

**NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS REPORT  
JUNE 2022**

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Human Services Department**

*Submitted by Susan Shantz, Department Chair*

**FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS**

Within the department there has been some shifts. Kelly Johnsen, our regular instructor at the Port Alberni campus and Department Chair, is now the Associate Dean for the Faculty of Health and Human Services. Stepping into the Department Chair Role is Susan Shantz. We have been fortunate in addition to Kelly and Jan Green, who has taught with us for a few years, that several of our sessional faculty joining us this year have Indigenous backgrounds. Also, of note, two recent faculty hires are former NIC Human Services students.

In the last couple of years, faculty has focused on increasing their skills in online delivery of teaching to continue providing a comprehensive education for the students. Faculty have also done training on their own. Kerri Lowey MacKenzie had focused on trauma informed care and increasing her knowledge on Indigenous land acknowledgement. Susan spent time researching and increasing her knowledge on trauma-informed care and seeking out current texts for several of her courses. Meredith McEvoy presented at the Vancouver Community College Teaching, Learning and Research Conference on Indigenization and Decolonization and attended workshops on disability justice, and gender identity.

**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS**

For many students, this year continues to be challenging. Some students came down with COVID-19 and having personal health concerns for themselves or family. A number of them needed to work more than what is recommended (30% working more 10 hours a week). Despite this, students who were able to continue on in their studies full time were all successful in their practicums and are graduating in June. Several students have been able to set themselves up with meaningful fulltime work upon graduation and one student has been working to create a business that focuses on food security.

Some students in the Social Service Worker Diploma have applied and been accepted to the University of Victoria to continue their studies in Social Work.

**RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

Faculty and students in the Comox Valley campus have all had the opportunity to take part in the Walk With Me Project that has been running throughout the spring.

This spring, students in all our programs have participated in the Blanket workshop offered through Kairo. The blanket exercise is an experiential educational program that teaches the history of Indigenous peoples in Canada and their relationship with non-Indigenous people.

The Human Services Articulation happened in mid-May giving faculty a chance to reconnect with colleagues at other institutions across the panel. A key emphasis in the discussions focused on “Care” in the pandemic and following for students, faculty and the institution.

## **Health Care Assistants (HCA) Program**

*Submitted by Donna Wedman, Department Chair / Instructor*

### **FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS**

This year, we initiated a wider range of placements for the community experience and are piloting the use of a preceptorship model for the last 60 hours of multi-level complex residential care experience.

### **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS**

By July 22, 2022, we anticipate a total of 116 Health Care Assistant graduates for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Some students participated in the Walk With Me research project at the Comox Valley Campus. Two cohorts will participate in the Blanket workshop later in June.

### **RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

All theory courses are currently delivered digitally with a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning activities. The physical care skills course is offered face to face on campus, and the practice experience courses are offered in local residential and community agencies.

We continue to deliver the HCA program to four regular base funded cohorts at the Port Alberni, Comox Valley, and Campbell River campuses. Since December 2020, we have also been welcoming HCA students as part of the Health Careers Access Pathway Program (HCA-PP). Some of these students have been incorporated into our regular cohorts and most have been in cohorts specific for HCA-PP students, both at our regular campuses and at out of region sites. Currently the third and fourth HCA-PP cohorts are completing their practice experience courses.

Two new cohorts of HCA-PP students began the HCA program in May 2022 and another cohort will begin in July 2022. Further HCA-PP students will make up a cohort to start this fall and perhaps be integrated into fall base offerings.

## **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 continued to be a challenging one, faculty 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 were happy to welcome Laura Hickey to our team in Campbell River. She brings her knowledge and expertise of Pediatrics and Adult Medicine to the PN Program.

### **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS**

The PN faculty wanted to extend an acknowledgement of the tremendous work of the PN students to continue to make the shift to learning in a blended environment. 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 entered their second clinical experience in May. Our second-year students are completing their acute care clinical rotation in Campbell River, Comox Valley, and Port Alberni regions. Our students are able to witness the incredible organizational

and collaborative effort it takes from all members of the health care team to provide care during the pandemic. Island Health has been extremely supportive of our students and has been a very important collaborative partner.

