
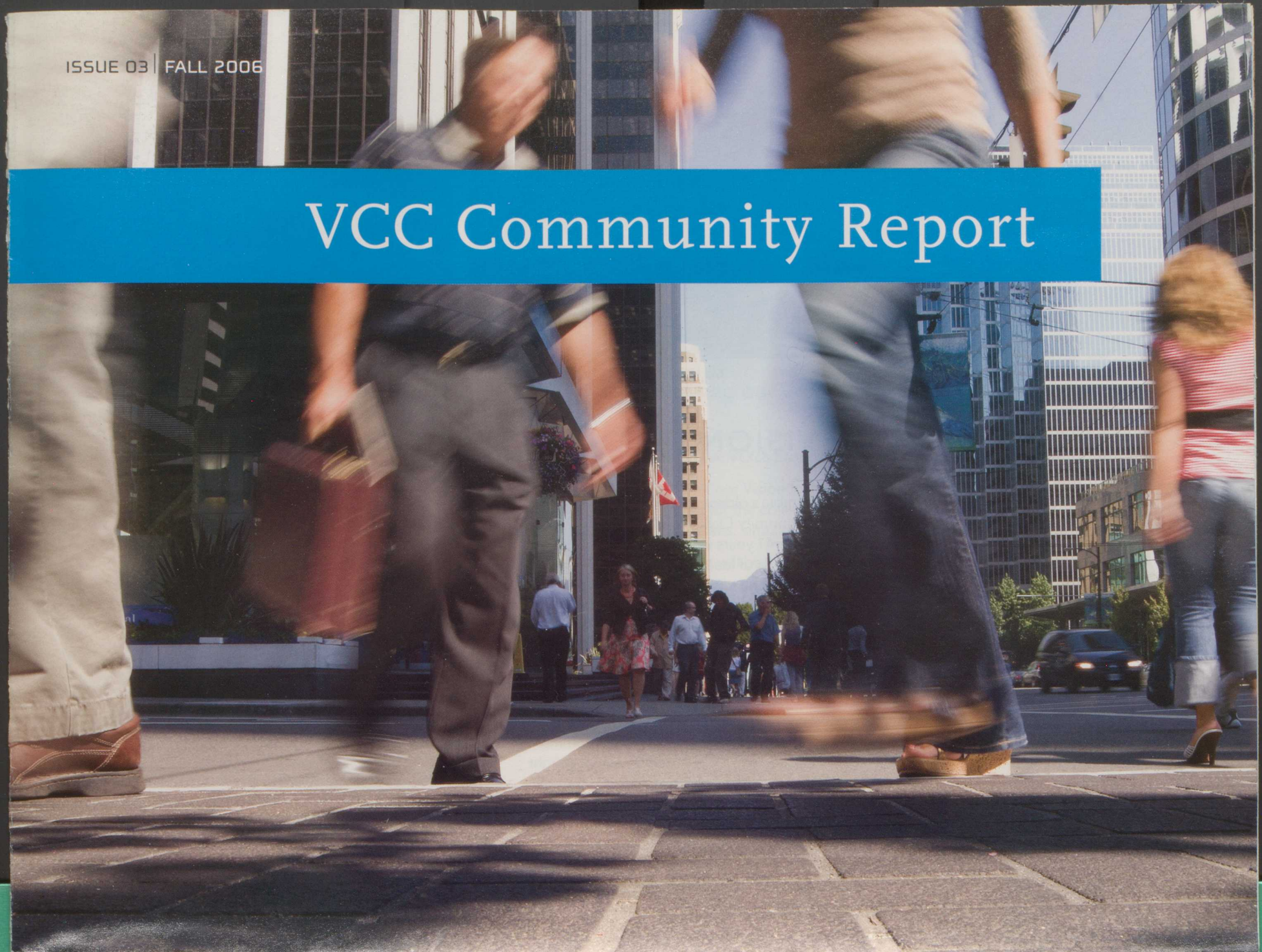


# VCC Community Report



VANCOUVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS  
EVERYWHERE — FROM CONCERT HALLS  
AND FASHION RUNWAYS TO ENGINE  
SHOPS AND TOP RESTAURANTS. FOR  
MORE THAN 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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VCC MUSIC GRADUATES ARE AMONG THE PERFORMERS AT THE SARAH McLACHLAN MUSIC OUTREACH PROJECT, WHICH INTRODUCES INNER CITY KIDS TO MUSIC THROUGH FREE CLASSES IN CHOIR, GUITAR, PERCUSSION AND PIANO.

