc.ca/about-us/the-nic-commitment/care-grants/> .

### **Orientation**

An Orientation session is planned for May 3<sup>rd</sup> for students enrolled in spring/summer courses. We are also working, in collaboration with other departments, on a variety of live sessions, videos, and online learning modules as part of the Fall orientation. Most of the Fall orientation will be delivered virtually, however, we are making plans for a welcome booth on each campus for the first week of classes in September, if safety protocols permit.

### **Early Assist**

Early Assist continues to be well utilized by faculty and staff with 91 referrals received to date this term. We continue to promote this program widely to encourage usage.

### **Student Engagement Opportunities**

Since our last update, Student Life has held a number of student engagement opportunities, including the fourth and final session of our Brave Spaces series. This session focused on climate change and it was the most engaging session to date with numerous questions and comments from a passionate NIC community. We also presented a featured speaker, Kwame Osei, who delivered an inspirational address titled 'Power of Choice' to over 60 NIC community members. We are now presenting daily stress-buster posts and activities on our Student Life Instagram and Facebook accounts to assist students during the exam period.