

VCC Community Report

Welcome to Vancouver Community College. Look around and you'll see a college – B.C.'s No. 1 college – celebrating its 40th anniversary, proud of its past, yet firmly looking ahead to new opportunities, growth and expanded facilities.

This has been a year of success for VCC. Inside you'll learn about our plans for growth, discover our history and learn about our success – from

faculty and staff achievement to student awards and our considerable connection with industry leaders.

We're proud to celebrate 40 years of changing lives – and we're proud to continue a tradition of excellence established in 1965. We've changed much since those early days; our goal continues: give students the skills they need to succeed on the job, in the classroom and in the community.



VANCOUVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS EVERYWHERE — FROM DATA CENTRES AND WORKSHOPS TO TOP HOTELS AND COMMUNITY CLASSROOMS. FOR 40 YEARS, WE'VE BEEN WORKING WHERE IT MATTERS MOST: IN YOUR COMMUNITY, HELPING PEOPLE GAIN THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD. TAKE A LOOK. YOU'LL SEE.

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Gordon Barefoot

Dale Dorn

OUR VISION IS BOLD. OUR PLANS ARE AMBITIOUS.

It has been quite a journey. . . .

Vancouver Community College celebrates its 40th anniversary this year as a college with a strong, proud past, growing to meet the challenges of the future with new programming and an exciting campus expansion.

Throughout the years we have had one goal – serving students, with offerings from literacy programs and basic education to hands-on career training and, most recently, applied bachelor's degrees.

Our impact is far-reaching – and lasting. Our programs give students the skills they need to succeed in life, in the classroom and at work: an immigrant struggling with a new language and culture, for example, a single mother finishing high school, or an apprentice building a career.

We are proud to celebrate 40 years of changing lives.

It is fitting, then, that VCC's 40th anniversary sees the college begin a major expansion to meet its ever-growing needs, with a plan to triple the size of our campus on Broadway over the next two decades. Our first phase: a \$48-million project already underway for an expanded library, enhanced learning space and a major new building for the School of Health Sciences.

VCC is building its programs and services as well, ensuring the college best serves the changing needs of employers, students and our diverse communities.

Several of our English as a Second Language faculty are heavily involved in a major project setting new standards for English-language training, and our ESL programming – one of the college's long-standing strengths – is seeing stronger demand.

We are building an even stronger presence in the Aboriginal community, having added several new programs and established a key position at the college, a director of Aboriginal education and services.

VCC's hospitality programming is keeping up the momentum that started last year when the provincial government designated the college as the B.C. Centre for Leadership and Innovation in Hospitality.

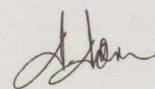
New student spaces have enhanced our hospitality training – which includes a new bachelor's degree in the field, a first in B.C. – just one of our initiatives addressing the industry's critical skills shortage. Our hospitality industry-supported program for at-risk youth, Stars4Success, won a major national award, while the centre has been busy with a host of projects.

This year VCC looks back at four decades of history – a history of excellence and service to the community that very much continues today.

VCC's future is filled with ambitious plans, led by a bold vision of expansion, continually revitalized programming and deeper industry connections.

We were the first community college in the province, and we have seen many changes over the years; as the community grew, so did VCC, and today we are B.C.'s No. 1 college, serving nearly 26,000 students a year. What has not changed, though, is our commitment to students and their success. That is at the heart of everything we do.


GORDON BAREFOOT
BOARD CHAIR


DALE DORN
PRESIDENT

OUR IMPACT IS FAR-REACHING – AND LASTING. OUR PROGRAMS GIVE STUDENTS THE SKILLS THEY NEED TO SUCCEED IN LIFE, IN THE CLASSROOM AND AT WORK: AN IMMIGRANT STRUGGLING WITH A NEW LANGUAGE AND CULTURE, FOR EXAMPLE, A SINGLE MOTHER FINISHING HIGH SCHOOL, OR AN APPRENTICE BUILDING A CAREER.



WELCOME TO VCC

Welcome to Vancouver Community College. Look around and you'll see a college – B.C.'s No. 1 college – celebrating its 40th anniversary, proud of its past, yet firmly looking ahead to new opportunities, growth and expanded facilities.