GENEROUS SUPPORTERS FROM THE B.C. FOOD AND DRUG ASSOCIATION AND VCC'S PARTNERS FROM THE TOURISM INDUSTRY TOGETHER RAISED MORE THAN \$100,000 FOR THE COLLEGE IN TWO SEPARATE GOLF TOURNAMENTS THIS YEAR.

VCC THIS YEAR GRADUATED ITS FIRST CLASS OF SENIOR DIESEL APPRENTICES — WHO ACHIEVED THEIR NATIONAL CREDENTIAL — MARKING A MILESTONE FOR EXPANDED TRAINING IN DIESEL MECHANICS.



Dale Dorn

Mark Stock

## OUR VISION IS BOLD. OUR PLANS ARE AMBITIOUS.

As British Columbia's oldest community college, Vancouver Community College has been serving its community for 41 years with quality programs that meet the needs of learners and industry. Nearly one million learners have studied at VCC, and VCC continues to serve more than 26,000 learners annually. Our record speaks for itself — VCC programs and graduates are consistently awarded local, national and international honours.

Building on its tradition of excellence, VCC will continue to enrich the community and the learners it serves through innovative programming and vibrant community and industry partnerships. We will continue to highlight the "community" in our name. The college's strategic plan has been refreshed to reflect its commitment to community. Moving forward we will continue to enhance our program offerings through greater accessibility for learners in the workforce by increasing part-time studies and alternative methods of program delivery, such as online learning.

The expansion of VCC's Broadway campus has begun. In 2008 we will open the doors of a new health sciences building, a building that is fundamental to meeting British Columbia's need for more health-care workers. We are proud to be part of such an important

project. Building on the college's pillars of strength, VCC Schools and Centres will continue to expand in response to industry and learner demand.

We will continue to embrace the increasing energy and spirit around the upcoming 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. This unique event will showcase Vancouver and the province of B.C., and will provide students with once-in-a-lifetime learning experiences. With our central location, unique facilities and relevant programming, it is important that VCC and its learners participate in the 2010 Games in a meaningful way.

We are in the midst of an exciting time of growth and change at VCC. Although we have a refreshed strategic plan and a bold vision for expansion and growth, our unwavering commitment to students and the Vancouver community remains the same as it was more than 40 years ago.

  
MARK STOCK  
BOARD CHAIR

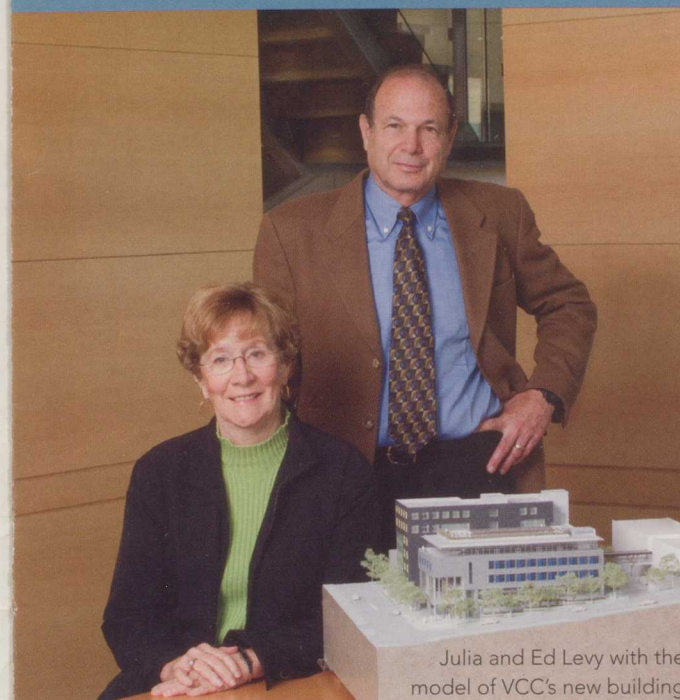
  
DALE DORN  
PRESIDENT

FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS WE'VE HELPED STUDENTS IMPROVE THEIR LIVES, THEIR JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND THEIR CAREER PROSPECTS. WE'RE A KEY PLAYER IN HELPING SOME OF B.C.'S MOST IMPORTANT SECTORS MEET THEIR NEEDS FOR HIGHLY SKILLED WORKERS; OUR GRADUATE PLACEMENT RATES ARE AMONG THE HIGHEST IN THE PROVINCE.

