

VCC Community Report

avis Dugas, dancer from the Talking Stick Festival at VCC.



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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.

WE'RE PROUD OF THE VITAL ROLE WE PLAY
IN SUPPORTING AND STRENGTHENING
THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING
OF OUR PROVINCE.

TAKE A LOOK. YOU'LL SEE.

Vancouver
Community
College



STUDENTS FROM VCC WON HONOURS IN THE SKILLS CANADA B.C. COMPETITION WITH 15 MEDALS – SIX OF THEM GOLD – IN BAKING, CULINARY, AUTOMOTIVE COLLISION AND HAIR DESIGN.

VCC AND ITS ASL AND DEAF STUDIES DEPARTMENT REGULARLY HOST A DEAF ARTS SHOWCASE THAT FEATURES THE WORK OF DEAF AND HARD-OF-HEARING ARTISTS.

ENGINE-MAKER CUMMINS AND VCC PARTNERED TO OFFER A SPECIAL 'DIESEL CAMP' TO INTRODUCE GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN TO CAREERS AS HEAVY DUTY MECHANICS.



Don Fairbairn Peter Legg

RESPONSIVE. COLLABORATIVE. SUCCESSFUL.

Vancouver Community College is tremendously proud of the vital role we play in supporting and strengthening the social and economic well-being of British Columbia, particularly as our province deals with challenging economic times.

Colleges – VCC among them – are critical to the success of B.C.'s post-secondary sector; their impact is considerable. Colleges are deeply connected to their communities, and for decades they have served this province doing what they do best – preparing an educated and highly skilled workforce.

At VCC we have responded with innovative programming to meet changing needs, built new, exciting partnerships and strengthened offerings so we can continue to deliver the kind of education and training that employers and communities expect.

VCC's hands-on, relevant programs are in demand, and nearly 90 per cent of our students cite the college as being their first choice. Close to three-quarters of

students come to VCC with previous post-secondary training – testament to the specific foundation and career programs VCC provides.

Our students, programs and employees are regularly honoured for their excellence, earning regional, national and international recognition; 92 per cent of VCC career graduates in the labour force are employed.

We invite you to read more in this community report – and find out about our programming, our deep connection to the community and our successful faculty, students and graduates. We are proud to be a leader in our field, and proud of the work we do each year serving roughly 25,000 full- and part-time students.

Don Fairbairn

DON FAIRBAIRN
BOARD CHAIR

Peter Legg

PETER LEGG
INTERIM 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.



Faith Vickers Ernest Peters Ben Genaille



Laurie Gould

INNOVATION & EXCELLENCE

A feast for your senses

From sunchokes and fiddleheads to oolichan oil and cattail hearts, students are connecting centuries-old ingredients with modern cooking techniques at Wild Salmon, VCC's newest student-run restaurant.

The restaurant was developed as part of the college's new aboriginal culinary arts program. Dishes such as braised bison short ribs and apple-smoked trout are cooked to chef instructor Ben Genaille's top standards. "My students leave here with culinary skills and hopefully, a renewed pride in their native heritage," says Genaille.

Students Faith Vickers and Ernest Peters are taking the program to learn more about aboriginal cuisine – to continue where their parents left off. "My mom cooks a lot, but she doesn't cook game or bake bread," says Vickers, who wants to own an aboriginal catering company one day.

VCC's 12-month aboriginal culinary arts program has partnered with the Four Host First Nations to showcase aboriginal culture to the world during the 2010 Olympics.

Read all about it

All of Canada's premiers agree: VCC basic education instructor Laurie Gould deserves the Council of the Federation literacy award for her outstanding achievements, innovative practice and excellence in literacy.

Behind the award is her passion for literacy, extensive advocacy work and creative teaching – all reasons why Gould was chosen as this year's B.C. recipient of the prestigious national honour.

With a long list of achievements to her name, Gould's real impact has been felt by her students for the past 35 years – they are the ones who have gained the skills and self-confidence to make a difference in their daily lives.

