

ACCESS AND REGIONS

Mixalakwila Campus Activities

Donna Merry, Regional Manager, Mixalakwila Campus and Continuing Education

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

We are grateful for the time and energy the student services and DALs teams have spent coming to visit Mixalakwila campus students this school year: special thanks to Craig, Mez, Niki, Roslyn and Ed, to Carissa of NISU, and always to Dana for his regular trips to keep our technology in tip-top shape.

It is an absolute pleasure to gather with students and staff for regular campus “soup lunches” this semester, prepared by Maggie Sedgemore, retired Campus Elder, and collectively supported by NISU, Indigenous Education, Student Life, and the Awi’nakola program. These gatherings provide opportunities to connect with students informally, check in on their experience and link them to services if needed.



Students from Awi'nakola, Marine Guiding Fundamentals and Resort Operations Fundamentals programs, with CET Regional Training Officer Jennifer Case.

PROGRAMMING ACTIVITIES

MIXALAKWILA CAMPUS

With significant funding from BHP Mining Group to deliver the Awi'nakola upgrading program at Mixalakwila campus, we have students on campus four days per week in this dynamic program. For the winter semester, the program was opened up to students who preferred to take one or two courses, rather than the full program. This change has increased enrolment in English, Kwak'wala language and culture courses, with most of the original students continuing to participate in the entire program. Some students are upgrading toward the Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE) pathway program, while others are working towards their adult graduation certificate.

NIC is working with the tri-bands (Kwagu'ł First Nation, Quatsino First Nation and Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nations) to apply for funding to deliver a blended ECCE program starting in September. Several community members have been working on upgrading during the Winter semester, to enter an ECCE pathway program on April 18, which will include English 098 and ECC 168.

NIC is in discussion with Quatsino First Nation, Wuikinuxv Nation and Sacred Wolf Friendship Centre to deliver CET and Trades programs including Facilities Maintenance Worker, Carpentry Level 1, Clerical and Bookkeeping Skills, and Prep Cook with Essential Skills. These programs will commence before August 31, 2023 pending successful funding.

CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TRAINING (CET)

CET OVERVIEW

Bob Haugen, Director, Continuing Education & Training

The 2022/23 fiscal year has been an excellent year. We exceeded our financial goals, delivered an expanding range of funded applied skills training programs, upgraded some of our infrastructure and invested in developing new programs and curriculum.

We generated more than \$1.4 million dollars in tuition revenue from 11 one-time funded applied skills training programs delivered across our region and beyond. We also delivered Construction Trades and Facilities Maintenance Programs for Nuu-Chah-Nulth communities in the Port Alberni region and have expanded CET offerings at the Mixalakwila campus and in the Ucluelet Learning Centre.

Our core First Aid and Marine skills programs had strong enrollments for 2022/23 and our Board approved credentialed programs were also well subscribed.

The funding envelopes from the Community Workforce Response (CWR) Grant are reduced for the 2023/24 fiscal so we are looking for alternative funding sources for our fall programs. The mandate of CET is to meet the short-term training needs of the communities in our region, and we look for funding to meet these needs. To discover what the training needs are, we rely on our Community Learning Councils and this year we established a Learning Council in Campbell River and revived the Learning

Council in the Port Hardy region. Our plan for 2023/24 is to establish a Learning Council in the Comox Valley and explore the possibility of starting one in the Tofino/Ucluelet region.

COMOX VALLEY CAMPUS

Susan Murray, Regional Continuing Education & Training Officer

First Aid Training

First Aid training continues to be very busy with contracts, open courses and training for NIC programs. We are working on the programming for the 2023FA – 2024SU in preparation for the next training year. We have had an increase in requests for Emergency Medical Responder training with the need for additional EMR's at BCEHS and their introduction of the EMR bursary program (<http://www.bcehs.ca/careers/what-we-offer/bursary-programs>)

Regenerative Farming Program

The planning for this year's Regenerative Farming Program is in full swing with a revamped format. The 2023SP offering of the program will be based on the micro credential format with the lectures being done online plus a one-week bootcamp at Lentelus Farms and eight-week practicums at various farms in the students' home locations. This will allow us to offer the program anywhere in the province. If we receive funding, the 2023 spring offering will be offered in partnership with the Vancouver Island University (VIU) with students coming from the Cowichan Valley, Powell River and NIC regions.

Craft Brewing & Packaging Program

The Craft Brewing & Packaging program is set to be completed on May 19th and has been a great success. This fully funded provides the students with excellent credentials to continue their way to brew master status or work at local craft brewery establishments.

Microbrewing Operations Program

The first offering of the new microbrewing operations program went very well. Several of the students were those who had previously taken the Craft Brewing & Packaging Program and are on the current Craft Brewing & Packaging Program. This program aligns very well with the craft brewing but is also a very good stand-alone program.

Comox Valley Campus

Julian Benedict, Project Lead-Regional Continuing Education/Training Officer

NEW! Five new specialty courses for those working in Long Term Care

NIC's Continuing Education is expanding specialized training in Long Term Care. A series of new courses are currently being developed that will likely comprise a new applied post-grad certificate for Activity Assistants or perhaps a larger, comprehensive Diploma. Some of the topics Activity Assistants will consider include how to better help residents and their families combat depression, mental health, and grief and loss. Other topics will focus more on the staff, including Expanding Your Activity Toolbox, and A Well Workplace.