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Ron Johnston



LOOKING BACK – AND LOOKING AHEAD

VCC then and now

In the beginning . . . four separate centres came together in August 1965 to form Vancouver City College, later renamed Vancouver Community College:

Vancouver Vocational Institute (1949)
Vancouver School of Art (1925)
Vancouver School Board's Night School Program (1909)
King Edward Senior Matriculation and Continuing Education Centre (1962)

In the early years . . . Vancouver Vocational Institute continued to deliver vocational programs at its downtown centre, where it enjoyed strong enrolment and a reputation for high-quality training.

King Edward Centre – at the corner of 12th and Oak in Vancouver – grew at startling speed with booming student numbers, prompting the college to build a new campus, Langara, which opened in October 1970.

A massive fire destroyed the aging wooden King Edward building in 1973 in one of the largest blazes in Vancouver's modern history. Always the work of the college continued; students were housed in temporary

facilities nearby and at the new Langara campus until a new campus was completed at China Creek.

In the later years . . . VCC changed again: in 1979 the Vancouver School of Art moved from the Vancouver Vocational Institute campus of VCC to Granville Island, where it became the Emily Carr College of Art and later the Emily Carr Institute of Art + Design.

VCC's new campus on the China Creek site – the King Edward campus – opened amid fanfare on May 3, 1983, and has continued to grow ever since.

April 1994 saw the Langara campus separate from VCC to become a new college.

In 2005 and beyond . . . VCC is a strong, proud college – B.C.'s No. 1 college – with nearly 26,000 students and a distinctive mix of programs from basic literacy through to career programs and applied bachelor's degrees. A bold, dynamic vision calls for ambitious enrolment growth over the coming years, with new programming and dramatically expanded facilities.

Expanding our campus

We're building our programming – and our facilities.

We have embarked on a major expansion plan to more than triple the size of our campus on Broadway – the most heavily used post-secondary facility in the province – over the next two decades.

Simply put: we desperately need more space to meet current needs and keep pace with projected demand for VCC-trained graduates. Expansion is the only way forward, and we have laid out a multi-phase project.

Our first step: a new \$48-million development for the college's School of Health Sciences and other programs, funded jointly through the provincial government and a major VCC fundraising campaign. Ground-breaking is expected in summer 2006, with the new facility opening in September 2008.

Included in the project will be state-of-the-art training labs and flexible classroom space along with an expanded library and learning centre for student study and research.

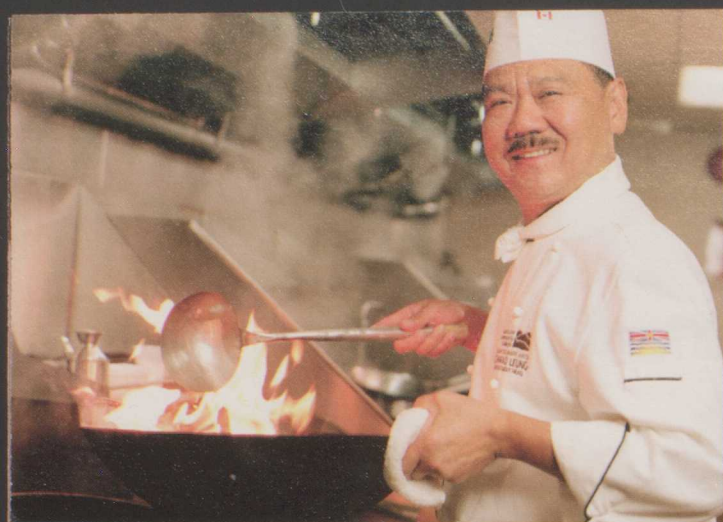
Building community connections

VCC is connected to its communities – and we're always building that connection. We've strengthened our presence in the Aboriginal community, for instance, with several new initiatives for Aboriginal students.

Among them is a free health careers discovery program – launched this summer with a \$200,000 donation from Bell Canada – that introduces Aboriginal students in Grades 8 through 11 to a host of careers in today's dynamic health-care sector. What they found was a world of health-care professions – along with an inside look at the education and training they need to get a start in the field.

We have enhanced our services with a key position at the college, a director of Aboriginal education and services, to foster greater collaboration with that community.

"Vancouver Community College is well-known for its commitment to serving the needs of diverse communities and learners," says Ron Johnston, a member of the Squamish Nation and the new director. "Community is not only a part of the college's name, it's who we serve; as a member of the Aboriginal community, I am proud to be a member of the VCC team that serves my community."



