

ARTS, SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT

Submitted by Dr. Neil Cruickshank, Dean, Arts, Science & Management with contributions from Dr. Jenny Botica, Department Chair, Instructor, and Pedro Caraballo Acosta, Instructor.

Case Competition Success!

For the first time in the College's history, with the dean's support, the Department of Business Administration sent a team of students (under the supervision of one of our senior instructors, Murray Erickson) to the Western Canada Case competition in Vancouver. Our students placed second overall, out of 16 teams from across BC and Canada. This intensive two-day competition hosted by Douglas College, allowed our students to apply their learning in a dynamic, competitive setting. The team of students and Murray Erickson should be commended for their efforts. [As it was reported in the Comox Valley Record:](#)

For the event this year, team members ran companies that compete for global market leadership in two product categories: wearable video cameras that deliver stunning video quality and have powerful photo capture capabilities, comparable to those designed and marketed by global industry leader GoPro; and sophisticated camera-equipped copter drones that incorporate a company-designed-and-assembled action capture camera and that are sold to commercial enterprises for prices in the range of \$850–2,000 or more.



NIC students Akwasi Boateng, Mohammed Amaan Khan, Haiden Edwards and Joaquin Arroyo Beytia (with instructor Murray Erickson) presented their business strategy simulation at the recent WCBC event and finished second in the senior division. (Photo credit: Michael Chouinard)

Tourism & Hospitality Management students head to Mexico!

In October 2023, preparations began for our international field trip. Eleven students from our Tourism & Hospitality program were tasked with researching various destinations and making a decision about suitable ones. The group ultimately decided to travel to Cancun, Mexico and the four-day trip took place in February 2024 and proved to be a great success. The purpose of this educational trip was to provide students with practical and theoretical experience about the all-inclusive lodging concept. They also learned about resort operations in one of the most successful Caribbean tourism destinations where numerous leading hotel companies operate the model in various accommodation categories. The trip also provided an opportunity to learn from other cultures, including Mayan indigenous culture, and give students a well-rounded foundation upon which to build their knowledge and skills for future careers in the industry.



(From the files of Pedro Caraballo Acosta)

Our Community Archaeologists!

Under the supervision of Dr. Jennifer Botica, students from ANT 251 left the cozy confines of the classroom to undertake archaeological research in-community (in the Comox Valley). Not to give away the ending, but it was a tremendous success. On the advice of K'ómoks First Nation, Dr. Botica connected with Baseline Archaeology Ltd – a company working through 'lots of material' collected from the "Shingle Spit" site on Hornby Island. They agreed to allow our students to help process hundreds of samples from the site. This site is an important K'ómoks and Pentlatch site and represents a large multi-component habitation site.

The students and Dr. Botica headed to Baseline on the afternoon of March 26. As reported, “all students had a chance to do some flotation (using buckets and nested screens) to retrieve small bones and carbonized plant remains from sediment samples, as well as to do some laboratory classification, sorted, and microscopic analysis.” This technique is foundational to archaeology.

Dr. Botica has known the owner of Baseline, Owen Grant, for many years. As Dr. Botica reported, “he [Mr. Grant] was tremendously impressed by our students' enthusiasm and archaeological knowledge prior to coming to the office.” By all accounts, the crew at Baseline were incredibly hospitable and had clearly taken the time to make our students feel at home and prepare lots of materials for them to work on.

This sort of immersive experience is hard to come by, so a special thanks goes to Dr. Botica and Baseline for making this possible. The Faculty of Arts, Science & Management is committed to experiential learning, and is hoping to provide more opportunities like this going forward.



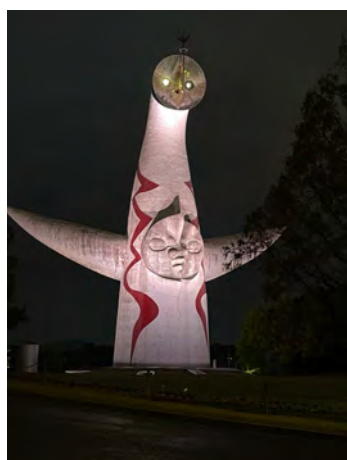
(Photos courtesy of Dr Jennifer Botica)

Laboratory Renovations are underway!!