NEW! Appliance Repair and Maintenance Certificate

Continuing Education is currently developing an innovative new micro-credential focused on household appliance repair. Demand is significant for professionally trained staff in this sector, considering there is only one other BC institution that provides this type of training. The in-person course will likely be

part of a larger series of introductory Trades programming covering a variety of related subjects and held in the Port Alberni region. The curriculum is being developed by a subject area expert who has worked in appliance repair for over two decades in the Comox Valley.

RETURNING! Advanced Memory Care

This 8-week online course, designed specifically for healthcare workers supporting residents with dementia, is returning this Fall - back by popular demand! Students are encouraged to register on our waitlist now to secure a seat after registration opens on June 1 for the Fall 2023 semester. To learn more, visit: www.nic.bc.ca/memory-care.

Activity Assistant Certificate Program

Students seeking to expand their professional training for rewarding careers in Long Term Care have again filled our tri-intake online program. The Spring in-take (early May 2023 start) is now full, as we continue to attract students from Vancouver Island, the BC Interior, Northern BC and beyond. Employment in this field remains very robust, with many participants being offered conditional employment positions even before the program is finished. Our Spring semester will be taught by a new instructor who is both a graduate of the program, and trained by our long-time instructor who continues teaching in the Fall and Winter terms. To learn more, visit: www.nic.bc.ca/activity-assistant.

Animal Care Aide Program Certificate

The Animal Care Aide Program continues to be one of the most popular programs at the College. In the 2023-2024 academic year, the program will be offered both digitally (Fall 2023) and on-campus (Winter 2024). Polling suggests that Canadians are keeping their domestic animal's post-pandemic – with many more realizing the emotional and psychological benefits of animal husbandry. To learn more, and apply online for the Fall 2023 or Winter 2024 terms, visit: www.nic.bc.ca/animal-care.

Comox Valley Campus

Miriam Miller, ElderCollege Liaison

Comox Valley ElderCollege (CVEC)

Our CVEC members are enjoying their second year back to in-person classes post-Covid restrictions! Zoom classes have been adding value and provide accessibility for a variety of needs which express a core NIC value of inclusion. Our members explored so many topics this term (as always!) like planet formation, cannabis as medicine, a few financially related subjects; and other areas of life including



history, the arts, nature, and wellness. This picture is from our walking group that met at different Valley locations for several weeks.

This year, we featured a Saturday Lecture Series showcasing the brilliance of six BC women in a variety of areas titled *Herstory: BC Women of Note*. We added an opportunity for members to bring a guest at a special price, which opens up our exposure to our lovely community.

NIC passed the ElderCollege baton from Julian Benedict (who was the liaison for almost five years) on to Miriam Miller at the beginning of the Winter 2023 semester. It has been a steep learning curve and big shoes to fill, but Miriam is thoroughly enjoying the work with the ElderCollege Committee and the members of our community.

Port Hardy Campus

Jennifer Case, Regional Continuing Education & Training Officer

Wilderness Tourism Program

This four-month course began in February 2023, with online and classroom work, and will finish at the end of May with on-site visits to a variety of wilderness resort operations within the Mt. Waddington and Central Coast regional districts encompassing the unceded traditional territories of the Kwakwaka'wakw.

There are two cohorts within this program: Resort Operator Foundation & Marine Guiding Foundation. All students will participate in outdoor leadership, wilderness first aid, wildlife interpretation training and certification including bear viewing, marine mammals, and birding, and then split off into their specialized courses.

The Marine Guiding Foundation will prepare students to meet the professional and operating standards of the Sea Kayaking Guides Alliance of BC., and experience group ocean kayaking overnight excursions.

The Resort Operator Foundations will introduce students to the unique challenges of rural and remote tourism resorts, with a focus on real-life examples from lodge owners in the region.

Campbell River Campus

Sandy Rose, Regional Continuing Education & Training Officer

Hospital Unit Clerk (HUC)

It's been a successful term for the 13 HUC students completing and passing final exams. They are now transitioning to health care facilities to complete the 90-hour practicum placement during the months of April and May. Placements are a vital component to consolidate all the learning and hard work over the nine-month program. Students are providing very positive feedback about the program including glowing reviews of our new instructor who has excelled in this new role. An information session is scheduled for April and has seen the most interest to date which is encouraging as applications are down considerably for Fall 2023. The economy is likely a factor as this program does not qualify for student loans due to its part-time format. Employment opportunities remain very high as evidenced in placement sites understaffed and unable to provide preceptors for placements in some instances. One student has already attended an interview at the Campbell River Hospital even before completing the program which is a great indicator of the job market.

Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) – Foundation & Level 1 Technical Training

We had 10 students complete the 11-week HEO Foundation and Level 1 Technical Training program on December 21st. As one of BC's identified high opportunity occupations and the anticipated growth in

the region, funding was secured through the CWRG – Short Terms Skills Training stream. Three weeks of work experience at the end of training was also provided, however the winter weather conditions were not ideal with all the ice and snow we had.