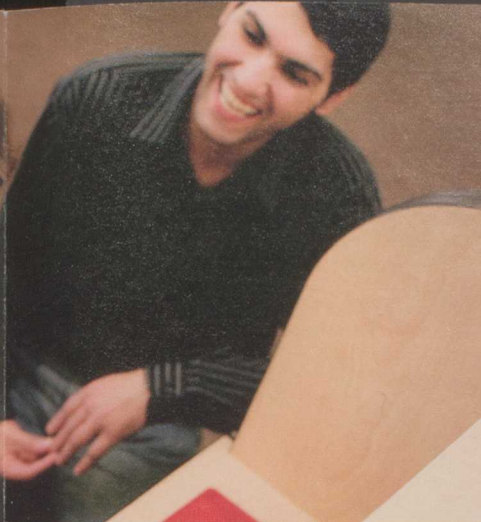
Conrad Leung



Silvana Carr



Veronica Jorna



Jin Liu



Erna Dorotich

WINNING PEOPLE & PROGRAMS

Wok this way

He's well-known in virtually every Chinese restaurant kitchen in the city. His program set a standard for specialized culinary training. His name is Conrad Leung.

He remembers his first day at VCC – April 1, 1975 – when he launched the college's Asian Culinary Arts training, having moved to Vancouver from Hong Kong after beating 300 other applicants for the job.

He teaches in both English and Cantonese, reflecting the background of his students; he knows what it's like to have to learn a new language – when he arrived in Canada he spent his off-hours studying English, much of the time in Stanley Park.

"Demand is so high for trained Asian cooks," he says. "With our strong reputation in the hospitality industry, new degrees and new part-time offerings in all the Asian cuisines, there are great opportunities for students."

Over the last three decades Leung has seen the city's vibrant Asian culinary scene grow and flourish – and he's proud to have been a part of its success. He's taught hundreds of chefs, seen his graduates open restaurants across the country and worked tirelessly to raise standards in the industry.

"We were the first and only program in North America to provide Asian cook training," he says, looking back. "Thirty years later we still are – no fooling."

Impressive – in any language

Pick any language and you'll be saying the same thing about VCC's interpreting certificate program – impressive.

It was the first multilingual program of its kind in North America, and this year it celebrates its 25th anniversary – along with a track record of national and international recognition training interpreters for the fields of law, health care and social services.

Among its accolades is a program excellence award from the Association of Canadian Community Colleges, honouring it as one of the best college programs in Canada.

"There's so much more to interpreting than simply translating between two languages – it can be extremely complex," says program coordinator Silvana Carr. "It's extremely rewarding work, and we're thrilled to be at the forefront of training people for this field."

That's not limited to local students, either. VCC's Centre for Continuing Studies – which oversees the program – has expanded the training to make it available online to students across Canada.

Laughing and learning

Learning is serious business, but VCC's Veronica Jorna has students laughing all the way to better grades.

It's that approach – caring, easy-going and humorous – that earned her the college's award of excellence for customer service.

"I love it," she says of her work tutoring in the VCC Learning Centre, where she has been helping students succeed for 10 years. "There are so many motivated students here at VCC."

Together Jorna and her fellow tutors are dedicated to continuing the success of VCC's Learning Centre, where students drop in for free help with English, math and science.

It's here that their determination really shows – some students have short-term job goals, while others are looking longer-term to improve their literacy, pick up high school courses and continue into career programs.

Her approach? Use humour, build a rapport and create a positive outlook for students. "I get total satisfaction when they leave VCC to start a new career – and I know that I have been a part of their journey to reach their goals," says Jorna.

OUR STUDENTS SUCCEED

Three students, three national medals

VCC students came back winners from this year's national Skills Canada competition after showcasing their expertise against competitors from across the country: Jin Liu, Esther Yoon and Brodie Finlayson each won a silver medal in their respective competitions in electronics, baking and the automotive collision high school category.

Electronics student Liu took on a complex technical project designed to test her theoretical knowledge, practical know-how and trouble-shooting skills.

"This pay-off was worth all the work," says Liu, who recently emigrated to Vancouver from China. "It was so exciting to get the medal. It was beyond my imagination."

This batch of Skills Canada medals was the second for the college in 2005; VCC competitors – among them Liu, Yoon and Finlayson – won 12 medals at the provincial Skills Canada competition, topping all B.C. colleges, university-colleges and technical institutes in the number of medals won.

"This is a tough competition – doing well on the national stage really speaks to the calibre of these students," says Linda Martin, VCC's vice-president of advancement and education services. "Their expertise and dedication really show – this is wonderful recognition for all their hard work."

