

VCC Community Report



VANCOUVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE
GRADUATES WORK WHERE IT MATTERS
MOST: IN YOUR COMMUNITY. FOR MORE
THAN 40 YEARS WE'VE HELPED PEOPLE
GAIN THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE TO
MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD.

NOW AN EXCITING NEW CAMPUS
EXPANSION GIVES VCC MUCH-NEEDED
SPACE TO ENHANCE PROGRAMMING AND
BETTER SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS.

TAKE A LOOK. YOU'LL SEE.

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NEW CAMPUS EXPANSION

Vancouver
Community
College



VCC IS THE LARGEST COLLEGE IN B.C. FOR ACADEMIC UPGRADING, HELPING STUDENTS MOVE INTO TRADES TRAINING, CAREER PROGRAMS AND FURTHER EDUCATION.

SERVING OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITIES: VCC'S SIGN LANGUAGE STUDIES PROGRAM MARKED A MILESTONE IN 2008, CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF TEACHING AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE.

DONATE TO VCC – ONLINE. SUPPORTERS CAN NOW DONATE TO THE VCC FOUNDATION THROUGH THE VCC WEBSITE AT VCC.CA, HELPING FUND NEEDED EQUIPMENT, SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES.



Don Fairbairn

Dale Dorn

OUR VISION IS BOLD. OUR PLANS ARE AMBITIOUS.

Vancouver Community College embarked on its mission to serve learners in Vancouver's diverse urban community nearly 45 years ago. Today, as the province's oldest and largest college, we are proud of our history and looking forward to the future.

VCC received several excellence awards over the past year, and notable among them was national recognition that honoured a VCC literacy initiative on the Downtown Eastside and VCC educators in the fields of early childhood education and ESL. Those are merely a few examples of the college's outstanding programs and the dedicated employees who make VCC a leader in post-secondary education.

Our college continues to adapt its programming mix and its distance learning options to respond to our ever-changing social and economic landscape. We expect to pursue a strategic planning initiative in 2009, with wide-ranging consultations that will guide us in defining the kind of institution we want VCC to be in the coming years.

January 2009 marked the opening of VCC's \$55-million Broadway campus expansion that was completed on time and on budget. This exciting new facility brings much-needed classroom space, study space and student space to our college, and will house health sciences training programs, including a new bachelor's degree program in nursing.

We continue to work with all stakeholders to ensure that the college is well-positioned to meet the challenges of today, tomorrow and beyond. Our commitment remains focused on students and the college community. We are honoured to be your community college.

DON FAIRBAIRN
BOARD CHAIR

DALE DORN
PRESIDENT

WE'RE B.C.'S NO. 1 COLLEGE, AND WE'RE A KEY PLAYER IN HELPING SOME OF B.C.'S MOST IMPORTANT SECTORS MEET THEIR NEEDS FOR HIGHLY SKILLED STAFF; OUR GRADUATE PLACEMENT RATES ARE AMONG THE HIGHEST IN THE PROVINCE.



Mario Trettenero



Gyda Chud

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE

DEDICATED. TALENTED.
COMMUNITY-MINDED.
MEET THREE VANCOUVER
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
EDUCATORS WHO HAVE
RECEIVED PRESTIGIOUS
NATIONAL RECOGNITION.

VCC educators are at the heart of the college's programming and VCC's commitment to excellence and innovation.

"We have always taken great pride in the work we do here at VCC – and we are hugely proud of these award-winners," says VCC president Dale Dorn. "This recognition really speaks to the calibre of our educators and the commitment to excellence that makes VCC a great place to learn and work."

Top in trades

VCC auto collision and refinishing instructor Mario Trettenero was named top trades educator in B.C., earning the Top in Trades award from the Industry Training Authority.

When he was a teenager, Trettenero says, he was given a gift – he was taught a skill, something he could give to others.

"I was 14 years old, working with my godfather painting logging vehicles," he says. "I'll never forget the feeling of that spray gun in my hand: it was an amazing feeling. I was hooked."

Trettenero did his entry-level and apprenticeship training at VCC, then worked in industry for 10 years as a Red Seal-certified automotive painter before returning to VCC as an instructor.

