COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS REPORT
FEBRUARY 2024

TRADES AND TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

Report to the BOG

Welcome to 2024!

Re-energized from the break in late December, Trades and Technical programs is back in full swing ready for anything 2024 brings to the table! Students hit the ground running between January 2nd and 9th with the start-up of two Carpentry Apprenticeships and a Plumbing Apprenticeship at the Comox Valley campus and two Heavy Mechanical Apprenticeships and an Electrical Apprenticeship in the Campbell River campus. The Port Alberni Automotive Service Technician, Welding and Furniture Design and Joinery Foundations carried over from the 2023 fall term and instructor, Sean McSavaney, also wound down the Professional Cook Level 2 program with his students writing their SkilledTradesBC Certificate of Qualification exam on January 25th.

When you think of the end of a month, a slowdown or wrap up comes to mind. Not so for the Trades programs. On January 29th we're just getting started!

At the post, it's an all-age race with Plumbing & Piping Foundation and Carpentry Foundation in the Comox Valley campus and Campbell River campus has Automotive Collision & Refinishing, Automotive Service Technician, Fabricator-Welder, Welding, Heavy Mechanical and Electrical Foundations. An impressive cohort of Electrical Foundation joins the field at the TEBO in Port Alberni campus.

Jockeying for position round the clubhouse turn in February, we have the first cohort of Trade Sampler, with a compliment of 14 students beginning on February 2nd. At the half mile, Heavy Mechanical Apprenticeship Level 2 and Professional Cook Level 1 (PA) on February 5th are holding strong followed closely by Electrical Apprenticeship Level 4 on February 12th.

Headed down the backstretch, the pace is fierce with Carpentry Apprenticeship Levels 2 and 4 and Plumbing Apprenticeship Level 3 neck and neck. It's going to be a sprint to the finish! Here comes Electrical Apprenticeship Level 2 upping the ante on March 4th going all out with the second cohort of Trade Sampler. Giving their all are contenders Electrical Apprenticeship Level 3 and Women in Trades on February 18th.

It's too close to call! We're looking at a photo finish!

Highlights

The Bistro at the Campbell River campus is open for business! Our Professonal Cook Level 1 (PC1) students, who started in the fall, have now entered the next phase of their culinary journey where their skills are put to the test. On Thursdays and Fridays, from January 25th to March 8th, the PC1 students will be serving a wonderful three course lunch to patrons lucky

enough to secure a coveted place setting *available by reservation only*. Word gets around quickly and dates are already selling out!

And…Action! This past *Motion Picture Production Assistant Micro-Credential* was a great success. All participants successfully completed the program after participating in both virtual classes and applied bootcamp training which was located in the heart of the Sunshine Coast – Gibson, BC. This training equipped participants with motion picture production assistant skill, motion picture industry orientation (MPIO), Motion Picture Safety Awareness (MPSA), WHMIS, Food Safe, Traffic Control Training and Propane Safety awareness. Needless to say, participants are safety-certified and ready to be on set!

Special Feature

Instructor, Jaylene van der Merwe.

This winter I was invited back to Tanzania to be involved in the second training session through the ESP-01 Empowerment through Skills Training. Instructors and principles from two folk development colleges as well as community-based organization leaders travelled to Arusha where we held the training sessions. After our last session facilitating Active Learning Strategies, we spoke to the principals and gained insight on what they wanted for the next sessions. It was decided we would spend the week focusing on Safety, Essential Skills, and Entrepreneurship. The goal is to add modules of these topics into the short courses they will begin building in 2024.

Three instructors and one project coordinator were invited on this trip. Being from a Trades background, I took on the safety training components. We covered an overview of Hazard Awareness, Fire Safety, Personal Protective Equipment and Emergency Procedures. It took time to prepare the presentation due to the different circumstances in their country, adding alternative fire safety measures and personal protective equipment options was important in ensuring the content was relevant to the learners. We also spoke about how to bring these topics into their classrooms and activities to engage their learners and communities. The feedback received during and after the training was both humbling and inspiring. There were many in attendance who were planning on taking this newfound knowledge back to their communities for everyone’s safety as recounts of previous accidents now demonstrated how this new understanding of the proper use of fire extinguishers and how to recognize hazards could very well have altered, if not prevented, some of the unfortunate incidents.