Wildfire Crew Member Training

A cohort of 20 committed, focused, and engaged students from across Vancouver Island and a few from the Mainland attended this well-rounded, 4.5-week Wildfire Crew Member training program during February and March. This popular program is designed to create a skilled, wildfire workforce to protect communities in BC and northern Alberta regions and exceeds the minimum required for these positions. Students are certified in First Aid, Power Saws, BC and Alberta curricula and many other certificates upon completion. The program was offered in a funded format through the CWR Grant – Skills Training for Economic Recovery and delivered by one of our seasoned instructors. Two of the attendees were scheduled to interview with BC Wildfire Service which has now moved to a year-round operation providing additional job opportunities. Many others were recruited by Strategic Natural Resource Consultants for the 2023 wildfire season. We wish the recruits best wishes as they use their newly acquired skills to attain employment in the Wildfire sector.



Industrial Sewing Program *NEW

CET is partnering with the City of Campbell River's Economic Development Office who will be applying for a CWR Grant to offer an exciting new program in Industrial Sewing this Fall. Vertical Madness will provide the instruction and run the program out of their facility at Robron Centre in Campbell River. This innovative program will run over eight weeks and will prepare students to enter the trade with the working knowledge needed to be employed within the industry. Students will be required to complete a marketable project incorporating all their newly acquired skills upon completion. Employment opportunities will be immediately available for students once successfully completing the program.

Wildfire Essentials *NEW*

A revised Wildfire program has been proposed for Fall 2023 delivery. The program will have all the meat and potatoes required for individuals seeking entry level employment but will get students out the

door in just three and a half weeks! This revision will focus on the BC curriculum preparing students for local employment.

Campbell River Campus

Lorraine Hagan, Regional Continuing Education & Training Officer

Marine Training

Marine training has seen significantly increased demand in all courses, not only on-campus classes but also contract delivery.

Contracts:

- Port Alberni – Marine Essentials
- Port Hardy – Marine Guiding & Resort Operator
- Adventure Guiding
- Trades at Homalco
- BC HYDRO (January and April)
- Kyuquot (March/April)
- Alert Bay (May)
- BC Ferries (June)

We anticipate continued demand over the Spring & Summer months, but this is generally reduced a bit as people are expected to be working in industry.

Our Marine Essentials and our 60GT Master Limited programs will be offered each term starting in the Fall.

We are planning a Marine Essentials PLUS skills training program designed to respond to the shortage of trained deckhands and staff for BC Ferries and other marine companies.

Metal Jewellery Design

Metal Jewellery Design (MJD) certificate program has had a successful return in the new studio and hosted a Grad Show & Sale as part of its 10th Anniversary Event, on April 13, 2023. This included a craft beer tasting and all NIC staff were invited. The sale portion is from 6:00 pm -7:30 pm and had current students and alumni present. The next information session for the program is planned for April 20th.

We are seeing increasing interest in the part-time general interest MJD courses and plan to revamp Fall courses to offer more core/beginner essential type courses and may introduce some courses where students are essentially booking the space for their own jewellery projects (to catch up on class work or for fun) with instructor assistance.

Campbell River ElderCollege (CREC)

Campbell River ElderCollege registration opened Feb 13, 2023. CREC is offering 24 courses with eight of those in the Spring term with in-person delivery. The next AGM is scheduled for May 3rd. CREC is also building curriculum for 2023FA courses with planned registration for Sept 25, 2023.

Port Alberni Campus

Leanne Moore, Regional Continuing Education & Training Officer

Meat Processing Fundamentals

In partnership with Alberni Clayoquot Regional District and funded by a CWR Grant, CET delivered an eight-week Meat Processing Fundamentals Program for eight students. This is the first time CET has offered this program which prepares successful participants for entry-level careers in supermarket meat departments, meat processing facilities, meat markets, farm-based production facilities, and abattoirs. Students will be prepared to be apprenticed as professional meat cutters once they have completed the program.



Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) – Foundation & Level 1 Technical Training

Through funding provided by the Skills Training for Economic Recovery-Community Workforce Response Grant, CET is offering a 12-week Heavy Equipment Operator – Foundation & Level 1 Technical Training program at the Port Alberni campus. There are 10 students participating in the program. Through the program, participants are eligible to write both the Roadbuilder & Heavy Construction Foundation and HEO Level 1 SkilledTradesBC Exams. There is a three-week site-based component of the program where students will have an opportunity to experience operating equipment with employers in the industry.



Supported Carpentry Level 1 – NETP Partnership

The Supported Carpentry Level 1 program was completed at the end of December with 13 students writing the SkilledTradesBC Level 1 exam. In one of the projects for the program, the participants helped to assemble and build the foundations for the Walyaqil Tiny Home Village, a site managed by the Port Alberni Friendship Centre.



(SUSAN QUINN/ Alberni Valley News)

Since the program's completion, many of the participants have been working in the construction industry.

ARTS, SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT

Invertebrate Biology Field Trip

Submitted by Aisling Brady, Biology Faculty and Course Instructor

As part of BIO 211 Invertebrate Biology course, students participate in a compulsory four-day field trip to the West Coast of Vancouver Island to engage in hands-on learning about the invertebrates they are studying in the course. This year the class traveled to Ucluelet, and with the support from Bill Morrison at the NIC Ucluelet Centre, students completed seven of their eight labs. Students studied various invertebrate organisms and assemblages at a variety of beaches and the Ucluelet aquarium and documented the plankton composition collected from various-timed tows behind a boat. A highlight was spawning urchins to observe and record stages of embryonic development happening in real time under the microscope. As part of this course, students had an assignment exploring Indigenous use of invertebrates. The Clayoquot Biosphere Trust graciously funded and helped organize a public



information session led by Indigenous Knowledge Keeper, Dennis Hetu, on how invertebrates are used by the Toquaht Nation. Dennis is the Administrator of Lands, Public Works and Resources, and provided a wealth of information for the students to help them explore this topic and learn how practices have changed over time.