Leading child care educator

A longtime early childhood educator, VCC's dean of continuing studies, Gyda Chud, received a prestigious leadership award from the Association of Canadian Community Colleges.

As an author and academic, college educator and community advocate, Chud devotes considerable time contributing to our communities: she helped establish the Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre and the national Child Care Human Resources Sector Council.

"Gyda has been a key player in establishing several organizations that are truly making a positive change to the education, training and delivery by the early childhood education and care sector," says Diana Carter, the council's executive director.

Community pioneer

Rose Marie Watson changed the face of adult ESL education in B.C. – by taking it to the streets – and was recognized with a 2008 Canada Post community literacy award for her work in the field.

Watson was a pioneer in arranging free ESL tutoring at community centres and libraries, and was a driving force in the college's innovative Homefront Learning program, which provides volunteer tutors to homebound ESL students.

"By getting out into the community, the college fills a need," says Watson, who worked in community literacy at VCC for 40 years before retiring last year.

"For immigrants who are young mothers, disabled or elderly, these are valuable programs. Even language barriers themselves can keep people homebound."



Rose Marie Watson



▲ photo montage

Dan Zhang



Kumba Moseray



Steve Jiu



Rochelle Garrison

WINNING PEOPLE & PROGRAMS

VCC counsellor answers the call for help

When a devastating earthquake hit China's Sichuan province in May 2008, VCC's Dan Zhang was one of the people who answered the call for help.

"When the quake struck, I really felt that I should be there," says Zhang, a VCC counsellor. "I worked with injured survivors in the 1976 Chinese earthquake and felt really connected with them."

She got her chance to be part of the Sichuan recovery effort when the non-profit Half the Sky Foundation asked her to join a team of psychologists heading there to help survivors.

Zhang's experience with young adults, her doctorate in psychology and Mandarin-language skills made her an ideal choice; with the support of VCC, she flew to China with trauma experts who had helped following the World Trade Center attacks and Hurricane Katrina.

"Someone coming from outside China helps survivors not to feel isolated and alone," says Zhang. "They need empathy and understanding."

Along with providing one-on-one counselling, Zhang trained university student volunteers to do basic counselling support. With Half the Sky's focus on orphaned children, she spent most of her two-week mission working with young people. "The most important thing you can give children is hope."

Since her return home, Zhang found ways to deal with the transition back to Vancouver. She reminds herself of the positive work that so many people are doing in the aftermath of the earthquake. "I also came back to continue good work at VCC – that makes it easier."

Program restores opportunities

She came to Canada as a refugee from Sierra Leone. Now Kumba Moseray is starting an exciting career as an automotive painter, all thanks to an innovative training partnership of VCC, Ray-Cam Community Centre and the Vancouver Police.

