

President's Update to the College Community



Serving the communities of Northwestern BC

December 5, 2005

Partnerships

Qingdao Visit and Agreement

In reciprocation of my trip to Qingdao China, three Qingdao Vocational and Technical College delegates made the journey to the northwest last week to visit NWCC and explore partnership opportunities. The delegation was comprised of President Shi Zhong-jian, Vice-Professor Wang Wenzong and interpreter Mr. Sun Guo-dong.

Their tour began in Prince Rupert where they visited the new campus, participated in short workshops about various aspects of the college, and met with college staff, members of the community, as well as local government officials. From there they traveled to Terrace meeting with faculty and administration to learn more about NWCC and explore partnership opportunities. The group also made a trip to visit NWCC's Hazelton campus and visited the village of Hazelton and K'San.

The tour concluded with the signing of a Partnership Agreement. The Agreement enables both institutions to enhance the educational opportunities for our respective students, businesses and the communities we serve, as well as enhancing professional development opportunities for college employees. It serves as a commitment to explore further partnership opportunities and develop exchange programs for students, further teacher training and specific China-Canadian programs.

Several activities have been agreed upon. Professional development opportunities are being set up for next year for QVTC Senior Administrators and Teaching Staff as well as exchange opportunities for students from both colleges. Administrators will be given exposure and instruction on Western educational management and leadership training with teaching staff being trained in Western approaches to educational delivery. Three month exchange programs are being developed for students to engage in language and culture training. Management training will begin in the spring of 2006 in Qingdao followed by Summer School programs for senior Chinese managers and ESL/cultural programs for students.

Canada Community College/NWCC Agreement

A Letter of Understanding has been signed with Canada Community College (CCC) of Vancouver. CCC will be sending 8-12 of their international students to enrol in an ESL/ELTT Carpentry program set to begin January 6, 2006. Five to eight seats in this program will be open to domestic students.

The Chinese students will be staying in the dorms at the Terrace campus for at least the first month of their stay. In subsequent months, the international students will have the option of remaining in the dorms, being placed in local home stays or finding their own accommodation within the community.

Mr. Adam Tang and Mr. Phil Turpin of Canadian Community College will be accompanying the CCC students to Terrace and assisting with their introduction into the area. Adam Tang is the head of the CCC and Phil Turpin is a Carpentry instructor on staff with CCC.

GWES/NWCC Affiliation Agreement

NWCC has signed an affiliation agreement with the Gitksan Wet'suwet'en Education Society (GWES). GWES operates out of the Village of Hazelton. Each institution has agreed to pool their resources to enhance the provision of educational and training opportunities for people in the Hazelton area. NWCC will be the first institution of choice for GWES in educational partnership opportunities. The partnership will involve the implementation of specific Gitksan Wet'suwet'en curriculum and the development of NWCC/GWES joint certificate, diploma, and associate degree programs.

Dean of Instruction

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Lianne Gagnon as the new Dean of Instruction, Prince Rupert Campus.

Lianne has been with the College for over 17 years at our Prince Rupert Campus. Over this period of time, Lianne has held many portfolios including CCP instructor, Coordinator, Learning Assessment Specialist and Adult Special Needs Coordinator.

She will move into her new role effective January 1, 2006. As Dean her responsibilities will include Western Education Planning as well as First Nations Art programs, Tourism programs and Natural Resource programs and the Centre for Teaching and Learning.

Please join me in welcoming Lianne to her new position.



Generating Ftes

A number of program initiatives are being implemented in the January semester in an attempt to further increase student enrolments at the college. Within the first two months of 2006, the following additional programs will be launched:

Essential Skills for Work - this CCP based program is aimed at providing students with the basic literacy, numeracy, and personal skills needed to enter post-secondary education programs.

Pre-Business Administration Certificate Program - this new program will be offered at the Kitimat campus beginning in January. Aimed at students interested in enrolling in an NWCC business program, the program offers introductory courses which will enable graduates to meet business program entrance requirements and will provide them with advance standing and a guaranteed seat in the business program of their choice.

Carpentry Level 1 and Timber Framing - are both running in the Nass Valley this January. We are considering mounting another level 1 carpentry apprenticeship as the first class is currently full.

First Nations Artist in Residence in Kitimaat Village - is scheduled to begin in early spring with approximately 18 students. A master carver of Haisla descent will instruct the class. One proposed outcome of the program is the creation of a Unity Pole for the Nanakila Institute at Kitimaat Village. The mall in Kitimat has offered space from which the students can work out of while also serving as a tourist attraction.

Farewell

The Terrace campus said good-bye to a valued member of our college community this week. Vice-President Beth Davies is set to retire from the College after 10 years of service. She has filled a number of administrative titles, including Acting College President from 1997 - 1998.

In recognition of her years of service and significant contributions to the College a \$500 literacy bursary has been established in her name to be awarded annually in accordance to criteria specified by Beth.

Beth's last day will be December 16, 2005. On behalf of all staff and faculty I would like to thank Beth for her many contributions to Northwest Community College and wish her well in her new pursuits!



Brian Loptson and Alice Maitland were in attendance at Beth's farewell.

Science World Celebration a tremendous success

On November 19th Science World held its Celebration event at the Terrace campus. This event was the culmination of Science World's week long 'Community Science Celebrations' tour within the northwest which took them to local schools in an effort to promote science, technology and innovation.



Large crowds attended the day's events

The Celebration drew crowds of over 2,500 to the campus to take in the various activities and displays of the day. NWCC UC, Computer Technology and Trades faculty organized activities ranged from Chemistry magic shows and Chinese Windless Winch exhibits to welding, forensic science, and computer science demonstrations. Many community organizations and businesses also participated in the event with related displays and activities.



UC Instructor John Krisinger prepares for his lab demonstration.

Earlier in the week Science World utilized the Prince Rupert campus to hold an evening Teacher Training Workshop.