The BIO211 Class at Terrace Beach



Collecting data and setting up transects at Brown's Beach – students found at various spots along the water's edge.

Site briefing prior to collecting data (in the rain and hail!) at Little Beach



Observing organisms as part of their labs at the Ucluelet Aquarium



Collecting urchin gametes and observing embryonic development under the microscope.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Department of Accessible Learning (DAL) students finishing off another successful year in applied skills training programs in Campbell River

Kathy O'Donnell, Chair/Instructor, Department of Accessible Learning Programs



Chelsea @ Island Grind Josh @ MoreEatery Tristen @ WhiteSpot Kate @ Whislin' Waffle

Students in the Kitchen Assistant Program are in the final stretch of their 26 week program and are practicing their job skills in work experience placements in Campbell River restaurants, deli's and cafes. Over the past 10 years, the DAL has met the training needs for students with diverse learning needs in a variety of sectors including construction, grounds and custodial maintenance, and food services.

The Kitchen Assistant program gives students the opportunity to learn employability skills, acquire employment related certificates in a supportive learning environment in DAL, receive kitchen skills under the instruction of NIC's chef instructor, and practice these skills on work experience placements

in the local community. Many thanks to the Culinary Arts Program for this successful collaboration and support for DAL students, and to the local businesses for helping our students practice their skills and attain meaningful employment! Our thanks also to School District #72 (SD72) for supporting the participation of two students transitioning from high school.

This year, several students are thrilled to be moving directly into paid employment from their placements, others have chosen to pursue further their training in culinary, upgrade their education, and seek other employment opportunities.

TRADES AND TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

Let's do a quick refresh!

There are several foundation programs carrying over from the fall term. Electrical, under David Apperson wrapped up February 24th. Two Welding programs, one in Campbell River and one in Port Alberni finished mid-March and they wrote their SkilledTradesBC exams at each campus on March 24th. Professional Cook students Level 1 also wrote their SLE at the Campbell River campus March 16th with great success and many of the students carrying on to Level 2. Automotive foundations finished early in mid-April also at the Campbell River and Port Alberni campuses. Still in the books in Port Alberni is Furniture Design and Joinery which will finish in late May. We can't wait to show you the amazing products that come from this program under the direction of instructor Stephen McIntosh – they never disappoint, and the talent of these students always takes our breath away.

Still going are the Fabricator-Welder, Heavy Mechanical and Aircraft Structural Technician which will be drawing to a close in the late winter and spring terms.

And now 2023!!

Well, where do we start? Make sure you pay attention cause there's a quiz at the end! The Winter term kicked off with two Carpentry Apprenticeships, Plumbing Apprenticeship (Level 4 – which means RED SEAL), four Electrical Apprenticeships, Automotive Service Tech Level 2 (more on that in a bit), the maiden voyage of Motor Sport and Power Equipment (and we're not sure if it's the instructor or the students having more fun), another Electrical Foundation, Trade Sampler and then Carpentry and Plumbing foundation at the Comox Valley campus.

Right, well....*that* was just January.

And here we go....

Port Alberni didn't want to be left out so Professional Cook Level 1 started at the beginning of February under the leadership of Chef Sean McSavaney. We have Chef McSavaney doing double duty as he also oversees the Prep Cook program in Parksville. From here we move on to more Foundation programs. Heavy Mechanical with instructor Kyle Ward, Automotive Service Technician – Jaylene van der Merwe, and Parts and Warehousing – Coralee Zueff. We were also able to do two intakes of Women in Trades this term and it has been an absolute pleasure to be able to host these students.

Now let's add the Apprenticeship programs: Heavy Mechanical Levels 2, 3 and 4. Electrical 2, 3 and 4 in Campbell River (don't forget about the foundation programs!), Carpentry Level 1 & 3 and Plumbing Level 2 in Comox Valley. Oh wait, we also just started Professional Cook Level 2 in Campbell River with 13 students.

In April, we have Plumbing Apprenticeships Level 1, Carpentry Level 1 and 4 and two cohorts of Heavy Mechanical Levels 1 and 2.

Great news for the Coastal Forest Technology program!

Coleen MacLean-Marlow, Coordinator, Trades & Technical Programs

April and May are exciting months for the Coastal Forest Technology program. We are pleased to celebrate the Class of 2023 with a Canadian Institute of Forestry Silver Ring Ceremony. This is the second cohort to graduate from the program, and leads into the final Technology Accreditation Canada review scheduled for May 29th. We look forward to seeing NIC listed as an accredited program on the [BC Forest Professionals website](#), as well as other licensing bodies nationally. -

Featured Programs

Trade Sampler

We have a brand-new instructor this year, Ben Dorrington, with this perspective:

Building on previous years' Trades Sampler programs, 2023 saw a formalization of the course, both in content and assessment. Twelve weeks of a variety of trades, guided by Ben as the lead instructor, included core competency modules such as Jobsite and Personal Safety, Trades Math, Job Readiness, Teamwork, Study Skills, Communication, and Research. Students also received Forklift, First Aid, and Hazardous Materials training as part of our programming.