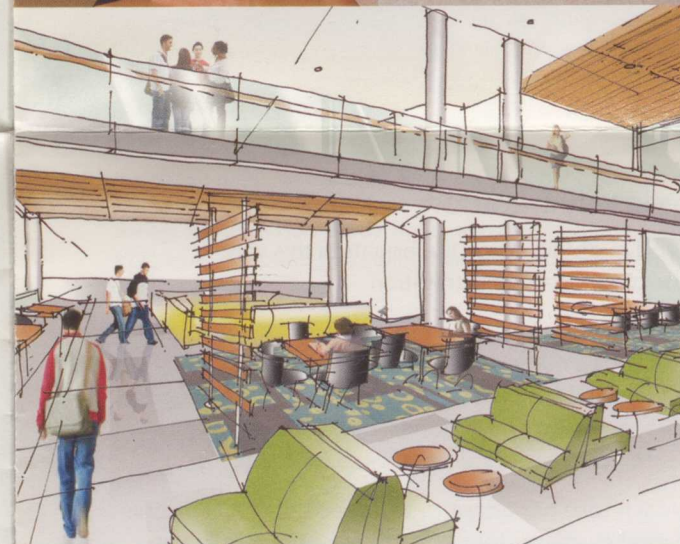
## WELCOME TO VCC

Welcome to Vancouver Community College. Inside this year's community report you'll find out about our plans for expansion, learn about our successes and meet some of our notable faculty and graduates.

Look around and you'll see a college — B.C.'s No. 1 college — enhancing its service to students, employers and the communities it serves: beginning a much-needed facilities expansion, moving ahead with new bachelor's degrees and expanding programming to help address the province's skills shortage.



Julia and Ed Levy with the model of VCC's new building



## NEW FACILITIES AT VCC

### Realizing our Vision for the Future

Plans have been approved. Timelines are in place. Construction has begun. VCC's Broadway campus expansion is underway.

We call it our Vision for the Future — and it starts with a new \$55-million building for the college's School of Health Sciences, providing modern training labs, simulated hospital units and much needed classroom space.

Its impact will be considerable: this new facility will help us cut course waiting lists and increase enrolment in key programs by 49 per cent — helping to ensure the health services we rely on today will be available tomorrow.

Behind our expansion is a pressing need: VCC has run out of room to grow.

We desperately need more space; without it we are challenged to keep pace with demand for our high-quality programs and our job-ready graduates, particularly in the fields of health sciences, hospitality and transportation trades.

Our long-term plan will 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.

It's part of a bold vision that will keep VCC at the forefront of practical, relevant education. But it won't happen without the support of industry, government and the community, led by the VCC Foundation and the dedicated volunteers in the Vision for the Future fundraising campaign.

Campaign co-chairs Julia Levy and Ed Levy were proud to lend their support to VCC's fundraising efforts, bringing considerable leadership and experience from both the private and public sectors.

"VCC's contributions to the community are enormous," says Ed Levy, a professor, researcher and ethicist who's an active board member for several technology companies and non-profits.

"We became involved with the Vision for the Future for that reason — and to help raise awareness of VCC's outstanding work and generate the support it deserves," he says.

At the heart of the fundraising campaign are leaders drawn from B.C.'s business, health care, hospitality and transportation sectors:

#### Campaign co-chairs

Julia Levy, Co-founder  
QLT Inc.

Ed Levy, Adjunct professor  
University of B.C.

#### Campaign members

Gordon Barefoot, President  
Cabgor Management Inc.

Rusty Goepel, Senior Vice-President  
Raymond James Ltd.

Philip Barnes,  
Regional Vice-President  
Fairmont Hotels and Resorts

Ida J. Goodreau,  
President and CEO  
Vancouver Coastal Health

Larry Belsito, President  
Ashling Connection Inc.

Karim Kassam, Franchise Owner  
Boston Pizza

Jack Carthy, President  
Sound Energy

Kirk Kuester, Managing Director  
Colliers International

Stephen M. Darling,  
Regional Vice-President  
Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts

Graham MacLachlan,  
Regional President for B.C.  
RBC Financial Group

Dale Dorn, President  
Vancouver Community College

Linda Martin,  
Vice-President of Advancement  
and Education Services  
Vancouver Community College

Bob Elton,  
President and CEO  
B.C. Hydro

Gottfried "Guff" Muench, President  
Cummins Western Canada

Stan Fuller,  
President and CEO  
Earls Restaurants Ltd.

