

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

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE)

Submitted by Laurie Tulloch, Co-Department Chair

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Although ECCE instructor Lesley Henderson is wrapping up her participation in the BC Early Childhood Pedagogy Network Project, she will continue to inspire the practice of students and mentor educators and faculty as she virtually ‘walks alongside’ the children and educators of the Beaufort Children’s Centre in the Comox Valley campus. The children are seen here engaged in rubbings of large stones as part of their project work with Lesley.

As Faculty Pedagogist, Lesley offers meaningful and professional learning opportunities that engage us all in thinking deeply in pedagogical dialogue while responding to the current and ongoing conditions of early learning and childhood.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



The first international cohort of ECCE students is celebrating their entry to practice and applying their skills and knowledge within early learning programs in the Port Alberni community.

Student Payal wore her *sari* and showed the children how to do a Bhangra dance as part of a larger exploration of Indian culture. Payal planned a curriculum that included songs and rhymes in Hindi, painting with spices, cooking roti and building houses with bricks as they do in India.

The department is actively planning to welcome the next international cohort arriving in September to the Campbell River campus.

Practical Nursing Diploma

Submitted by Barb McPherson, Department Chair

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

The Practical Nursing (PN) faculty have all worked extremely hard to provide creative and engaging education for our students. Although this year has been a challenging one, faculty members demonstrated their leadership and innovation to teach in this new virtual environment. The value of teamwork has never been more evident than in this last year as we all supported and learned from one another.

We are very happy to welcome Kaitlyn Rathbone to our team in Port Alberni. She is a member of the Health Care Assistant faculty and brings her knowledge and expertise of Community Nursing with a focus on mental health to the PN program.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

The PN faculty wants to extend an acknowledgement of the tremendous work of the PN students to make the shift to online learning. The students demonstrated their flexibility, compassion, and professionalism throughout this pandemic. Our first-year students completed their initial clinical experience in long-term care in January and are preparing to enter their second clinical experience in May. Our students were able to participate in the vaccination process of the long-term care residents by assisting with preparing and comforting the residents. The students were able to witness the incredible organizational effort it took to make this process successful. The second-year students are currently in their acute care clinical rotation. Island Health has been extremely supportive of our students and has been a very important collaborative partner.

RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

2020 was the second year of our new delivery model of one-program/two campuses. As with all programs at NIC, instruction for the program was offered via BlueJeans for all theory courses. Students were able to attend face-to-face labs on a weekly basis which was highly valued by both faculty and students.

In the Fall, we added a third campus at the NIC at St. Joe's campus for students entering the first year of the program. With the addition of this campus, our program was able to offer additional seats and better serve the Comox Valley. Each campus now has eight students each.

We are also very excited about the prospect of offering the Health Care Assistant to the Practical Nursing Pathway program at NIC with an anticipated start date of 2021. We are waiting for final approval from the British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives. Once this pathway has been approved, Health Care Assistants will be able to complete an Access semester prior to completing the second year of the program. This program is scheduled to be offered at the Comox Valley campus with a maximum of 24 students.