This cohort of 15 dual credit students from SD72, and two post-secondary students, each faced Trades with curiosity and enthusiasm. Using the BC apprenticeship modules as a guide, I began building a standardized set of resources, presentations and assessments that future NIC Trades Sampler instructors can use as a framework.

Over 12 weeks, the students have been on six field trips across a wide variety of trades and welcomed a number of industry visitors in as guest instructors. We covered the following trades programs: Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing, Welding and Fabrication, Automotive, Heavy Mechanical, Automotive Collision Repair, HVAC and Sheetmetal, Industrial Automation, and Aircraft Structures. A total of 12 different trades.

Overall, the 2023 NIC Trades Sampler has been a huge success!

Women in Trades

There seems to be nothing instructor Jaylene van der Merwe can't do!

This winter Jaylene was involved in two women in trades cohorts at the College. We cannot say enough good things about the amazing guest instructors who were a part of this program. Whether coming from another institution or from industry, it was clear that they had spent time planning and prepping for their time with the class. Not only were they great resources to the students, sharing their experiences and passion for their work, they were also great resources to Jaylene as an instructor sharing information on the community of women in trades workers on Vancouver Island and throughout BC. All of them had planned their projects and the students were able to walk away with great pride in something they had built and great information to take home with them to consider a new outlook and

pathway in their future.

This is why we left this until now....

This Winter term, Jaylene launched the first Automotive Service Technician Apprenticeship Level 2 course at NIC. The course was run with 12 students and, judging from the stream of email inquiries, there is more interest in future courses now that we have run the initial gauntlet. There was a large amount of material to be covered from SkilledTradesBC and we were able to complete the theory and practical assessments within the seven-week period.

What stood out most throughout this course was the professionalism and eagerness to learn from the students. The Level 2 students were punctual, always prepared and asked questions to better understand the material. In the shop, they showed their learned skills, the work they performed was done effectively in a safe manner and they completed their technical data sheets with all relevant information.

The students rebuilt engines, rebuilt standard transmissions, performed final drive adjustments, performed starting and charging testing and explored electronic systems including suspension, steering and antilock brakes. The delivery was a success!

Guardianship and Land Protection

This one is pretty exciting!

In collaboration with the Homalco First Nations, NIC has the Guardianship and Land Protection Program.

This NIC program delivered at the Campbell River campus, focuses on theoretical and applied skills required to be a guardian of lands, waters, and natural resources. Guardians are vital in monitoring and supporting the protection of resources for present and future generations. This introductory program provides an orientation to guardianship models, protocols, and requirements in addition to guardian stewardship priorities, plans, safety, resource monitoring, and protection. This program gives students marine skills that are imperative to protecting land and water that is instrumental to wildlife and coastal ways of life.

We Oughta Be in Pictures!

In partnership with Island North Film Commission (InFilm), funding was obtained from the Province of BC through the CWR Grant, to deliver four micro-credential training programs, such as **Set Dresser**, **Set Construction**, **Lighting**, and **Grip** for eligible participants. InFilm, represented by Executive Director Joan Miller, was the contract holder for the CWR skills training grant. The fifth micro-credential offered was **Production Assistant**, funded by Warner Bros. Discovery Access Canada (Sponsorship Program) and REEL CANADA (the Reel Opportunities Program) for eligible participants between 18 to 30 years of age.

We had a total of 137 participants divided as follows: Lighting and Set Dresser had 35 participants each, Set Construction had 25 participants, and Grip had 30 participants. These programs started on December 5, 2022 and ended on March 3, 2023 (12 weeks), and were offered in a blended format with online classes and two weeks in-person (applied training) at Martini Film Studios in Langley, with the exception of Set Dresser which had one week in-person. Production Assistant had 12 participants also in a blended model that started on January 3 and ended on March 3 (eight weeks), with one week in-person at the same studio for applied training.

The passion of these students shone through:

Oleksandra Hrechanivska - MP Production Assistant grad from Vancouver

I'm new in Canada. I came to Vancouver with my husband because of war in Ukraine. We use an opportunity that Canadian government gave to Ukrainian refugee and their close relatives. I have an experience as a PA and an editor at Ukrainian TV. I have a bachelor degree as a journalist. I choose this way because my granny was a chief-editor and a TV host. My school holiday I spent at TV studio. Also, I worked as an event manager in Moscow for 4 years.

Michael O'Donnell – MP Lighting grad from Cortes Island

I am super excited! I just graduated from the 3 month micro credential program from NIC and Infilm to be a lighting technician in the film industry! Certified Lighting Technician Baby!!! They call us Lamp Op's. I just got back from the last 2 weeks in applied training at Martini Studios in Langley! We were training in a Netflix studio, and pretty much living in it! I met Gaffers, Directors, Cinematographers, Directors of Photography, Film Commissioners, Sound People and many more. I met a lot of new friends and bonded heavily with the crew. We all did. These friendships I will have forever. North Island College and INFILM gave us all such an amazing program and opportunity!