Allan Skidmore, Co-chair and CEO  
TCG International Inc.





Jami Nystrom



Jean MacLeod



Sylvia Patey



Laura Sharpe



Marc Baril



## WINNING PEOPLE & PROGRAMS

### Bridging the gap to success

It's a small thing – raised dots on paper – that plays a big part in supporting the college's diverse communities.

It's that support, through the college's Interpreting and Braille Services department, that has helped make VCC a leader in giving students the fundamental skills they need to go on to further training or job opportunities. This seven-member team of interpreters and braillists works with students, staff and faculty to make programs accessible to students who are visually impaired, deaf or hard-of-hearing.

"We strive to bring the best people and the best technology together," says department head Jami Nystrom. "It's very important to be able to offer continuity in this service with full-time experts on staff."

New technology holds promise for opening up even more learning opportunities for students with disabilities: VCC is the only college in B.C. with braille services, and is expanding its capabilities for visually impaired students using leading-edge technology offering digital recordings of courses.

Deaf, hard-of-hearing and deaf-blind students are benefiting from new technology too: VCC's wireless TypeWell system offers real-time text displayed on laptop computers, allowing those students to follow lectures and join class discussions with ease.

### Teaching at VCC = family tradition

Math teacher Jean MacLeod might illustrate the equation this way: math + VCC + (mother/daughter) = a family tradition.

Award-winning instructor MacLeod followed in the footsteps of her mother, Elizabeth, and joined the college's math department in 1986; today the two women have a family history at VCC that goes back more than 35 years. "My mother is the inspiration for what I have done," says MacLeod, who was recognized this year with VCC's award of excellence for teaching.

Her student-centred approach sees her adapt to the needs of VCC's diverse communities – signing to deaf students, for instance, or using hands-on objects to explain trigonometry to those with impaired vision.

One of her favourite equations: math – fear = success. She takes the fear out of math, using humour and her passion for music to illustrate complex concepts.

"The inter-relationship of math is so important – it's connected to so many things," she says. "My goal is to get students who think that math is a hurdle to see that it can be applied to everyday practical situations.

"That's why I love what I do."

### It adds up to success

The whole is more than the sum of its parts. That's the secret to VCC's Employment and Educational Access for Women program – winner of the Wired Women Society's education award – which gives women the tools and opportunity to find a career path that's right for them.

"Our approach is really about setting and achieving goals, and taking steps towards a plan of action," says program coordinator Sylvia Patey.

It's a four-month intensive offering that covers a multitude of educational and career programs; experts cover know-how as diverse as stress management, financial skills and effective communication.

"It opens your mind to choices and then gives you the tools to narrow them down," says graduate Catherine Mondoux, 55, who credits her VCC classes with leading her to the forestry program at the University of B.C.

That's the real achievement, says Patey. "Success is when students click on that magic moment. They have done all their research and know what they want to do – it makes it all worthwhile."



Hard work pays off for Skills Canada B.C. winners Lawrence Santos and Zach Holt-Gordy (right), who credit support from VCC instructor David Potkins for their gold and silver medals.

## OUR GRADUATES SUCCEED

### Food fight picks Canada's top chef

It was a food fight to the end. There were tense moments, missteps and no small amount of nerves as 10 young chefs put their skills to the test.

In the end it was VCC graduate Laura Sharpe who claimed the 2006 national title of the Next Great Chef, chosen through the Global TV reality show of the same name; she won over the judges with her hard work, superior technique, taste and presentation.

Her path to Canada's Next Great Chef started even before she enrolled in VCC's acclaimed culinary arts program; she had a passion for cooking and had already been working in the industry.

It was at VCC, though, where she learned the techniques and discipline essential to any chef's success, something that has helped her at Diva at the Met, one of the city's best restaurants, where she works with mentor and executive chef Ray Henry.

"VCC taught me the basic skills and honed my talent," says Sharpe, who decided as a child to pursue cooking after watching her grandfather cook. "I really enjoyed the program; the instructors were great."

### 'Game' for a musical challenge

Marc Baril's first instrument was a second-hand electric guitar, bought with savings from his paper route. His first band, The Spitfires, practised in the laundry room, where the washing machine was part of their sound.

Now his music comes by way of a high-end Mac computer, creating scores for top-selling video games, among them the *Simpsons*: *Hit & Run* and *Scarface: the World is Yours*.