### **RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

2021/2022 was the first year of our new delivery model of one-program/three campuses. With the addition of this campus, our program was able to offer an additional four seats and better serve the Comox Valley. Each campus now has the capacity for eight students each.

As with some programs at NIC, instruction for the program was offered via BlueJeans for all theory courses. Students continued to attend face-to-face labs on a weekly basis which was highly valued by both faculty and students. Special events were held throughout each level of the program where students from all 3 campuses met together. These events provided the valuable opportunity for our students to interact in person and to learn together.

We are also very excited about the first ever offering of the HCA to PN Pathway at NIC that started in January 2022. This small cohort will join second year PN students in September 2022 to complete the Practical Nursing Program. A second offering of this program is scheduled to start in November 2022. Health Care Assistants will be able to complete an Access semester prior to completing the second year of the program. This program is being offered at the Comox Valley Campus with a maximum of 24 students.

### **TRADES AND TECHNICAL PROGRAMS**

As the spring term winds down, many of the Trades and Technical programs have come to an end. Automotive Service Technician (in Port Alberni and Campbell River), Fabricator-Welder Foundation, Heavy Mechanical Foundation, Furniture Design and Joinery, Industrial Automation and Automotive Collision and Refinishing Technician Foundation all came to a successful conclusion with the first cohort of the Welding Foundation Enhanced program in Port Alberni currently in community for their work experience.

Chef Sunshine Layton has completed her 14-week Prep Cook program as of June 3<sup>rd</sup>. During the program students put into practice both theory and practical skills training on subjects such as workplace skills, safety and sanitation standards, production procedures, Soups & Sauces, Starches, Salads & Sandwiches, Quick Breads & Cookies and some yeast products. Chef Sunshine said students jumped in with both feet and excelled expectations. They contributed to cooking for the cafeteria and lending a helping hand with catering. The students maintained a high level of engagement and a few of them are considering continuing onto the Professional Cook One Program.

Chef Allan Aikman has also wrapped up his funded Professional Cook Level 1 cohort with all students receiving their Recommendation for Certification in Level 1. Professional Cook Level 2 and the Culinary Business Operation Certificate and Diploma programs have their exam scheduled for June 30<sup>th</sup> while Professional Cook Level 1 students in Port Alberni are still going strong with Chef Toledo until August 12<sup>th</sup>.

Between the beginning of April and the end of June, NIC hosted 13 Industry Training Authority (ITA) exams for apprenticeship programs in Heavy Mechanical, Carpentry, Electrical and Plumbing. There are three Carpentry Foundation programs currently running at the Campbell River, Courtenay and Port Alberni campuses that will draw to a close July 15<sup>th</sup> followed by Welding Foundation in Campbell River and the second cohort of Welder Foundation Enhanced in Port Alberni in August.

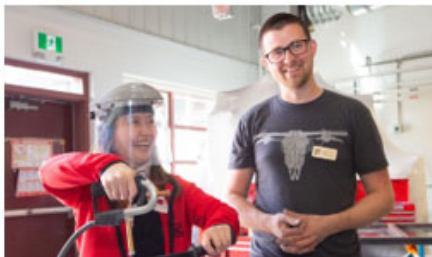
As spring melds into summer and we catch our breath, we are happy to report that a fourth Film Crew Training program for Production Assistant ran from March 28<sup>th</sup> to June 17<sup>th</sup> based out of Nanaimo and we introduced a brand-new micro-credential for Principles of Ecosystem Stewardship running from May 30<sup>th</sup> to July 29<sup>th</sup> with a healthy compliment of 15 students.

### Company's Coming!

On April 14, President Lisa Domae and the Minister of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship, the Honourable Josie Osborne, toured the Port Alberni Tebo Centre where they got an up-close look at the projects on the go with the Welding and Joinery students. Better than just reading a description of a program, experiencing first-hand the talent and efforts that students put into each task or assignment lends the program a life of its own giving it a tangible blueprint to a career path. What a sense of accomplishment for both students and instructors to have their hard work appreciated by their honored guests.