To support our learners, and with Ministry support, we will begin renovating our Biology and Chemistry labs this April 2024. (See architectural renderings, below). The newly refurbished labs will offer our Science and Island Pre-Health Science students the best possible learning environment. The new design will enhance teaching and provide an accessible and modern space. The reorientation of the benches and new casework will provide greater opportunity for collaborative learning and an overall enhancement in space utilization. Needless to say, our faculty and students are looking forward to utilizing this new space when it becomes available next semester.



Off to Japan!



Tower of Sun (太陽の塔, *Taiyō no Tō*)¹

(Photo courtesy of Neil Cruickshank)

In support of a project initiated by Dr. Lisa Domae, Romana Pasca (OGE), and Dr. Domae's research partner, Dr Sachiko Kawakami 河上幸子 (Kyoto University of Foreign Studies), we will be sending a group of students to Japan this May. Under the supervision of Ryan Blaak (History) and Kelly Shopland (Executive Director, Indigenous Education), and NIC Elder June Johnson, students will be visiting Tokyo, Kyoto and the small fishing village of Mio. The field school course (GLS 241 - Field School: Fishing, Indigeneity and the Asia Pacific) is designed to utilize "the Canadian fishing industry as a vehicle to explore issues of Indigenous sovereignty, trans-pacific migration, ethnic and intercultural relations, and globalization." The significance of Mio, and the impetus for this course and related research, relates to Mio's socio-cultural ties to British Columbia – and Steveston, specifically. As summarized in *The Japan Times*,

The fact that this otherwise nondescript countryside district named Mio, dotted with old Japanese tile-roof houses, has historical ties to Canada and is nicknamed an "American village" would probably baffle any first-time visitors — and perhaps upset a number of Canadians.

¹ Translation from Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tower_of_the_Sun

But that’s exactly what Mio has long been called thanks to a unique history going back more than 130 years of sending scores of people across the Pacific to Steveston, a neighborhood of Richmond on Canada’s west coast, to work as salmon fishers.²

We are delighted to be offering our students this opportunity, and certainly appreciate the support we have received from the Office of Global Engagement, Indigenous Education and both Dr. Lisa Domae and Dr. Sachiko Kawakami. This project is the embodiment of many of our strategic priorities: a furtherance of experiential learning; a concern for cross-cultural inquiry; and a commitment to Indigenous epistemology.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Access to Practical Nursing

Submitted by Laura Hickey, Co-chair Practical Nursing Program

At end of April 2024, the second cohort of the Access to Practical Nurse (APN) program will complete their training. Students in the APN program have previously completed their Health Care Assistant certificate and use this program as a bridge to completion of the Practical Nurse program. This upcoming April marks the first time that NIC has had APN students in their own cohort for Year Two. We have found that the APN students adapted well to having online classes as well as face-to-face classes at the Comox campus.

The seven students who will be completing the program come from Parksville, Comox, Courtenay, and Campbell River. They all have indicated that they plan to stay in their communities to begin their new careers in healthcare after graduation this spring.

A [media release](#) about the APN program went out March 22 to local media sources.

Practical Nursing (Base Program)

Submitted by Barb McPherson Co-chair Practical Nursing Program

Like all faculty at NIC, the Practical Nursing (PN) faculty work extremely hard to provide high quality education to our future nurses. The PN faculty demonstrate their innovation and creativity in ensuring our students are engaged in their learning. The PN program works collaboratively with the British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives (BCCNM), and offers intakes in Campbell River, Port Alberni and Comox Valley on an annual basis. Offering seats this way allows for more students to access our program, providing more nurse graduates in the future. We offer the program from the three campuses (one program across three campuses) using interactive videoconferencing. This innovative approach allows the program to be offered every year and to have graduates in all three communities on an annual basis. Most of our courses are offered in the classroom, with a small percentage of online learning. The PN faculty work with NIC’s Centre for Teaching & Learning Innovation (CTLI) to keep abreast of online and in-person instructional strategies and to educate themselves on new and creative ways of teaching in a virtual environment.