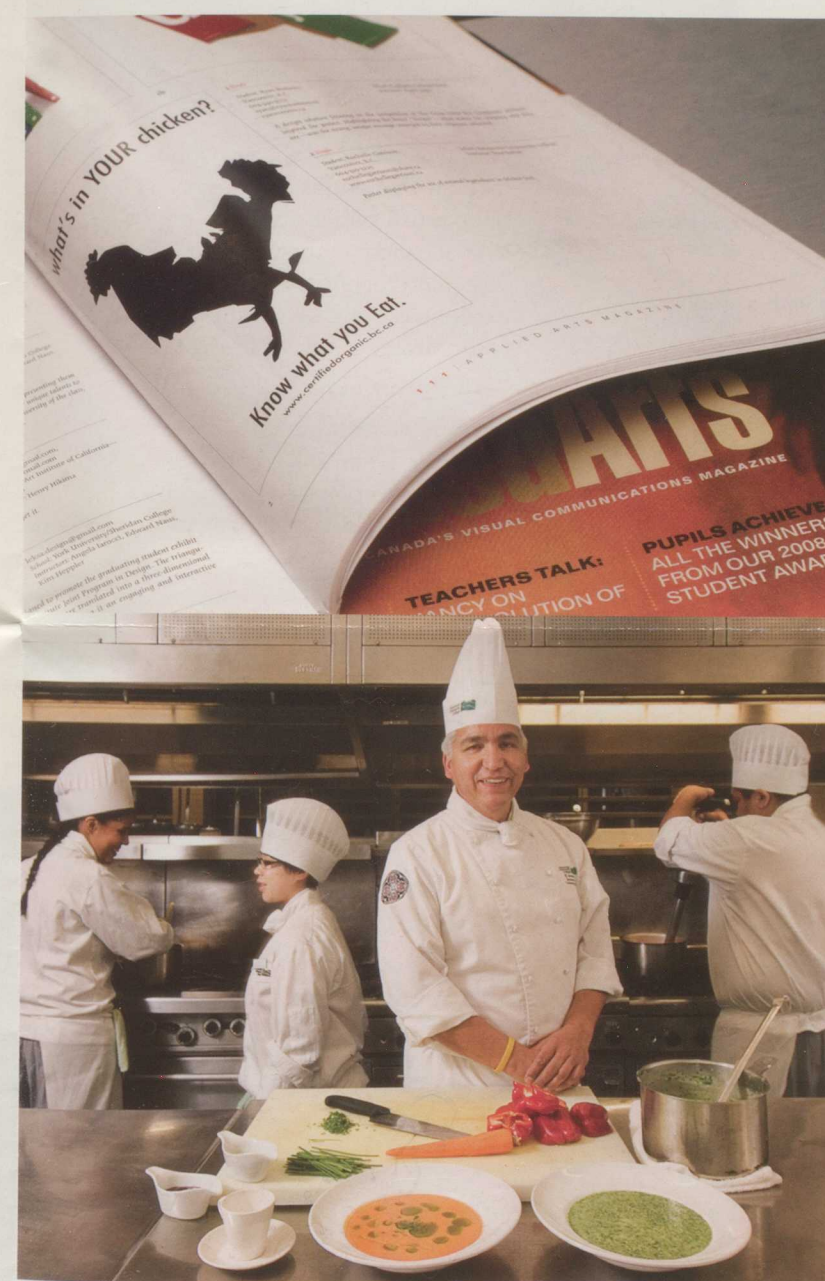
"I just like cars," says Moseray, one of 20 inner-city teens who came to VCC last summer eager to get going on projects that included building a replica '67 Cobra sports car and restoring a 1935 Ford sedan.

"These kids love cars and learning about them," says Jason Devisser, the department head for the automotive service technician program, one of the dozens of college and community volunteers supervising the student projects.

"But the skills we're teaching are only part of what they are learning. The instructors are the proof of the success that a career in trades can provide," he says.

The Ford started as a rusted shell, and the Cobra a collection of components; students jumped into the projects with enthusiasm, and the cars quickly began to take shape – an accomplishment that Ray-Cam youth workers know is a major boost to the self-esteem of the teens.

For Moseray it was merely her start in the field: she won a scholarship to VCC's automotive collision repair program last fall. Since then she's excelled in her studies and has begun her work experience in industry – where her new skills are in demand.



Top: Rochelle Garrison's winning social awareness poster featured in Applied Arts magazine, October 2008 edition.

Above: Ben Genaille in VCC's new Aboriginal culinary program. His passion is to use Canadian First Nations produce, products, techniques and ingredients to prepare traditional foods with modern methods and presentation.

OUR GRADUATES SUCCEED

VCC grads are a cut above

Steve Jiu believes in karma – the recent VCC graduate lives with the notion that serving others is the key to success. It underlies both his new salon, Juju, and his enthusiasm to help create the Students for Success charity event.

Behind it is a simple idea: VCC students can use their new-found skills to help each other succeed; the event was born out of the college's Student Leadership initiative, which encourages students to get involved in the community.

"I've always wanted to do something like this," says Jiu, who along with VCC classmate Pryia Gandhi organized complete makeovers for 20 women students re-entering the workforce and relaunching their professional lives.

Hair was styled by Jiu's classmates in VCC's hair design program, and three fashion merchandising students helped each woman select a business outfit from Dress for Success, an international charity providing professional attire to women rejoining the workforce.