Michael G. Massiah – MP Lighting grad from Vernon

*Please permit me a moment to say **THANK YOU**.*

*First, **thank you**, for being involved in every aspect of the **North Island College's Micro Credential in Film - Lighting Program**.*

*From the **Instructors** and **Guests** to the **Deans** and **Vice- Presidents**, to all the staff at North Island College. - **THANK YOU!***

John Helme, Geoff and all your instructors and guests brought with you years of industry experience that could not have been substituted by any PowerPoints or textbook! The practical and effective solutions described and shown in person truly gave the entire learning journey a critical foundation on which one can build a career.

(here's what makes us smile....)

Upon returning from the practicum, I hand delivered my resume and cover letter to a Kelowna Production Office. Even though the rest of the production staff was on a Technical Scout at the time, while there, I spent a few moments introducing myself to the Production Coordinator, sharing some details about 'Take 2' (practicum), The NIC Micro Credential Program, my experience and my 'Transferrable Skills'.

I got a call from the ALM the following morning to come in for a Day Call on Friday. After a few hours, on site, I was upgraded to a show call for the next 3 weeks!



And then there was the end of an Era....

After 30 years, Tracy Parker put away her keyboard, hung up her phone and used the boots that were made for walking! Can you believe it? **TRACY RETIRED!**

Tracy first walked through our doors as a co-op student in 1994 and she never looked back. Tracy held numerous positions both at the Campbell River and Comox Valley campuses. From juggling the duties between reception and switchboard to manning the Office of the President, her professionalism, dedication and work ethic were obvious from the start. Tracy was one of the first to help move North Island College from the small downtown location in Campbell River to the “new” facility on Dogwood Street.

In 2001, Tracy took on the position of Department Secretary for Industrial Mobile Training, later to be named Continuing Education and Training. From there, she transitioned into Contract Training Services Officer where her exceptional skills led her to become the Manager of CE where she always had an open-door policy person. If you had a question, needed help or just wanted to have a friendly chat, Tracy never turned anyone away.

In 2016, once again, she was on the move! She took her stuffed cats, the ridiculously obvious fake plant and her chair and rolled up hallway to sit at the right hand of the Dean of Trades and Technical programs. Tracy was known for putting others before herself, going the extra mile without complaint and seeing any task through to the end. She was beyond dependable and always gave 100 percent to anything she did. We blinked and 30 years went by, but in that time, the friendships that have been forged along the way cannot be measured in minutes, hours or days.

Tracy is celebrating her retirement with a three-week Hawaiian Islands cruise. It won't be the same without her but for all she did while here, we say Mahalo Tracy! We wish you the very best. May you have many exciting adventures ahead of you.

OFFICE OF GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Young Africa Works Kenya (YAWK)

Submitted by Romana Pasca, Manager, Projects, Partnerships and Global Education

Jim Stratford, Welding Instructor in the NIC Trades program completed a visit to partner institutions in Kenya under the **Young Africa Works Kenya (YAWK)** project. This initiative brings NIC together with Vancouver Island University and the British Columbia Institute of Technology as partners with Kisii

National Polytechnic and Keroka Technical Training Institute to enhance the welding and mechanical trades programs while providing opportunities for the staff and faculty at NIC to apply their skills and knowledge internationally.

The 10-day visit to Kenya was part of the technical training and teaching expertise sharing following a collaboration on curriculum enhancement and CBET assessment for the welding program.



New partnership with Te Pūkenga, New Zealand

Submitted by Romana Pasca, Manager, Projects, Partnerships and Global Education

Te Pūkenga is our first signed partner in New Zealand. It is a new organization of work-based training organizations, institutes of technology and polytechnics in New Zealand. Basically the 16 formerly independent public institutions are now under one umbrella – the New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology <https://www.xn--tepkenga-szb.ac.nz/>. This transition happened in September 2022 and Kelly Shopland, Romana Pasca and Mark Herring met with Will Tredgiga, Head of International Development at EAIE last September – so they have been busy!

As Will Tredgiga, Head of International Development, noted on their national transition:

We have initiated the working group which will produce the organizational design for international education under Te Pūkenga. This involves us designing a new structure for staff responsibilities, which will ultimately allow us to realize our strategic goals - many of which are very much philosophically aligned with NIC. Over the next few months I expect Te Pūkenga will be appointing national leaders for a variety of functions for international education - these will be your key contacts for taking our MOU to the next level, initially with negotiating student and staff mobility. I expect that by NAFSA we will be in a position to have more solid and in-depth discussion on deepening collaboration. Thank you once again for connecting with us and furthering us to this point - signing one of Te Pūkenga's very first international MOU's!

So, this begins our consideration of New Zealand as a new option for study abroad, virtual exchange (COIL), exchange, etc. Kelly's team is also working on an Indigenous led agreement in discussions with a new partner - Waikato University in New Zealand.

STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Student Affairs

Submitted by Craig Whitton, Director, Student Affairs

Campus Connections

Monthly trips to Mixalakwa commenced in January as an important part of an initiative to maintain strong inter-campus connections. Representatives from each department in the Student Affairs portfolio, including DALs and Student Life, have enjoyed spending time with students and staff in Port Hardy.

CARE Grant Projects Completed

The 2022/2023 CARE Grant projects are now complete. \$3000 was awarded to five innovative projects, which included artwork for Student Services and the Library & Learning Commons at the Campbell River campus, a staff trivia night hosted by CARTI, the development of campus walking trails at Campbell River and Comox Valley campuses, and cedar planters at the Campbell River campus. For the complete summary, [click here](#).