Our students continue to work hard, and our second-year students are very excited to be nearing graduation. These graduates will help support the ever-increasing demand for nurses in our communities. Our first-year students are anticipating their second clinical rotation in a complex care facility, and many are working as Health Care Assistants which helps to alleviate

² “Tracing the history of Mio, a rural Wakayama community with deep ties to Canada.” The Japan Times. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/01/03/national/social-issues/mio-wakayama-canada-history/>. (Last accessed 09 April 2024).

the growing shortage of workers in this field.

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Submitted by Sheenagh Snell, Department Chair

The new Licensed Practical Nurse Access to Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree (Option C) base funding cohort is enjoying the flexibility that the part-time program offers and has attracted Licensed Practical Nurses across the island.

Two new full-time regular faculty members Agata Zienowicz and Montana Alessio were welcomed in the Fall to the BSN program as well as sessional faculty member, Sheenagh Snell, into a full-time regular role, with Sheenagh recently transitioning into the department chair role for a three-year term.

We welcomed Leslie Sundby into our faculty as *'Curriculum and Program Mentor'* in a temporary role for this academic year.

The BSN program will be integrating curriculum from the BC Centre of Palliative Care, surrounding 'serious illness conversations' with faculty members Denise Sibilleau, Montana Alessio, Agata Zienowicz and Leslie Sundby.

Planning is underway for the field school to Kingcome Inlet in the Spring for our upper nursing elective *Health & Wellness in First Nations Communities* where both second and third year nursing students will be attending, with Heidi Deagle as the course lead, in collaboration with NIC elders.

Faculty member Dr. Kelly Goudreau recently attended the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists in New Orleans, LA.

Three BSN faculty members (Dr. Kelly Goudreau, Dr. Laurie Michaud, and Denise Sibilleau) completed a **Comparative Study of Virtual Simulation and Observational Experiences in Second Year Rural Bachelor of Science Nursing (BSN) Students**. Preliminary results have been accepted for presentation at the upcoming Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) Biennial Conference in Calgary in May 2024.

Fourth year BSN students participated in a student-led poster conference showcasing their focused synthesis of research on timely health issues in the Fall. The event held in the Stan Hagen Theatre, was opened by College President Dr. Lisa Domae, and closed by Health and Human Services Dean Dr. Kathleen Haggith. Feedback from over 75 attendees, including both public partners and NIC staff/students, was overwhelmingly positive. For example, "I was so impressed by the level of scholarship and professionalism displayed in the posters and how passionately they were able to speak about and answer questions about their health issue".

Three BSN students partnered with the Canadian Blood Services to bring the 'Campaign in a Box' event onto all three NIC campuses. This event focused on stem cell donations. Students customized posters, utilization of a QR code, and created and administered a feedback form to analyze how the events should be improved.

Two BSN students worked with the Island Health Trauma Services to develop a patient-focused quality improvement survey, gathering valuable insights into patients' care journeys with the goal to identify strengths and gaps in discharge teaching at Victoria General and Nanaimo Regional Hospital Trauma Program.

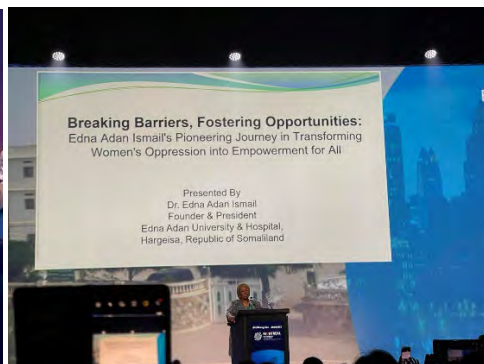
Four NIC BSN students attended the Canadian Nursing Student's Association (CNSA) National

Conference in January and have since reinitiated the CNSA Committee here at NIC, with second year student Mary Rickinson as the lead.