Many other subjects followed throughout the week and learners were excited to immediately put this new information and awareness into practice. The last day involved dancing and taking extra time to get to know each other and speak about the fulfilling work that comes with being an educator to students and community. The next stages of the project will include curriculum development for the three short courses. Another individual from NIC will be involved in short course curriculum development for solar panel installation and will be welcomed in Tanzania by great attitudes, focused work ethic and infectious humor. These trips give so much value to both the facilitators and learners, I am so grateful I was able to be a part of this project.

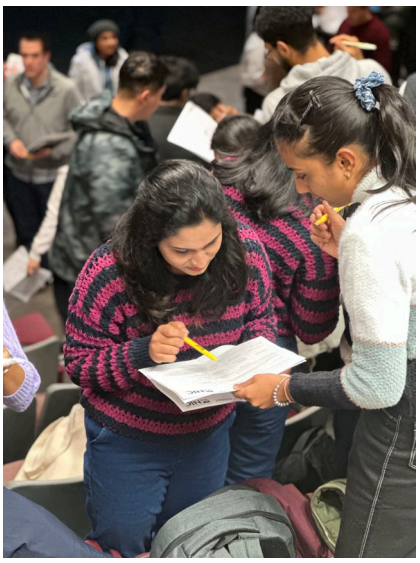
The only way to define your limits is by going beyond them.

OFFICE OF GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

International Student Orientations

Submitted by Mike Hillian, Global Engagement Liaison

On January 5, NIC welcomed 110 new international students from 17 countries to our Comox Valley and Campbell River campuses for icebreaker games, a campus tour, and a delicious lunch. Cambell River students also enjoyed a fantastic cultural presentation from Elder-in-Residence June Johnson and the Liǧʷiɬdaxʷ Elder and Youth Cultural Group in Q̓əpix̓ida?as. With 535 continuing and exchange students, NIC now hosts 645 international students on three campuses for January 2024 term.



International Student Engagement

Submitted by Mike Hillian, Global Engagement Liaison

On January 27, Comox Valley international students enjoyed a morning of snow tubing and exploring the alpine village at Mt. Washington. Campbell River students will do the same trip on February 11.

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) Announcement

Submitted by Junko Leclair, Manager, International Enrolment and Recruitment

With the announcement by IRCC on January 22, 2024, international enrolment planning will likely change to adapt to the new study permit process. OGE is working hard to develop new plans for upcoming intakes while we await further directions from IRCC and the Provincial government.

NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE
CARTI

Winter 2024

RESEARCH NEWS

Innovative Research Solutions For Island Communities Through Experiential Learning

LEARNING OUR WAY PROJECT CREATES FIELD SCHOOLS

The Learning Our Way project welcomed eight health care professionals from the North Island and the lower mainland, for five days in September for a field school.

The Learning Our Way project aims to address systemic racism and promote health equity for Indigenous peoples through field schools led by Indigenous Knowledge Holders. The three-year project, funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), is working with Wuikinuxv, Kwakiutl, Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k:tles7et'h', and Huu-ay-aht communities.

Health care professionals taking part in a field school in Katit (Rivers Inlet)

The field school participants learned about health and wellness from the Wuikinuxv people and the land. They shared stories aimed at building healing relationships and better understandings.

"The participants felt so welcomed by the community," said lead researcher Dr. Joanna Fraser. "They went home with new insights and the determination to make the health care system a more welcoming place for Indigenous people, especially those who travel from more remote areas.

In November the Learning Our Way team visited Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k:tles7et'h' to plan for a spring field school.

"Our recent visit focused on partnering with the community to find out what their needs are and which health care professionals they would like us to bring in for the spring field school," said Fraser.

Next steps for the project includes field schools for Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k:tles7et'h', Kwakiutl and Huu-ay-aht, data gathering and analysis.

CARTI BUILDS PROTOTYPE

A new research project built a prototype to automate the separation of live and dead oysters using forced air.

The standard industry approach to farming oysters involves sorting and removing dead oysters by hand in a labourious process. The prototype will assist Nova Harvest with automating the sorting process and speeding up production.