"It was like having a personal shopper with professional fashion knowledge," says student Ina Jimanez. She was thrilled with her outfit, but the biggest impact was less material. Jimanez's 14-year-old daughter saw how her mother was treated – as special.

"It's not just how they look that will give them confidence, it's knowing that others also want them to succeed," says Jiu, who continues to work his magic at Juju, located on the edge of Yaletown at 823 Davie St.

It ain't chicken feed

Rochelle Garrison entered a contest to get a free magazine. She won a national award instead.

Applied Arts – Canada's premier graphic design magazine – honoured VCC student Garrison and classmate Katie Hernandez for their creative and imaginative design work, giving them major recognition along with the free copy they received for entering.

"Holding a national magazine displaying your work is the ultimate validation," says Garrison, whose award-winning submission highlighted the use of animal byproducts in chicken feed.

"It's validation for the hard work and early mornings – and for choosing the right school. It's proof that it's not the length of the program, but the quality."

Garrison and Hernandez beat out students from four-year degree programs from across Canada, and the win put their work in front of the magazine's impressive readership: 65,000 industry professionals.

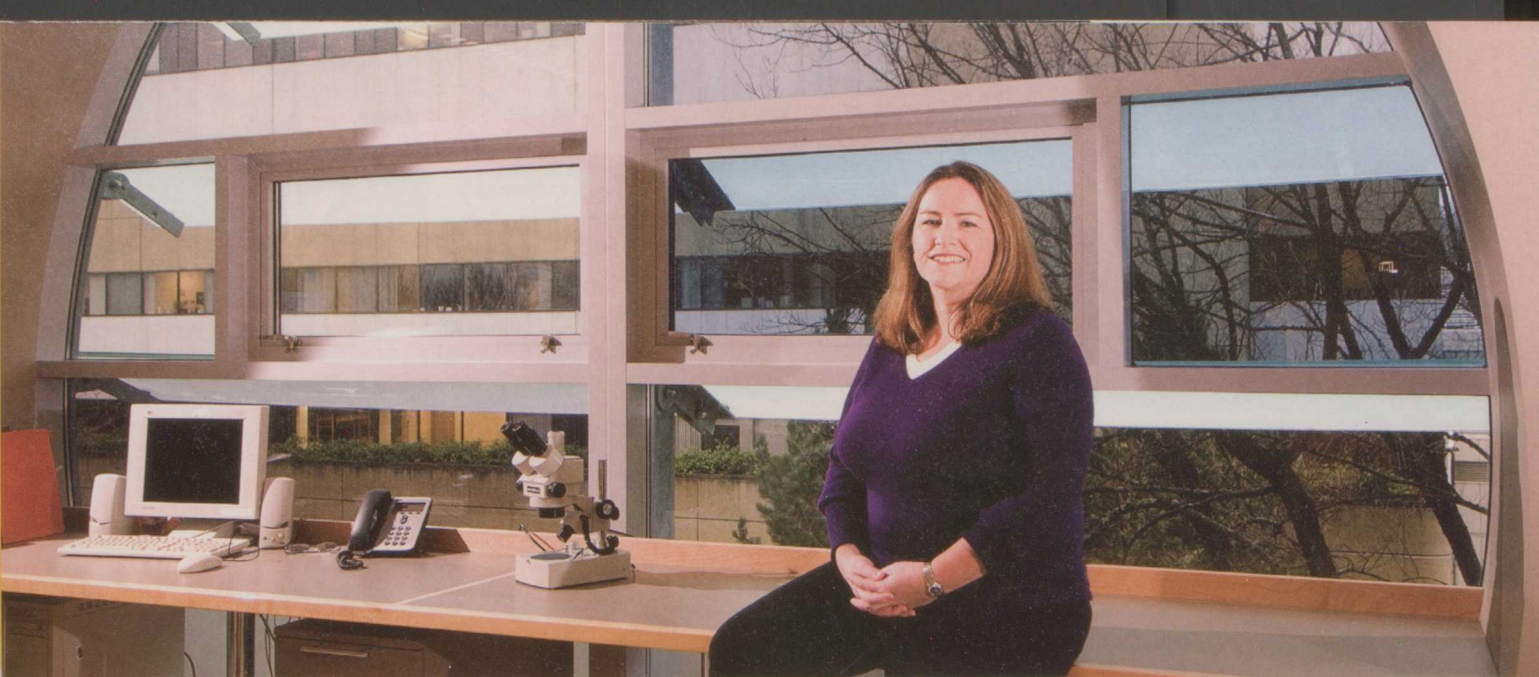
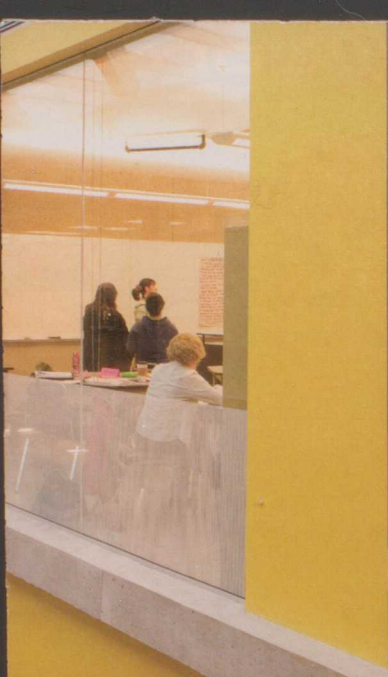
A trained photographer, Garrison enrolled in the nine-month program at VCC to expand her creative skill set: "I didn't want to take wedding photos anymore." She found what she was looking for, and praises the instructors' approach to design as challenging and forward-thinking. "I learned so much from them."