April 22<sup>nd</sup> also brought the Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training, the Honourable Ann Kang, to the Campbell River campus. The Minister went on tour of the campus, stopping along the way at the Prep Cook program, Automotive Collision and Refinishing, Trade Sampler, Electrical Foundation and the Coastal Forest Certificate and Diploma classrooms and shops. Should she ever decide to leave politics, she already has a line on a few new trades! Decisions...decisions...



### We Are Popular!

On May 4, we had the opportunity to profile Trades and Technical programs when President Domae hosted the CEO of the Industry Training Authority, Shelley Gray. Shelley made her way through the Campbell River campus programs from Automotive and Auto Collision to Heavy Mechanical, Industrial Automation, Electrical, Welding and Metal Fab finishing off with Forestry. She even made time for a chat and coffee with the students in the Heavy Mechanical shop. At ease with the casualness of the meet and greet, students were able to share the highlights of their programs, what made them choose their particular field, how they were progressing and the North Island College experience as a whole.





The Culinary students hosted on June 1<sup>st</sup> a professional fisherman representing the wild Pacific halibut who conducted a class on sustainable fishing and fish filleting. In preparation for participating in the BC Shellfish Festival on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, the students the next day were on task preparing a menu to serve approximately 100 people in an outdoor kitchen putting into practice the skills required to organize the transport of food and equipment from the Campbell River campus to the Filberg Park in Comox. At the evening of the gala dinner, students from the Prep Cook, Culinary Business Certificate and Culinary Business Diploma programs discovered a new way of learning by assisting chefs from across Canada and networking with some of the top influencers in the culinary industry.



On June 15<sup>th</sup>, NIC Electrical Foundation students, with instructors David Apperson and Brent DiGiuseppe, went on a field trip to Strathcona Park Lodge & Adventure Centre. The students were invited to have a tour with Jason Wilson, Renewable Energy Engineer at Hakai Energy Solutions, to check out the solar system they installed. They were also given a tour by Jamie Boulding, President of Strathcona Park & Outdoor Centre of the hydro plant on location.

On Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, a select few were treated to yet another round of Culinary creations courtesy of Chef Xavier Bauby's Professional Cook 2 students. As they near the end of their program, students are required to prepare, present and serve up their best efforts in the Appetizer category, and my oh my they did not disappoint! Without due warning of the impending Hors D'oeuvre hour, caution was thrown to the wind as the appropriate spandex attire was overlooked and plates were filled with these tasty little morsels! Asparagus Phyllo, Goat Cheeses Profiterole, Beet Pickled Devilled Eggs, Tempura Sushi, Butter Chicken Bites, Cucumber Salmon Gravlax, Zucchini Ribbons, Chocolate Profiterole and Raspberry Eclairs had our outfits fitting a little snugger when all was said and done. These students did a FANTASTIC job and are well on their way to successful careers! (Much to the envy of those of us who think pulling together jell-o jigglers is something to be admired!)





We've had another busy Winter and Spring and we're looking forward to warmer days, less rain (?), blue skies and sunshine! Get out your Speedos and BRING ON SUMMER!!!

## OFFICE OF GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

OGE Newsletter – April 2022  
<https://conta.cc/3DMJ4FM>

### **International Student Engagement and Orientation:**

#### **Orientation:**

- 2022 Spring Orientation took place over two days at the end of April with one full day of virtual orientation events followed by a return to in-person activity day on campus. Virtual orientation sessions included a welcome from the president and NIC Elder in Residence, staff introductions, academic integrity and an overview of services and supports offered throughout NIC.



- The return to in-person orientation events was kicked off the following day in the Student Lounge at the Comox Valley Campus with nearly 40 students in attendance. Swag bags were handed out, an ice breaker activity, a campus tour and lunch hosted by the NIC cafeteria featuring fresh made beef and veggie burgers with garden salad.