Applications will be open from April 1 to May 31 for the upcoming grant competition.

Accessibility for students

Craig Whitton has launched “Coffee with Craig”, an opportunity for students to chat over a cup of coffee with Craig about any obstacles they may be encountering and to let us know what is working well for them. Check-ins will take place every term at every campus.

Student Life

Submitted by Mez Jiwaji

Orientation

Student Life and NISU partnered to facilitate in-person events in CV, CR, PA, and MX. 700 folks participated in the Winter 2023 Orientation events across the different campuses. Virtual sessions were also included



North Island College’s Orientation Program (OP) goals include:

- facilitating the transition of new students into the institution
- preparing all students for the institution's educational opportunities and student responsibilities
- assisting all students in being prepared for their program regardless of the method of delivery
- initiating the integration of new students into the intellectual, cultural, and social facets of NIC

The inclusion of parents/guardians/families/supporters in support of the new student is part of the mission of the OP. The OP also contributes to institutional enrollment management, including retention.

Bell Let’s Talk Day

On January 23rd tabling events were held in CR, CV, PA, and MX; staff engaged with 180 people about mental health and wellness and encouraging help-seeking behaviours.

Objectives included:

- breaking down the barriers with students & the NIC college community mental



health & bring awareness to resources available

- raising awareness about Bell Let's Talk Day initiatives
- sharing information about resources and supports with students
- giving away free logo swag & increase involvement in activities
- connecting students with other students, faculty, and staff

Black History Month



The February 2023 theme for Black History Month was “Ours to tell”. This theme represented an opportunity to engage in open dialogue and a commitment to learning more about the stories Black communities in Canada have to tell about their histories, successes, sacrifices and triumphs.

Increased awareness and encouraged interaction through a social media campaign with informational posts.

Pink Shirt Day

On February 22nd Student Life partnered with the Library & Learning Commons and interacted with 200 people exploring the information material and receiving buttons. Information was shared through social media posts and encouraging engagement. Goals were:

- To promote anti-bullying strategies
- To share information about resources and supports with students
- To connect students with other students, faculty and staff
- To raise awareness of bullying in education settings

Coldest Night of the Year



On February 25th Student Life participated in the Campbell River CNOY#2023 as part of the *putting the brr in the vir (violence in relationships) committee*. The team set a fundraising goal of \$2,000.00 and raised \$2,705.00.

Thrive

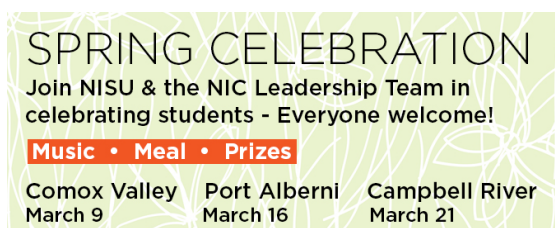
During the week of March 6th to 10th Student Life partnered with Library & Learning Commons, Human Resources, Office of Global Engagement, International Education, and North Island Students Union to deliver Thrive. Several activities took place including Grab and Go breakfasts, Movie nights, Mental

Health webinar, Potluck and Bhangra dancing, Grow Your Network social, Forest walks, Donut stress, Wildflower seeds, Colouring activities, Self-care activities and more. Student engagement at events over the week was over 600, employee engagement was over 150.

Thrive was started by UBC and adopted by many post-secondary institutions to celebrate community, encourage self-care and promote mental health literacy. The goal of Thrive is to bring students, faculty, and staff together to do something fun, healthy and encourage positive physical and mental health.

Spring Celebrations

NIC Leadership Team and NISU jointly fund the Spring Celebration events in March; these events provide an opportunity to engage and build relationships. The CV event was hosted during Thrive and paired with Bhangra dancing. All the events had a celebratory vibe to them.



The event reached out to 380 in CV, 125 in CR, and 120 in PA.

Other Highlights

- March 30/31- Trans Day of Visibility
- April - Intimate Partner Violence campaign (in partnership with the Sexualized Violence Education Team) and Consent Culture (campaign created by Elektra Watson, student in Campbell River)
- May- Mental Health Month

Library & Learning Commons Math & Writing Supports & Peer Tutoring

Submitted by Ben Hecht, Coordinator Math & Writing Supports and Peer Tutoring.

*During the period of September 1, 22 to March 31, 2023, our **LLC Math Support-service, LLC Writing Support-service, and LLC Peer Tutoring-service** saw the following user numbers:*

Math Support

Our Math Support-faculty provide one-on-one (and small group) support to NIC students, both face-to-face (in person) and online (via Bluejeans). Students can book 30-minute appointments in CV, CR, and PA. Math support faculty also run review workshops for particular math courses before midterm and final exams.

- NIC students made a total of 232 appointments with Math Support (available 17 hours per week) during the 2022 Fall term (Sept-Dec).
- So far, NIC students have made 205 appointments with Math Support (available 17 hours per week) in the first three months of the 2023 Winter term (January - March), alone.
- Math Support faculty delivered 2 end-of-term review workshops for STA115 students in December 2022 and 2 mid-term review workshops for the same course in February 2023. We are also planning to run these review workshops at the end of the Winter 2023 term.