There's a doctor in the house – and VCC helped

He spent years studying the different ways that communities promote mental health – yet Collin van Uchelen was himself struggling with a community unsupportive of his own challenges. Until he came to VCC.

A degenerative eye disease was making it progressively more difficult for him to continue his PhD in community and clinical psychology; he needed specialized computer skills so he could finish his studies.

"VCC can be proud. It was the only Canadian institution that provided me with direct support," says van Uchelen, who enrolled in the Information Technology for the Visually Impaired program. "It helped me to learn the skills I needed to complete my PhD."

A major test of those skills came when he defended his dissertation using a PowerPoint presentation, which he created using the adaptive technology he learned at VCC.

Next steps for van Uchelen – now Dr. van Uchelen after receiving his PhD from the University of Illinois earlier this year – include earning his licence as a registered psychologist and completing his VCC certificate in information technology.

It's never too late

Erna Dorotich proves you're never too old to learn.

Earlier this year she graduated from VCC's high school program – at 66 years old – one of her proudest achievements.

She was the only one of seven children in her family – Ukrainian immigrants to Canada during the Second World War – to go to school; she tried hard to get ahead in her classes, but struggled and eventually dropped out.

Later she was able to enrol in a practical nursing program that only required Grade 10. She loved nursing, but was never able to be a registered nurse without completing high school; her interest in learning showed, and while working at St. Paul's her colleagues provided her new opportunities in different areas of the hospital.

It was only after Dorotich enrolled at VCC in 1996 – in an accounting course where she earned a B – that she realized maybe she was capable. She continued at VCC, determined to finish her courses, especially as she was receiving A and A+ marks.

"This experience has opened many windows and doors," she says. "It happened gradually, but I am more knowledgeable. I think better of myself. And I am more humble. The more you learn, the more you realize how much you don't know."



An instructor 'of note' – VCC jazz singer Kate Hammett-Vaughan (top) and her band, the Kate Hammett-Vaughan Quintet, were nominated for a 2005 Juno Award

A doctor in the house – PhD graduate Collin van Uchelen (bottom, with Houdini) credits VCC's specialized programming for helping him finish his studies



Aaron Read

INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Four-star success

It's an innovative VCC program that gives street kids a new start, new skills and well-paying jobs – and now it has received major national recognition.

Behind the success of the college's Stars4Success initiative – winner of this year's program excellence award from the Association of Canadian Community Colleges – is a ground-breaking collaboration between VCC, major Vancouver hotels and Covenant House, a social services agency for street youth.

This program's real reward, though, is helping at-risk youth get off the street with job training, life skills and opportunities – that's a far cry from their life on the streets, where many of them lived rough, taking drugs and scrounging for cash.

Graduate Aaron Read has come a long way from his earlier life with the help of the college's Stars4Success program; he's now working as a hotel operator at the Hyatt Regency Vancouver.

"I am definitely in a better place than I was this time last year," says the soft-spoken Read, who describes his time before Stars as "a long story" that he'd rather leave untold. "The program has improved a lot of things for me – my attitude and the way I look at life is a lot better now."

Stars4Success put an idea into action: it came together informally and in a matter of weeks with Covenant House executive director Sandy Cooke, hotel executive Stephen Darling and VCC hospitality dean Dave Donaldson.

Buoyed by the success of the program's first run – initially a pilot project – VCC added Stars4Success to its regular programming and this past spring graduated a second class of 40 students; a third session is planned for next year.

It's possible other cities could be seeing their own Stars as well; agencies in Victoria, Kamloops, Whitehorse and Ottawa are interested in starting similar initiatives.



Alison Norman



MAKING A DIFFERENCE, MEETING A NEED

Filling needs, helping students

There was a need. VCC responded – and now the college is expanding its pioneering work training visually impaired students with an innovative online offering to build their information technology skills.

There was a need. Vancouver biotech firm QLT Inc. and B.C. Hydro community service group HYDRECS responded – supporting the program with a generous donation totalling nearly \$100,000 for development and much-needed specialized equipment.

That kind of support – from the community, for the college community – is vital to the success of VCC programs, which last year received nearly \$1.3 million in generous donations and gifts in-kind through the VCC Foundation.

Up-to-date equipment and facilities are key to keeping VCC's training current – and keeping graduates current with the latest know-how and skills that industry demands; that need is only growing more pressing, given VCC's plans for new facilities for its health sciences, hospitality and transportation trades programs.