Faculty member, Heidi Deagle, was able to attend the *International Council of Nurses 2023 Congress* in Montreal, July 1-5, 2023 and shared:



“If you have attended a conference about a subject area you love, you will no doubt recall that feeling you have when it’s just finished –the sense of wonder about new perspectives gained, relationships made, and the excitement of new ideas percolating. Thanks to generous professional development funding through NIC, Heidi Deagle, was able to attend the *International Council of Nurses 2023 Congress* in Montreal, July 1-5, 2023. Joining hundreds of nurses from literally across the world, to learn, share and network with each other, was truly inspiring.”



Department of Human Services

Submitted by Samantha Banton-Smith, Department Chair

In Fall of 2023, the Human Services program was audited through the Quality Assurance Process Audit (QAPA) process. We worked very hard to prepare for this audit, and it has been a great opportunity to explore how we function as a department, and how we want to grow moving forward. Although rigorous, the process has been seen as a positive opportunity and we are eager to continue working towards the action items that have come from it.

Additionally, the HSW department hosted Ladders to Kindness for both faculty and students as part of our process to enter into brave conversations to support truth and reconciliation. Those that attended the four-hour, interactive workshop said that it was powerful and something they would recommend for others.

Finally, Kerri Lowey Mackenzie is almost finished an 8-month assisted leave, allowing her the opportunity to explore the use of Restorative Justice and Conflict Management in post-secondary institutions in British Columbia. She has been able to consult with several academics and practitioners throughout the province as well as attend related training and workshops to better inform how Restorative Justice can be implemented with the Human Services Department. She is continuing conversations within the broader NIC community regarding its use institutionally as well. As a board member for the Comox Valley Community Justice Centre, Kerri is continuing to act as a liaison between our local justice center and NIC; exploring mutually beneficial ways of working together.

Kerri, through her role with the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC (FPSE-BC) Human Rights and International Solidarity Committee (HRISC) was able to invite all NIC faculty to an open online seminar regarding "How can we create a safe space for dialogue, teaching, and research in times of conflict?". In this seminar, five experts in conflict resolution, restorative justice, mediation, academic freedom, and depolarization explored how we can reach across our differences to create mutual understanding in an era of geopolitical conflict, culture wars, and increasing polarization.

Department of Accessible Learning (DAL) - Programs

Submitted by Liz Girard, Department Chair, Instructor

This year has been one of change for the department. We have had new faculty join us on all three campuses and have new Work Study Assistants in Campbell River. I also took on the role of chair for the first time, creating a new experience for each of us in the department in some way this year. It has been an exciting time of keeping the department up and running. Our students have been asked this year to be flexible and roll with the changes. They have risen to the occasion beautifully.

Campbell River, Port Alberni, and Comox Valley campuses as well as two online courses have collectively offered base funded programming to close to 100 students this year. Online students come from all over our NIC area. Many are from the three main campuses and a few students join in from further afield. We also offer a Work Experience course on each campus. The Work Experience students go out in the community and do a work placement that is suited to their abilities and interests. Depending on their personal goals, these students may transition to supports from Work BC, volunteer opportunities, paid employment, or the experience may spark interest in further skills training.



Another important connection the DAL-Programs has at NIC is supporting students from the Human Services (HSW) and Nursing programs with practice placements in our classrooms. Presently we are hosting three nursing students and one HSW student over two campuses. This is a great opportunity for our students to get to know other NIC students, have Health and Human Services (HHS) students learn more about people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, and have HHS students leave NIC with excellent skills in understanding people with diverse abilities.

In the Comox Valley, we are offering the following courses this semester: Computers, Intro to Sign Language, Literacy, Math, Workplace Safety, Emergency Preparation, Communication skills for students who use Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) devices (a tablet or laptop that helps someone with a speech or language impairment to communicate) and Working with the Environment.