After graduation, Garrison was hired as a graphic designer at engineering firm Cypress Solutions, where she enjoys creative freedom and a supportive team. "This job is exactly what I was hoping to find when I took the program at VCC."

VCC HAS JOINED WITH ZIPCAR TO BRING THE CAR-SHARING SERVICE TO STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES TO HELP THEM MEET THEIR TRANSPORTATION NEEDS WHILE CUTTING THEIR CARBON FOOTPRINT.

VCC AND SUZHOU VOCATIONAL SCHOOL OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ARE EXPLORING PARTNERSHIPS THAT COULD SEE VCC WORKING ON AUTO TRADES TRAINING IN CHINA.

VCC'S WORK IN LITERACY DEVELOPMENT WAS FEATURED IN A MAJOR VANCOUVER SUN SERIES; A TWO-PAGE ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTED THE COLLEGE'S PROGRAMMING, FACULTY AND STUDENTS.



Denise Laronde

CONNECTED WITH INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY

Taking a bite out of oral cancer

Your next visit to the dentist's office may seem different, thanks to Denise Laronde, whose VCC education was just the first step along her career path.

She's now a university PhD candidate developing programs to encourage new oral cancer screening practices to be used by all oral health professionals. Her commitment and dedication to her field were recognized with a VCC Alumni Award of Distinction.

"VCC has contributed to my success by providing me with a solid clinical and academic foundation," says Laronde, who graduated from VCC's dental hygiene program in 1989.

"VCC's supportive and encouraging learning environment gave me the confidence to pursue further academic challenges," she says. "There is a community feel at VCC."

It was one of the only dental hygiene programs offered in the province at the time, and competition for admission was stiff. Laronde didn't brush off the

challenge, and was accepted into the program's second class.

Twenty years later, she continues to take on challenges. "There hasn't been much public attention paid to oral cancer in the past, but new screening technologies are driving awareness," she says, sitting in the recognizable windows at the B.C. Cancer Research Centre.

Laronde's career path has come full circle. When she completes her PhD, she plans on teaching dental hygiene.



Naeem 'Nick' Noorani

Hot off the press

Nick Noorani woke up at 3 a.m. one day with a dream: to create the first-ever immigrant-oriented magazine to support and inspire newcomers to Canada.

VCC and the newspaper were a natural fit; the college was an early supporter, given its proud history of educating immigrants for more than 40 years.

"VCC has a huge ESL perspective. I'm fond of saying the ESL instructor is often the first Canadian the immigrant speaks to – they work with compassion," says Noorani.