"I'm so lucky to be in a workplace environment that encourages and supports the kind of projects I have been fortunate to become involved with," says Gould, who considered leaving teaching in 1974. It was a visit to VCC's basic education department, which was engaged in the field of adult literacy, that changed her mind.

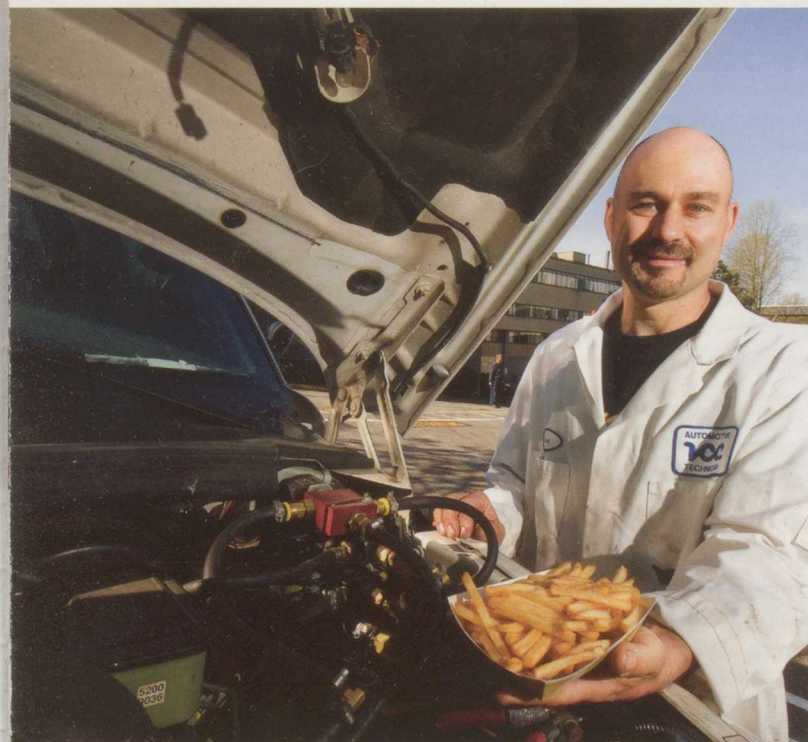
French fry truck

Greg Henderson, one of VCC's automotive technician instructors, thought a lot about fuel costs during his daily 100-kilometre commute. Today, he drives to VCC on used french fry oil from VCC's cafeteria, instead of gasoline.

After Henderson calculated that he was spending about \$500 a month on gas, he investigated alternative fuel systems for his 1996 Dodge pickup truck. It was best suited to run on bio-fuel.

Foundation trades training students helped him complete the modifications on his vehicle. "It was a great project for the students to be involved in," says Henderson. "It shows that creative thinking can solve everyday problems. The students also learned that hybrid vehicles don't need to be electric."

Now, Henderson's fuel is free. The motor runs quieter and smoother than before, but the smell of french fries coming from his tailpipe makes him crave McDonald's.



Greg Henderson



Matt Woodthorpe



Persy Wang



Victoria McKenney



Nancy McRae

Caitlin Mayo

WINNING PROGRAMS & PEOPLE

A matter of taste

Taste everything. These are the words Matt Woodthorpe, winner of *The Province* newspaper's Top in Trades award this year, has taken to heart.

"I always loved to cook," says Woodthorpe, who was 16 years old when he began the culinary program at Tamanawis Secondary. "My teaching chef, Mr. Doyle, made me taste everything." Woodthorpe's palate has evolved, but he still can't stand the taste of vinaigrette.

Teacher Mike Doyle noticed something extraordinary in the student the first time he entered the program two years ago. "Matt loves the kitchen and he took a sense of ownership."

Woodthorpe, now 18, has struggled with learning challenges all his life, owing to slight autism. At his previous school, he had lost his confidence. But it all clicked when he joined the culinary arts program at Tamanawis, part of the college's High School Plus initiative, which combines high school training with a trades training credential.