He almost didn't sign up at VCC. "I had some fear of going to music school because I was not classically trained," he says. "But I found VCC's School of Music to be inclusive to all kinds of music."

Jam sessions through school connected him with fellow musicians, one of whom happened to be a video game programmer as well. That led Baril to top game developer Radical Entertainment in Vancouver, where he was hired as their first audio developer.

It was VCC's approach that he liked: faculty bring real-life experience to the classroom and teach students how they can make a living as a musician. "It's not like other schools – on weekends I could see my teachers playing around town."

### Showing their mettle(s)

Blood, sweat and tears – and that was just for starters for two award-winning VCC transportation trades students.

Winning medals in the tough Skills Canada B.C. competition was just one of many challenges for students Lawrence Santos and Zach Holt-Gordy, who trained at VCC in an innovative program giving them high school credits and a trades certificate in automotive collision repair.

VCC instructor David Potkins recognized their potential and encouraged them to compete despite their misgivings.

Santos moved to Canada from the Philippines a few years ago and had to learn English, meet new friends and adjust to life in a new country. His confidence was low, but Potkins knew he would do well. "He told me I would do fine and he was right," says Santos, who won gold; Holt-Gordy won silver.

Holt-Gordy's road to VCC and his Skills Canada medal followed tremendous personal determination; a year before enrolling at the college he was hit by a car, then when he came out of a week-long coma there was extensive rehabilitation ahead.

"Hard work actually does pay off," he says. "If you put the work in, you will get rewarded – I have known that my whole life."

ESSENTIAL SKILLS FOR THE TRADES – LAUNCHED IN 2006 AS A PILOT PROGRAM – PROVIDED ABORIGINAL STUDENTS FROM AROUND B.C. WITH THE FOUNDATION SKILLS THEY NEED TO PURSUE TRADES TRAINING AND APPRENTICESHIPS.

ONE OF CANADA'S TOP WRITERS, SUSAN MUSGRAVE, WAS THIS YEAR'S VCC WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE, SHARING HER TALENT AND PASSION FOR WRITING WITH STUDENTS, FACULTY AND THE COMMUNITY.

ENHANCING STUDENT ACCESS: VCC ADDED 50 NEW ENTRANCE AWARDS – EACH WORTH \$1,000 – TO RECOGNIZE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT.





Tanis Sawkins

## CONNECTED WITH INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY

### ESL project helps ease skills shortage

When the provincial government called, VCC's English as a Second Language specialists answered. Their challenge: lead a team of ESL researchers from around B.C. to help figure out how to better integrate foreign-trained engineers and technologists into the workforce.

Its pay-off stands to be significant in helping those professionals put their considerable talents to use – which will help alleviate the country's pressing skills shortage.

Research with engineering and technology companies around the province laid the groundwork for a solution. The findings? Immigrants in science and technology have a reasonable level of English, but lack the cross-cultural communication skills and Canadian work experience needed to succeed in a professional workplace.

"Many immigrants are working in positions beneath their skill level," says VCC ESL instructor Tanis Sawkins, the project's leader. "So we focused on

developing a program that features role-play, high-level pronunciation, team-building and self-confidence."

VCC's work with Sandwell Engineering led to special communications classes for foreign-trained engineers there, something that has since expanded into the college's regular programming; specialized VCC language training – communication for engineering and technology – launched in the fall, drawing engineers trained in Russia, Romania, Iran, Colombia and China.

OUR GRADUATES GET JOBS: 94 PER CENT OF VCC CAREER PROGRAM GRADUATES IN THE WORKFORCE ARE EMPLOYED – ONE OF THE HIGHEST RATES AMONG THE REGION'S POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS.

VANCOUVER COURIER NEWSPAPER READERS VOTED VCC AS THEIR FAVOURITE COLLEGE IN THE PAPER'S ANNUAL 'STARS OF VANCOUVER' AWARDS, WHICH HIGHLIGHT COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR CITY BUSINESSES, SERVICES AND INSTITUTIONS.

BUDDING DESIGNER CABIRI CALISTO FROM VCC BEAT OUT COMPETITORS FROM AROUND THE PROVINCE TO WIN THIS YEAR'S APPAREL B.C. STUDENT FASHION ILLUSTRATION CONTEST.



Doug Muir

### Plugged in to a leader

Doug Muir knows that it takes good people to succeed in a competitive market. That's been a constant in his business – telecommunications – ever since he graduated at the top of his VCC electronics class 35 years ago.