Like many others who were successful in their home countries, the Indian-born businessman couldn't land a job in Canada when he arrived here in 1998 from the United Arab Emirates – even though he was a top advertising executive working on major accounts.

Noorani's personal struggle prompted him to write a survival guide for immigrants, and from that plan came the idea for his magazine. Like VCC, he knows that language is the beginning of the transition to a new country.

"VCC was there at the beginning – recognizing the value of directly speaking to the immigrant. It shows the college's commitment to the newcomer," says Noorani, who's now active on the VCC Foundation board.

From humble beginnings, the Canadian Immigrant has grown to a run of 30,000 copies, and has expanded its presence with a Toronto edition; the magazine celebrates its fifth anniversary in 2009. The satisfaction of helping people has made Noorani's dream a reality.



Graham MacLachlan

NEW CAMPUS EXPANSION

Vancouver Community College is everywhere – from engine shops and child care centres to hospitals and classrooms. Our graduates work where it matters most: in your community. For more than 40 years we've helped people gain the skills and knowledge to make a difference in the world.

Now an exciting new campus expansion gives VCC much-needed space to enhance programming and better support student success.

VCC has a long tradition of program, teaching and service excellence – and this newest building helps us continue that tradition with the best possible facilities, education and support for students and our communities.

Total cost of the new facility is \$55 million – \$44 million has come from the provincial government and the balance from VCC and the community.

Support for the new building has come from leaders in the province's business, health care, hospitality and transportation sectors through the college's *Vision for the Future* fundraising campaign.

Respected philanthropist Dr. Don Rix contributed a gift of \$500,000 through the Rix Family Foundation with the largest individual donation in the college's history. Provincial business leader and RBC regional president Graham MacLachlan was a driving force behind two major campaign donations: \$200,000 from RBC and \$200,000 from three of Canada's other major banks.

"RBC is pleased to be involved with this important campaign, which enables VCC to expand its enrolment of nurses, pharmacy technicians and other allied health workers," says MacLachlan.

"VCC is one of the largest health-care training organizations in the province, and the new facility helps the college meet the growing demand for more skilled workers in health care," he says.

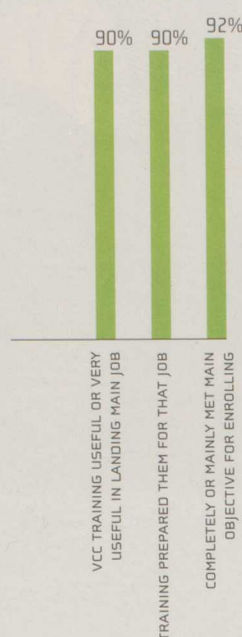
VCC's new building is seven storeys tall and 133,000 square feet, with roughly 36 classrooms and 24 high-tech training labs and simulated hospital wards that give students realistic hands-on experience.

It serves more than 1,000 full-time students in programs including: nursing, home support/resident care, medical laboratory technician, medical office assistant, pharmacy technician, nursing unit clerk, occupational/physical therapist assistant and others.

Key to the success of the college's fundraising campaign – and indeed the college's programming – is the support of business and sector leaders.

"VCC IS ONE OF THE LARGEST HEALTH-CARE TRAINING ORGANIZATIONS IN THE PROVINCE, AND THE NEW FACILITY HELPS THE COLLEGE MEET THE GROWING DEMAND FOR MORE SKILLED WORKERS IN HEALTH CARE."

VCC GRADUATE STATS



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Faculty Representative
Vancouver Community College

Dennis Cumming
Board member to June 2008
Staff Representative
Vancouver Community College

VCC SUCCESS

- Students are drawn to VCC for the college's programming, its reputation and its hands-on skills-based approach: 89 per cent of our students cite VCC as being their first choice.
- VCC programs deliver: 96 per cent of career program graduates are in the labour force; 95 per cent of those graduates are employed. Roughly 85 per cent of graduates found a job in two months or less.
- Provincial taxpayers realize a 15 per cent return on their investment in VCC through economic growth, lower social costs and other benefits.

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WWW.VCC.CA

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Visit us at www.vcc.ca to learn more about VCC, its programs, its faculty and its successes. See our program calendar online for the latest details on program content, admission requirements and more.

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