Lead researcher, Scott McGregor worked with Nova Harvest and NIC student, Alex Badzio-George to come up with the prototype.

The project is the result of funds received from NSERC 's Applied Research and Technology Partnership grant.

NIC researcher Scott McGregor testing the oyster sorter prototype.

NEW VIRTUAL REALITY PROJECT

CARTI's latest research project, Virtual Reality Technology Innovative Solutions in Education, Tourism, and Economic Development in Indigenous Rural Remote Communities: A Consultative Approach, aims to explore the potential benefits of using Virtual Reality (VR) technology to generate social innovation at the community level by supporting economic development and technology supported training in the remote and rural Indigenous community of Huu-ay-aht First Nations.

The three-year, $360,000 project, funded by the College and Comunity Social Innovation Fund (CCSIF), aims to identify the potential benefits of using VR technology in education and tourism, and exploring the heritage and natural beauty of Anacla and Bamfield.

The project will involve a collaboration between NIC students, Huu-ay-aht First Nation, the community, and high school students and teachers to develop the VR prototype.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SUBMITTING A STORY TO OUR NEWSLETTER? OR DISCUSSING YOUR RESEARCH IDEA? PLEASE CONTACT US CARTI@NIC.BC.CA

NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE
CARTI
Winter 2024

RESEARCH NEWS

Innovative Research Solutions For Island Communities Through Experiential Learning

CARTI STUDENT PROFILES

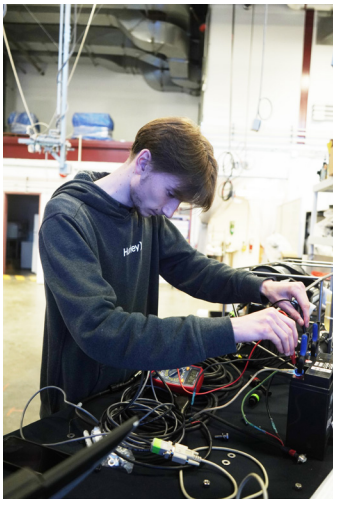
Name: Melissa Roberts

Area of Study: Biology

Projects: Kelp Habitat Banking and Central Coast Geoduck

NIC Student Melissa Roberts holding a leather star while working in Heiltsuk Territory for the Central Coast Geoduck project.

"Working with CARTI over the past two summers has been a great opportunity to learn about the intricacies of research projects and how they are conducted. I've had the benefit of working on both the Kelp Habitat Banking project and the Central Coast Geoduck project. Fieldwork is probably one of my favourite aspects of being a student researcher. It teaches patience, adaptability, and the importance of meticulous planning. Being out in the field has also highlighted the need for habitat conservation, which is one reason why working on the Kelp Habitat Banking project has been so rewarding. Being able to work outdoors while expanding my knowledge about the importance of kelp ecosystems and the benefits of geoduck farming has been such a valuable experience. The hands-on fieldwork has provided me with practical knowledge and a better understanding of our local environment. While the lab work and data analysis has helped me further understand the procedures and methodologies. Learning these skills, especially as a first and second-year student, has been a great way to gain relevant experience in my field of study."



NIC Student Alex Badzio-George testing voltage of the solar set up for the ocean sensors deployment.

Name: Alex Badzio-George

Area of Study: Engineering

Projects: Oyster Sorting Project, Ocean Sensors Project

"Working on these projects has helped me apply what I've learned in the classroom at NIC. I've had the opportunity to apply science, technology, engineering , and math skills to solve real-world problems. This experience will help me get co-op positions and get jobs after graduation."

CARTI Student Research Assistants

Did you know that CARTI hires NIC students to work on research projects?

Students gain valuable skills such as:

- Problem Solving
- Communication
- Teamwork
- Project Management
- Field Work
- Lab Skills
- Technical Skills
- Data Analysis
- Leadership

Student research assistant positions are available in many subject areas and industry sectors. Previous research experience is not required. Please contact CARTI (carti@nic.bc.ca) if interested.

NIC student research assistant, Rowen Berkey, holds up a blade of kelp while assisting in field work.