These days Muir is director of network operations at leading telecom provider Navigata Communications, and he knows from experience that strong foundation skills are as important as ever for his technicians.

"A good background in the basics provides the building blocks, and that's what I look for when I'm hiring," says Muir, who has worked closely with VCC on its electronics training and a co-op program for students to complement their classroom work with hands-on experience at Navigata.

"When you have the basics, it shows you're a self-starter, have the desire to learn, and aren't stuck in a box. Then we can train you to do anything."

He's always keen on helping people move their careers in the right direction, and believes the key to being a successful mentor is to look at the

whole picture. "Everyone has things going on: they have families, they have mortgages. In order to get 100 per cent out of people every day, you have to understand that."

That thinking extends to his industry, he believes, as the need for speed and reliability pushes technology in new directions.

"Communications networks have become almost living things, so we need people who understand the big picture."

## INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE

### Visioning technology's future

Michael Fergusson helped revolutionize the Internet. This innovator and entrepreneur was part of the team that created the first HTML and XML editors, helping open the power of the web to the masses.

First he enrolled in music at VCC, then switched to electronics and finally finished in the computer technology program. His well-rounded knowledge of hardware and software led him to his first big job at a division of 3M.

"The reason why VCC is so valuable is that they produce generalists," he says, arguing generalists have a broader perspective and are therefore apt to find solutions that would elude specialists.

"The iPod, for instance, wasn't created by a specialist," says Fergusson, who was honoured with a VCC Alumni Award of Distinction for his work in the high-tech sector. "It's concepts that are becoming more and more important – and you can't outsource concepts."

These days Fergusson is working on new high-tech initiatives as chief product and innovation officer for Uniserve Communications Corp., one of Canada's largest independent communications firms. What does he love most about his job? "I make stuff that never existed before – and then once it's here, you can't imagine life without it."

### A portal to global learning

It's work with teeth – VCC's international department is expanding the college's overseas initiatives with new and innovative partnerships.

Among the projects is an award-winning initiative in dental hygiene: each year it brings 70 dental hygiene students to VCC from Japan for presentations, discussions and learning; that's complemented with a similar faculty visit where educators from the Japanese institution, the Miyagi Advanced Dental Hygienist College, come here to share expertise.

"We know certain programs lend themselves naturally to international cooperation," notes Donna Hooker, director of VCC International. "This non-traditional program for internationalization is an example of how much broader that experience can become."

This year two VCC students visited the Miyagi facilities and, when they returned, shared what they learned with classmates, faculty and the college board. "We've seen students literally transform through this program," says Hooker. "That's the kind of rich educational experience we're working to offer to as many students in as many programming areas as possible."

It's an approach that caught the attention of the B.C. Centre for International Education, which honoured the project with an innovation award for its leadership and commitment to internationalization.

### Industry talks, VCC listens

Employers know that a VCC credential means graduates have what it takes for today's competitive workplaces – and we're constantly working with industry leaders to strengthen our programs and add new ones to make sure VCC training meets the demands of the real world.

Newest of the college's expanded credentials is the bachelor of applied music degree – the first in the province – which further enhances the college's hands-on training for professional musicians.

New degrees are in the works in nursing, dental sciences, adult education and performing arts; those join new diplomas in business management and fashion arts, along with a certificate in educational management.

Those follow the success this year of two recently introduced programs: VCC graduated its first class of senior diesel apprentices and conferred its first degrees in the hospitality management program.

Michael Fergusson





#### VCC GRADUATE STATS



#### VCC BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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Vice-President of Human Resources  
CHC Helicopter

**Pam Aikman**  
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**Rick Antonson**  
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**Lisa Coltart**  
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**Dennis Cumming**  
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INSEAD

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**Kay Wong-Alafriz**  
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#### ALUMNI: GET IN TOUCH

VCC alumni: get in touch. And tell us what you've been doing since you moved on from the college.

If you attended VCC over the years, we want to hear from you for our alumni relations program, which helps graduates and former students stay in touch with the college and each other.

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

VCC's alumni program includes alumni events, networking opportunities, newsletters and the Alumni Award of Distinction, 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](http://vcc.ca/alumni), by e-mailing [alumni@vcc.ca](mailto: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. 15 and you'll be automatically entered to win great prizes that include the newly redesigned iPod shuffle along with VCC shirts, hats and fleece vests.

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**Vancouver  
Community  
College**