Here are some of the Comox Valley Work Experience Students on the job:





In Port Alberni, students are also on work experience and taking classes – the topics they are studying this semester are Literacy, Health Promotion, Peer Support, Customer Service, and Workplace Safety.

The two students below are on their work experience placements in the community.



In Campbell River, we are offering courses including Intro to Sign Language (students in Sign Language class pictured below) and Working with the Environment in addition to a skills training Employment Transition Grounds & Custodial Assistant (ETGCA) program.



Students in the ETGCA program have been busy attending employability prep classes and collecting work related certificates like FoodSafe, First Aid, Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS), and worker safety. With generous support from our local businesses, students are participating in work experience placements in the community gaining industry specific work skills (an ETGCA student pictured working at the CR Museum). Students are looking forward to the next portion of the program which includes training courses in Horticulture and Grounds Maintenance and Custodial Light Duty Cleaning. The ETGCA program is funded through specific targeted funding through the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training.

Early Childhood Care and Education

Submitted by Laurie Tulloch, Department CoChair



Comox Valley Certificate and Diploma students came together for Baby Guest Day!: an opportunity to observe children from birth to two years of age together with the children's parents to bring the theories of early learning to life!

In February, Certificate students were invited to attend the 2nd annual Growing Together Conference – an initiative of the Comox Valley Early Years Collaborative and this year cochaired by faculty member Vanessa Simmonds. The conference included workshops on restorative self-care, culture and diversity and land-based learning as well as a popular marketplace of early learning materials. Faculty members created an interactive display on 'material encounters' and students enjoyed the professional development alongside their practicum mentors, program alumni and other allied professionals. Each year the conference guarantees seats for a cohort of students while faculty provide support in the way of presentations, materials, and other conference volunteer roles.



TRADES AND TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

Report to BOG

With the appearance of new buds on the trees, daffodils pushing their way up through the earth in search of the sun and the lively chirping of the birds as they ready their nests in anticipation of new arrivals, we can at last say goodbye to the darker days of winter and welcome the warm breezes and sunshine promised by the change of season.

As the winter term ends, students in the apprenticeships levels of Heavy Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing and Carpentry are finishing out their programs with the writing of the SkilledTradesBC Standard Level Exams and the fall Automotive and Welding Foundation programs have concluded at both the Campbell River and Port Alberni campuses with Furniture Design and Joinery Foundation (PA) and Heavy Mechanical Foundation (CR) closing out their cohorts in May.

This is by far the end of Trades and Technical programs! Our recent start-ups for April and May include 2 Heavy Mechanical Apprenticeships, 2 Carpentry Apprenticeships and 1 Electrical Apprenticeship. Let's not forget we also have the Winter Foundation programs in Carpentry, Plumbing, Electrical, Welding, Automotive, Auto Collision and Fabricator-Welder carrying over the summer months and some will continue on into September.

What Trades and Technical Programs Have Been Up To....

February 23rd brought approximately 250 high school and elementary school students from all over Vancouver Island to the Campbell River campus for the Skills Canada Regionals. Students competed in various events and levels according to their categories. Gold medal winners advance to the Provincial Championships and we wish them all the very best as they showcase their talents.

On March 7th, a group of aspiring students from Kyuquot travelled to the campus for the “college experience” and were given the opportunity to explore the Automotive, Electrical, Heavy Mechanical, Welding and Instrumentation shops for the day to get a better understanding of opportunities their future pathways could hold.

We are also diligently working with our programmers to develop and deliver Micro-credentials in both the Motion Picture and Natural Resource programs. Most recently in Film, Production Payroll Clerk, Fundamentals of Rigging in Electrics and Rigging Grip have been added to the compliment of Grip, Lighting, Production Assistant, Set Construction, Craft Services, Accounting and Set Dresser.

