

President's Update to the College Community

Serving the communities of Northwestern BC

September 11, 2006

College Board invites 'visiting Professor' Dr. John Henry

The College Board has invited Dr. John Henry, Associate Professor, Deakin University, to NWCC for the period of Sept. 14th to 22nd. This invitation was extended to assist the College in furthering its goal of becoming a 'bicultural' institution.

Last year, with the completion of the College's new Strategic Plan, the Board of Governors identified a significant goal for the College: a change of mandate by the provincial government which formally acknowledges NWCC as a college having a significant First Nations population base. This goal strives to move the college from a perspective that is traditionally non-Aboriginal, to one that effectively incorporates and celebrates Aboriginal perspectives. Further, it seeks to have the College endorsed as neither non-native nor native, but rather, a college which is a rich combination of the two.

Dr. Henry will be facilitating discussions on the topic of "Becoming a Bicultural Institution" throughout the college region at various meetings and campuses. A complete schedule of his visit, along with his biography, is available on the College's intranet homepage.

Dr. Henry and his wife, Stephanie, will be staying at the Terrace campus while they are here, as well as making overnight visits to Prince Rupert and Hazelton.

I encourage you to take the opportunity to participate in a discussion with Dr. Henry during his stay with us.

Minister Coell visits NWCC

Advanced Education Minister Murray Coell visited Northwest Community College on September 11 to meet with myself, Board Chair Penny Denton, and Dean of Student Services Arlene Herman and tour the Terrace campus. This visit provided us with the opportunity to familiarize him with our facilities, program areas, and the many issues facing students in the northwest.

The College's culinary arts students showcased their program with a specially prepared lunch of First Nations cuisine.

The Minister's visit marked the second visit by Ministry of Advanced Education officials in the last month. Deputy Minister Moura Quayle, Assistant Deputy Minister Students and Learning Division Tom Vincent, and Assistant Deputy Minister Post-Secondary Education Division Ruth Wittenberg all spent the day with the College on August 29.

Aboriginal Special Projects (ASP) Grants Awarded to the College

NWCC received three ASP grants this year in response to proposals submitted to the Ministry of Advanced Education this spring. The first is to support the development and implementation of "Elders in Residence" programs at our Terrace and Prince Rupert campuses. These programs will be the responsibility of the Dean of Student Services and Human Services Programs, Arlene Herman and will be undertaken in consultation with First Nations Council.

The second grant was awarded for the implementation of the Coastal Guardianship Program. This Project is being undertaken in partnership with the Sierra Club BC, the Heiltsuk Nation (Bella Bella), and Turning Point Chiefs. The Vancouver Foundation is also a financial contributor to this project.

The development of the Coastal Guardianship program will be led by Ken Downs, in cooperation with a number of First Nations community representatives and our project partners. Development work begins this fall.

The third grant was awarded to Wilp Wilxo'oskwyhl Nisga'a (WWN), through NWCC, for the expansion of WWN's Adult Basic Education program in New Aiyansh. The students are accredited through NWCC as per our partnership agreement with WWN.

New Nursing Bursary

The BC Medical Services Foundation has authorized a grant of \$10,000 for bursary assistance in support of Nursing students at NWCC for the 06/07 academic year.

The bursary awards may range from \$1,000 to \$4,500 and are limited to full-time students studying Nursing at the College.

NWCC Freda Diesing School of Art and Design Launches Wood Carving program

Classes started this week with world renowned artists Dempsey Bob, Stan Bevan and Ken McNeil. Dempsey is one of the foremost artists of his generation and has been carving and teaching for over 30 years. His works are featured in museums and galleries around the world. A friend and student of Freda Diesing, Dempsey studied under Freda's tutorage and taught along side her. Dempsey Bob will serve as the senior Advisor to the School and will work with Roque Berthuaime and an Advisory Committee to lead the development of the School's future offerings.



Instructors Dempsey Bob (top left), (top row in order from right to left) Roque Berthuaime, Stan Bevan, and Ken McNeil pose with students of this year's First Nations Artist in Residence class running in Terrace.

Upcoming events in September

- ◆ College and School District 80 sign Partnership Agreement, Sept. 14th in Terrace
- ◆ Dr. John Henry visits NWCC Sept 14th to 22nd
- ◆ College Board of Governors meetings set for Sept. 15 & 16th in Smithers
- ◆ World Religions Conference, Sept. 16th at Terrace campus
- ◆ BC College Presidents meet in Prince Rupert, Sept. 22nd