**Winter 2022 Activities Highlights:**

- Pizza and Movie Night
  - held in the Stan Hagen Theatre after the first week of classes.
- Disco Bowling Night
  - 12 students attended
- Snowtubing at Mount Washington Alpine Resort
  - 25 students attended
- Whale Watching and Tofino Adventure
  - 25 students attended



**Upcoming Spring/Summer 2022 Activities:**

- Upcoming events and activities currently being planned for students over the Spring/Summer include:
  - Kayak lessons in the Comox Estuary with Comox Valley Kayaks
  - A cultural visit to the Campbell River Museum, Elk Falls Provincial Park and the Campbell River Pier
  - Day trip to Mount Washington for scenic chairlift rides and hiking

## **Study Abroad**

**Mexico Field School:** a collaboration between the Universidad Politecnica de Santa Rosa Jauregui in Queretaro, Mexico and Northern Lights College and North Island College in Canada.

**Participants:** 10 students and 1 instructor

**Duration:** 4 weeks, May 14 to June 11, 2022

**Location:** SANTIAGO DE QUERÉTARO is the capital and the largest city of the state of Querétaro, located in the center of Mexico. The city is located 213 kilometers northeast of Mexico City, 63 kilometers southeast of San Miguel de Allende, and 200 kilometers south of San Luis Potosí.

**Course:** DGL 222 (3 credits): Collaborative Project development: Analysis of requirements and design of an anti-stress system through biofeedback.

**Global Skills opportunity Scholarship:** Eligible students had access to up to \$5,500 CAD. These scholarships are funded by Global Skills Opportunity, the Government of Canada's Outbound Student Mobility Pilot Program and provided through the *Passage from Northwest Canada: Students from Northern BC, Yukon and Northwest Territories Go Global* project that aims to prioritize support for students that traditionally have not engaged in outbound mobility to travel and learn abroad.



*NIC Instructor Megan Wilson and her DGL students in Mexico.*

**Hawaii Field School:** Indigenous Language Revitalization Field School – Hawaii: a collaboration between Kapiolani Community College in Honolulu, Hawaii and North Island College

**Participants: 32:** 15 students, one instructor, and community/family members.

**Duration:** 10 days

**Location:** Honolulu, Hawaii



**Course:** Indigenous Language Fluency Certificate: students from the Kwak’wala cohort have been invited to attend the field school and spend 10 days in collaboration with students and staff from Kapiolani Community College and the Native Hawaiian Council members to share language learning experiences and engage in a cultural exchange.

**Global Skills opportunity Scholarship:** Eligible students had access to up to \$6000 CAD. These scholarships are funded by Global Skills Opportunity, the Government of Canada’s Outbound Student Mobility Pilot Program and provided through the *Learning and Working Together to Build 2026 project*. A central focus of the field school was to explore the concept of what it means to be truly “Indigenous serving institution” and dialogue around exploring the amazing progress the Hawaiian community has made to revitalize Hawaiian language.



### **Partner Institution Visits**

#### **University of Burgundy**

Mr. Gregory Wegmann, Vice President International, and Mr. Samuel Mercier, Director International Education, from the University of Burgundy in France visited the Comox Valley and Campbell River campuses in March 2022. Seen here, they are visiting with two of their students who are currently attending NIC, Zoe Serradj and Tom Monnot.



### University College-Leuven-Limburg

Mrs. Chris Huybrechts, International Relations Advisor, Faculty of Technology, and Mr. Thomas Scheers, Program Manager of the Faculty of Chemistry, both from the University College Leuven-Limburg in Belgium visited the Comox Valley and Campbell River campuses in June 2022. In the photo are our partners visiting with two research exchange students Maxime Boufflette and Wouter Jansen, along with NIC Manager, International Projects, Partnerships and Global Education, Romana Pasca.



### Welcoming OGE's new India Representative

Neeraj Malik will be taking over the position effective immediately and will take care of India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal as his primary countries. Neeraj started working with us in April, but we had a massive set-back on IT side to have him established on our system. We finally have him on our NIC account that we are able to welcome him formally!