Writing Support

Our Writing Support-faculty provide one-on-one support to NIC students, both face-to-face (in person) and online (via Bluejeans). Students can book 45-minute appointments in Comox Valley and Campbell River campuses, and feedback is also available by email, only. In addition, Writing Support faculty fulfill NIC's institutional commitment to WriteAway as tutors while NIC students can submit their writing to this service for feedback. Finally, Writing Support faculty also offer a series of online workshops to NIC students as well as running customized in-class workshops by NIC instructor request.

- NIC students made a total of 331 appointments with Writing Support (available 34 hours per week) during the 2022 Fall term (Sept - Dec).
- NIC students made 42 submissions to WriteAway between September and December 2022.
- Writing Support faculty delivered a series of eight online workshops to NIC students during the 2022 Fall term. During this time, we also delivered six customized in-class workshops by instructor request.
- So far, NIC students have made 263 appointments with Writing Support (available 34 hours per week) in the first three months of the 2023 Winter term (January - March), alone.
- So far, NIC students have made 53 submissions to WriteAway between January and March, 2023.
- Writing Support faculty have delivered eight online workshops to NIC students in addition to delivering 12 customized in-class workshops by NIC instructor request between January and March, 2023.

Peer Tutoring

Our Peer Tutors are available for virtual appointments (via Bluejeans) or face-to-face meetings on campus (60 minute-sessions), during which they support student content and skills learning one-on-one in a variety of disciplines including Business, Math & Sciences, English, Sociology, Digital Design, ABE, Practical Nursing, English, and Spanish.

- NIC students made a total of 149 appointments with the 14 Peer Tutors that were active during the 2022 Fall term.
- So far, NIC students have made 90 appointments with Peer Tutors in the first three months of the 2023 Winter term (January to March), and there are currently 14 active Peer Tutors in the program.

Library

Submitted by Lynette Gallant, Coordinator, Library Services

Our Library Team is comprised of faculty, support staff and student employees. We have had a good semester with increased usage of our space and services. In addition to daily research desk hours, we offer both virtual and face-to-face bookable appointments for help with all aspects of research. Our institutional partnership with the provincial service AskAway offers our students an additional 73 hours of chat reference including evenings as well as Saturday and Sunday. This semester our NIC Library Faculty increased our Embedded Librarian service. This service allows librarians to team up with faculty

to provide students increased access points to research instruction throughout their Brightspace course. This semester we are embedded in Nursing, Business, English, HSW and GLS courses.

Winter 2023 Semester Library Traffic

Numbers do not tell the whole story, but they provide a view into the library world and some of the ways in which we contribute to positive student experience.

- Since January the Library Team has welcomed 29,879 students and faculty through our doors and into our spaces.
- We have delivered 56 class library orientations reaching 825 students.
- We have helped 166 students in research appointments.
- Students have booked library group and individual study rooms 2053 times.
- Our most popular library guide is our APA (American Psychology Association) citation guide. Since January it has gotten 80,516 views. Not surprisingly the highest use (February 26-with 1,614 views) coincides with academic paper writing submission times.

Partnering. Events

The Library Team regularly partners with NISU and Student Life to promote initiatives and further student engagement.

- This semester we hosted Thrive events at CV, PA and CR. Movie matinees and treats were a hit at the Port Alberni and Campbell River campuses. An evening movie and pizza at the Comox Valley campus helped students relax and share some fun.
- NIC Library joined with other post-secondary libraries March 6-10 for SDG week. This national collaboration increases awareness of the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The library created an informative display and gifted native wildflower seeds to our students.
- Comox Valley, Port Alberni and Campbell River libraries provide an access point for students to pick up NISU supplied snacks.
- We are currently partnering with Student Life's Sexualized Violence Awareness Campaign to host an interactive art piece.

NIC Fest March 2023

Submitted by Diane Naugler, Executive Director, Future Students & Community Engagement

An engaging event series providing an on-campus experience that positions NIC as your first step on a path to a thriving and rewarding career through education and training.

- Drives community awareness, is lead-generating, authentic and aspirational with a clear and compelling brand message
- Is fun, inspiring, informative, and interactive
- Stimulates community conversation with and about NIC (word of mouth)
- Creates community connections between prospects and NIC Faculty, Staff, Services etc.
- Introduces current students and prospective students with some local employers & organizations who want to hire NIC students and graduates

GOALS and PERFORMANCE METRICS

Facilitate career conversations with regional employers (targeted program areas) to showcase their organizations & opportunities to students/guests/prospective students, answer any career-related questions and help them understand their educational pathway.	Employer survey post event
Build and strengthen community partnerships with regional employers	Employer survey post event
Demystify NIC as a local PSI option and generate awareness/interest in NIC programs	Attendee survey w/ learning outcome question
Grow program-specific leads lists captured through session attendance and contesting	Contact List Growth
Deliver a compelling theme with aspirational brand messages across all digital and traditional touchpoints (#YourNorth tie-in)	Attendance, Engagement
Drive traffic to NIC digital channels	Social Media Engagement, Website Traffic

Early feedback from participants and the community is positive. Completed applications to NIC received at all events. Contact lists grown for all represented programs.

March 15, Campbell River ~100 attendees

March 22, Comox Valley ~ 400-500 attendees, additional 84 attended keynote speaker



March 29, Port Alberni ~ 250 attendees