Natural Resources has added Field Applications, Forest & Lands, Harvesting Systems, Timber Cruising I & II, Tech & Data Management, GIS Data Acquisition, GIS Drone to Map, Intro to Natural Resources and more.

Exciting Development!

In recognition of our Coastal Forestry Diploma program: Trades and Technical is thrilled to announce the successful completion of the Coastal Forestry Technical Diploma program's Technology Accreditation Canada Audit on November 21st. This accreditation is a significant milestone for our program, signifying national and international recognition as a technical, science-based program endorsed by engineering and forestry professionals.

The attainment of accreditation holds *profound* implications for our program. NIC can now be officially listed as an accredited program on the Forest Professionals of BC (FPBC) website, with the privilege to display both TAC and FPBC logos on our own website. These credentials are crucial for enhancing our visibility and credibility, playing a vital role in future student recruitment efforts.

Trades and Technical Programs Reaching Across the Globe

Our Welding instructor, Jim Stratford, also took a little jaunt to Kenya in March. Jim was collaborating with TVET Kenya Kisii Polytechnical and Keroka Technical Training Institute to complete the curriculum development and tie up any loose ends for the Welding Training that took place on his last visit. The goal being to create a working partnership between Kisii Polytechnical and Keroka Technical with Kisii Polytechnical as the mentor school to Keroka Technical.

Over the course of 5 days a review of the Level 5 training curriculum was conducted to determine the distribution of the correct training hours per welding component followed by the development of an online portal in which the Kisii and Keroka teams could freely communicate, upload training manuals, exams, PowerPoints and videos pertaining to all levels of Welder training. Tours of both the Keroka and Kisii campuses were coordinated to determine shop and equipment needs which also dictated the implementation of a maintenance schedule to support training delivery standards and safety.

The last day wrapped up with a final evaluation of curriculum content, methods and techniques to be put into practice for positive and effective learning processes. A closing ceremony with teams Kisii, Keroka and Senior Leadership put the finishing touches on another humbling and rewarding experience!

A Chance Encounter

All instructors encounter students throughout their careers at varying stages of life and circumstances. There is nothing like making a difference, and it is even more satisfying when it comes out of the blue! Automotive instructor, Jaylene van der Merwe had just such an encounter with one of her students who was making the best of a less than ideal situation. A dual-credit student who was struggling a bit personally, working while attending school and on the borderline of burn out. Still, he persevered. When it came to his work experience, he excelled. The company was so impressed they invited him to join their team. This served as a much needed boost to his self-esteem and he is now their employee which allowed him to leave his other job and pursue the occupation of his choice. This is what he sent to Jaylene to let her know he appreciated her patience, understanding and her desire to see him succeed: *“Thank you for believing in me during the foundation program. I want to say sorry for creating a headache for you. I have been doing well at this company and have been able to get myself together.”*

“There is no failure except in no longer trying.”

OFFICE OF GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

NIC Students in Peru

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

In February, three students from the Trades and Technical Program embarked on a journey to Peru, teaming up with students from Yukon University. Rupert Love, Ivan Martinez Gonzalez, and Jean-Samuel Bolduc contributed their skills in Santa Rosa de Lillinta, Peru. This trip marked a historic moment as it was the first time NIC trade students participated in an international field study program. Their mission was to install solar panels in a remote Indigenous community located at over 4700m in the Andes, ensuring the local school had access to power and internet. This opportunity was made possible for the NIC students through their participation in the "Passage from the Northwest" consortium, a study abroad mobility

collaboration effort among rural and northern higher education institutions, including Coast Mountain College, Northern Lights College, Aurora College, alongside Yukon University and NIC. All three students received scholarships from the Global Skills Opportunity grant, offered through the Government of Canada's Outbound Student Mobility Pilot Program.

[NIC trade students learn the power of international education](#)



May 2024 Intake

Submitted by Junko Leclair, Manager, Enrollment and Recruitment

For the May 2024 intake, we are expecting up to 35 new students from 9 countries including India as the main source, followed by Nepal, Myanmar, Kenya, Tunisia, Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, Ecuador and Egypt.

DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Student Housing

Submitted by Craig Whitton, Director of Student Affairs

Student Housing is progressing with walls going up on our Comox Valley campus. We have completed our analysis of Campbell River and Port Alberni demand numbers and are optimistic about the opportunities for future housing growth.

Conduct & Student Behavioural Risk Management

Submitted by Craig Whitton, Director of Student Affairs

Student Conduct has seen a busy year, but this volume of work demonstrates the success of the Early Assist program as many issues are being identified early and thus resolved before they escalate to broader processes. A final count on cases is not yet available as the year-end concerns have yet to come in, however we expect to see a general increase in total number of cases year over year, while seeing a general reduction in severity of cases year over year due to the early interventions. The addition of the Manager, Student Life will also significantly support this proven approach to managing conduct.

We have seen a similar consistency in numbers in our Academic Integrity cases and while year-end numbers are not yet available, we have made several process refinements and are working to ensure that student behaviour is addressed in a way that holds students accountable for their actions but also supports student success & the overall academic integrity of NIC credentials.

In terms of high-risk behaviour, NIC's Risk Assessment and Prevention Team did come together, but not at a frequency that would suggest a broader concern. As a team, this unit will be engaging in tabletop training this spring to further enhance our processes, while our Student Case Management Team is revising the Terms of Reference.

Department of Accessible Learning Services (DALs)

Submitted by Craig Whitton, Director of Student Affairs

DALS is continuing to serve as NIC's Subject Matter Experts on accommodations related to legislatively protected grounds. As part of a broader analysis of the Department of Student Affairs structure, DALS has been evaluating our distribution of staff to ensure we are meeting our students on each of our campuses, including reassigning 0.2 FTE to support programming at our Mixelakwila campus in Port Hardy on an as-needed basis.

Counselling

Submitted by Craig Whitton, Director of Student Affairs

Counselling has seen continued success with our new service model, where counsellors pre-book up to 4 appointments per day, and hold one appointment per day for urgent needs. This has proven to be successful and popular and further integrates our Early Assist program, which is NIC's one-stop-shop for any staff or student to contact when they feel there is a student who may need some help. In addition to the usual types of issues they see, of note this year was the Counselling team has noted some students feeling frustrated with the online nature of their learning. Counselling, DALs, and Student Life collaboratively approached these types of concerns with program chairs and instructors, and the end result is that despite these challenges, the significant collaboration and problem solving resulted in these student's having their concerns resolved, with instructors better meeting student needs and students therefore being retained in their programs.

Thrive

Submitted by Meesbah Jiwaji, Associate Director of Student Life

Thrive is an initiative 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. Below you will find information on events and resources to help you thrive. Student Life and Healthy Trades partnered with North Island Students' Union and other NIC departments including Human Resources, Office of Global Engagement, Indigenous Education, Library and Learning Commons, Counselling, Campbell River Cafeteria, etc. to create spaces and deliver programming that allowed folks to intentionally focus on care, care for self and care for others. <https://learnanywhere.opened.ca/supporting-learners/thrive/>

Substance Use and Harm Reduction.

Submitted by Meesbah Jiwaji, Associate Director of Student Life

BSN III students Ben Knapp, Aaron Pengelly, and Simone Beausoleil partnered with Care-A-Van, Student Life, NISU to lead a harm reduction event on the Comox Valley campus. By sharing resources and initiating healthy and important conversations, these student leaders aimed to destigmatize substance use and harm reduction, and encourage participation in active help-seeking behaviours.

NIC Healthy Trades Program

Submitted by Meesbah Jiwaji, Associate Director of Student Life

The work being done in this program is gathering momentum; members of the Student Life team are being invited to share the work with colleagues working in mental health and wellbeing and in substance use and harm reduction, at post-secondary institutions and in the trades sector. With the recent award of an Island Health grant in 2024; the program looks forward to continuing to support Healthy Trades.