Among VCC's many donors is Snow Cap Enterprises, a major food industry supplier and long-time supporter of VCC's Baking and Pastry Arts program. A \$50,000 donation helped the college with needed renovations to its retail bake shop – a key part of providing students with real-world experience – which was renamed Seiffert Market in honour of company president Fred Seiffert.

Celebrating ESL success

VCC's English as a Second Language programming has good reason to celebrate – its work has been marked with major projects, awards and the continuing success of one of its most innovative offerings.

Leading the way: VCC is the lead institution in a provincial initiative to set English-language standards for engineering and technology professions. This work is a critical step in bridging foreign-trained professionals into the Canadian workforce, a major part of addressing the country's skills shortage.

This year saw one of VCC's long-time ESL faculty, Alison Norman, honoured with peer awards both inside and outside the college; she won VCC's Excellence in Leadership award and then in the spring was named a life

member of TESL Canada, the national association of ESL teachers, recognizing her 25-year contribution to the field.

"To be honoured by one's peers is nice," says Norman, who was recently appointed the college's dean of language studies. "The greatest reward for an ESL teacher, though, comes from helping new Canadians learn the language and culture they need to be happy and successful here."

Reaching out to the community has long been a hallmark of VCC's ESL programming; the college's Homefront Learning program, for instance, is in its 26th year of training and supporting volunteers to provide free ESL tutoring at home to immigrants who are unable to attend regular classes, providing them with an important link to an unfamiliar culture and community.

VCC + overseas project = big benefits

It's an impressive formula: one project, roughly two dozen VCC instructors and ample college expertise – together equalling more than 41,000 jobs in the up-and-coming hospitality and business sectors in Guiyang, China.

That's not all: its legacy is a successful training centre with VCC's project partners, Southern Yangtze University and Guiyang Labour Bureau, that will continue to help the sectors train workers for years to come.

This VCC project in southwestern China is just one of many that the college's international department oversees each year, extending VCC expertise on to the international scene in the likes of health, hospitality and English as a Second Language training.

"This initiative – training instructors to train others – has really had a long-term impact in the region," says the project's manager, Sik On Hon, in VCC International. "It has helped create jobs, foster a more stable business environment and enhance economic growth, which all help reduce poverty."

Among VCC's dozens of overseas projects: an initiative with five Korean colleges and universities for ESL and specialized health-related training; work for Beijing Telecommunications delivering technical and management training to the company's senior staff; and a joint venture training practical nurses in Thailand.

Filling the education gaps

Donna Nicholson is optimistic – she sees opportunities in today's changing health-care sector and knows first-hand the success that comes from working with VCC to help realize those opportunities.

Her job is all about managing change; she's a health educator and the transition coordinator for the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, where she facilitates the expanding role of hundreds of licensed practical nurses throughout the Lower Mainland's hospitals and care units.

"We had education gaps to fill, and we were starting to hire LPNs into new roles that weren't there before," says Nicholson. "When you have a change like that, you need mentorship and support – and that's what VCC offered us."

Over several years the health authority has turned to VCC expertise to fill those gaps: offering new courses specifically for LPN upgrading, ongoing learning through mentorships and collaborative practices, and flexible part-time courses.

VCC's approach – and experience in meeting the needs of adult learners – wins Nicholson's praise and the praise of her colleagues.

"VCC understands things from the client's point of view," she says. "They look broadly to the needs of the sector and their students. They create a setting that respects and values the students as they learn."

VCC GRADUATE STATS



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ALUMNI: GET IN TOUCH

Forty years equals a lot of graduates. Now, as part of its 40th anniversary, VCC is looking to reconnect with those people for its expanding alumni relations program, helping graduates and former students stay in touch with the college and each other.

If you attended VCC over the years, we want to hear from you to catch up on what you've been doing since you moved on from the college.

"VCC graduates are everywhere," says Lornell Ridley, the college's associate director of alumni relations. "Look around; look anywhere – in hospitals, trades shops, hotels, concert halls – and you'll find VCC graduates."

VCC's alumni program includes alumni events, networking opportunities, newsletters and special awards, where former VCC students are recognized for outstanding success and community involvement.

Graduates and former students can sign up as one of VCC's alumni through the 'Contact us' page at vcc.ca/alumni, by e-mailing alumni@vcc.ca or by calling 604.871.7067.



WWW.VCC.CA/SURVEY

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK AND WIN GREAT PRIZES

Fill out our online survey before Dec. 16 and you'll be automatically entered to win great prizes that include an Apple iPod shuffle along with VCC shirts, hats and fleece vests.

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