

President's Update to the College Community

Serving the communities of Northwestern BC

November 18, 2008

Six Month Budget Review

During the months of October and November, Diane Ready and Cynthia Preyser visit all of the campuses and meet with individual 'budget officers' (program coordinators, supervisors and administrators with budget responsibilities). While the monitoring of budgets is an ongoing process, this in-depth review enables Financial Services to personally meet with budget officers and mitigate problems, answer questions, provide information and identify areas for training or support. The review also gives College employees the opportunity to review their department budgets and discuss with Financial Services any budget issues and challenges.

The review for the 2008-09 budget year is nearing completion and to date, no significant problem areas have been identified. The findings of this six-month review set the stage for the preparation of next year's budget and the launch of the 2008-09 Budget Task Force.

Request for Budget Task Force Members

The first meeting of the Task Force for 2008-09 is scheduled for Monday, December 1 from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm. Pending availability, members may participate by video conference. The meeting will take place in the Meeting Room of Waap Sginiis, Terrace Campus.

President Invited to Represent Canadian Colleges in India

Three college presidents from across Canada have been asked to join the Association of Canadian Community College's (ACCC) Program for Export Market Development (PEMD) mission to India this year.

The goal is to promote the programs and services of member colleges and institutes, so as to improve the positioning of the Association and its members as a service provider in the Indian education market (with particular emphasis on advanced skills). Paul Byrne, President of Grant McEwan College in Alberta, Keith Henderson, President of John Abbott College in Quebec and I will be travelling together with members of the ACCC staff and President.

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Terrace Campus Employees Nominated for Business Awards

Congratulations to four Terrace Campus employees for their nominations in the 2008 Terrace & District Chamber of Commerce Business Awards:

Amanda Checkley
Customer Service Award

Tony Reddy
Employee of the Year

Debbie Scarborough
Volunteer of the Year Award

Dave O'Leary
Technology Award

Congratulations, you were all winners in our books!

Reclamation and Prospecting (RAP) program nominated for awards

The School of Exploration & Mining's RAP program has been nominated for three awards:

- 1) Canadian Council on Learning – Sharing the Flame: Recognizing Excellence in Learning
- 2) 2008 Mining and Sustainability Award – Province of BC and MABC
- 3) Premier's Award for Promoting Innovation and Excellence (under Partnership Category)

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For over 30 years, ACCC has been helping its member institutions share their expertise internationally through hundreds of collaborative initiatives with more than 750 partners in 110 countries. Working with country governments, regional bodies, counterpart organizations and international development agencies, ACCC and its members have developed partnerships that have proven to be results-oriented, effective and sustainable. NWCC's partnership with Qingdao Vocational College is one such outcome of this work.

The time is right for raising the profile of Canada's colleges and institutes, in part because the Canadian government has just launched an initiative to brand Canadian education in the international arena, but also because the Indian government has prioritized skills development in its first Five-Year Plan. The PEMD mission will seek to capitalize on both these factors as well as to build on the results of cooperation in the past.

For NWCC, the trip will introduce our College to Indian institutions, government agencies, chambers of commerce and industries. Through formal and informal networking opportunities, I will be seeking to explore potential relationships and opportunities for NWCC and the communities we serve. The City of Terrace, for example, has requested that I keep in mind its desire to 'twin' with a city in India. Some of the partnership opportunities believed to be available to colleges are: providing teacher training programs, teaching and learning materials development, e-learning and distance education.

Half the costs for my travel will be reimbursed through funding the ACCC has received from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) through the PEMD. The DFAIT funding will assist with this exploratory mission to India and a reciprocal visit to Canada by senior educational representatives in the last quarter of 2009.



With Cathay Sousa and Dave O'Leary are Golden Spruce Committee members, from left, Jane Dickson, Nancy Ross and Lori Merrill at the Terrace Campus on Oct. 28.

Student Awards, Scholarships & Bursaries

Over \$80,000 is made available annually to NWCC students through the provision of scholarships and bursaries. October ceremonies were held in Prince Rupert and Terrace to recognize the award recipients and donors.

A new award was initiated by the Golden Spruce Committee (see photo below left). The Committee's \$25,000-donation was matched by a \$10,000-College contribution and will go towards funding of a \$1,750 bursary each year. This is the second contribution from the Golden Spruce Committee; the first, for \$20,000, was made in 1997.

More Funds urgently required

Every year, the College has more requests for assistance than we are able to provide. This year, we were unable to help hundreds of students who are looking to complete an education so they can become economically self-sufficient.

Your contributions to the College's Scholarship & Bursary Endowment Fund can make a significant difference to future students.

Employee Donations Make a Difference!

Employee payroll deductions directed to the College Scholarship & Bursary Fund can go a long way in assisting our students' success. Employees who deduct as little as \$10 per paycheque will be surprised at how quickly their contributions will add up. Payroll deductions are also eligible for a tax receipt to use for income tax purposes.

Please consider extending your support to include a financial contribution this year – either through a payroll deduction or an annual donation.

We need your help. I encourage you to fill out the on-line form found on the Colleges' Web site or contact Virginia Cooper.

New Programs under development

University Credit proposes two new, destination Field Schools

Two field schools similar to the Kitlope Field School model are under development and delivery is proposed in 2009: a Field School in Haida Gwaii which would focus on ethnobotany and forestry and the Sacred Headwaters Field School which would focus on eco-based management. For further information, contact Coordinator Ken Downs.

Camp Attendant Maintenance Program (CAMP)

This new program will be sponsored by the Smithers Exploration Group. It is currently being developed. The program's length is anticipated to be six weeks, with a good deal of the last month being spent designing and building a bush camp.

Environmental Monitor Assistant Program (EMAP)

This program is being developed in response to industry feedback. In October, I facilitated a focus group of industry representatives as part of a needs assessment. A Program Advisory Committee has been formed and curriculum development will begin in January. The program delivery is planned for July and August 2009. This will offer opportunities to attract a new market for the SEM – university, college and graduating High School students.

Funding proposals are being developed and it is hoped the partners will be Northwest Community College, the Province of BC, the Smithers Exploration Group and the Office of the Wet'suwet'en Chiefs. The program will likely be eight weeks long and take place in a bush camp.



A number of elders came out to the first Celebrating the Wisdom of the Elders event put on by the House of Applied Research and Learning at Terrace Campus Oct. 10.

Smithers Campus Renewal and Renovation

We are still waiting on the governments' response to our business case requesting an expansion and renovation of the Smithers Campus.

An exhaustive study was completed and submitted some months ago and while the Ministry appreciates the need, a final decision is required by the Ministry of Finance.

Upcoming House of Learning & Applied Research Events – Brown Bag Lunch Events on Applied Research

Does Community-based Research Make a Difference?

With Dr. Norma Kerby
Friday, November 21,
2:00 noon to 1:00 pm
Terrace Room 208 and available
by video conference

Celebrating the Wisdom of the Elders

Talking to the Health Programs
Wednesday, November 26,
9:30 am to 2:30 pm at the
Terrace Campus