"I was completely surprised when I received the call from the newspaper," Woodthorpe says of winning the award, naming him as the top youth apprentice.

It was his amazing progress over the years that earned him the nomination from the principal and teachers. Doyle attributes Woodthorpe's success to his tireless work ethic. "He puts the time in, and he listens. Matt was the first kid in the kitchen and the last to leave," says Doyle.

Woodthorpe has been working for the last two years at the Sheraton Wall Centre, and says he would like to visit different countries in the future – perhaps so he can taste everything.

ESL home delivery

When Persy Wang emigrated to Canada, she felt disconnected from the community – until an English tutor from VCC visited her home. Now, seven years later, Wang is a successful realtor who tutors a mother-of-three through the same Homefront program.

"I found out about VCC's Homefront program from a local librarian who helped me apply for an English tutor to come to my home," says Wang, whose daughter was an infant at the time.

Homefront, which celebrated its 30th anniversary this year, trains tutors who offer free English as a second language sessions to students in their homes two hours a week. ESL learners in Vancouver and Burnaby who can't attend classroom training because of family or health reasons appreciate this bridge to the community.

"The Homefront program is a fulfilling way for people to get involved and help new immigrants feel welcome and connected," says June Dragman, an instructor for the Homefront program. "VCC is really involved in the community."

For Wang, tutoring has been exciting and challenging. "Because of my own experience, I can see how much this program is needed and how accessible it is," she says. "I've learned that I can help people too, and it feels good to be there for someone else."

OUR GRADUATES SUCCEED

An enviable life by design

Victoria McKenney leads a life some only dream about. The Vancouver-based interior designer works on local high-end residences and travels extensively in Europe for inspiration. Her work is featured across North America and, she recently placed first in the Canadian Decorators' Association 2009 decorating and design competition.

"My business involves a lot of hard work, but I find it very satisfying," says McKenney, who graduated from VCC's interior design program in 2001 before starting her own company, Envious Designs. "After graduation, I really liked that I could practise the techniques I learned at VCC in the real world."

McKenney, who has focused most of her business in Metro Vancouver, has been featured in *Spectacular Homes of Western Canada*, *B.C. Home* magazine and on styleathome.com.

"My style is very classic and timeless, with a hint of modern contemporary. I don't design with trendy elements. If it's not functional, or if it looks dated in five years, then I won't incorporate it into a room," says McKenney, who was awarded the \$25,000 first prize in the interior decoration category.

"It's validating to be recognized by the industry," she says, adding that she still uses the skills she developed in the VCC interior design program in her current designs.

VCC baking student finds sweet success

It's a piece of cake – not quite. Caitlin Mayo likes a challenge, and certainly found one at the 2009 WorldSkills competition in Calgary where she competed against some of the world's best bakers and brought home a medallion of excellence and the people's choice award.

Mayo, a 20-year-old baking and pastry arts graduate, trained full-time for nine months to prepare for the four-day competition. "I love learning, and for the Worlds, I really had to work on my sugar and chocolate skills," says Mayo, who now enjoys working with sugar – one of the most difficult skills to master.

"VCC has been wonderful to me, and the instructors are amazing and very supportive," says Mayo, Canada's competitor against top bakers from 13 other countries.

"My job was to take care of everything so she could concentrate on her training," says VCC instructor Nancy McRae, Mayo's trainer. "I am so proud of her and her dedication."

Mayo first came to VCC in Grade 11 as part of High School Plus, a trades training program for high school students. "I was bored in school and really thrived once I got to college." She's now working toward her Red Seal certification.

Her future plans include opening her own business. "If I could be a professional competitor, I would," she says with a laugh, when asked what her dream job would be.



Top: the Oyando family all graduated from VCC. "VCC is the key that unlocks the door to jobs," says the father, Leopoldo (left), who took the TEFL program. Daughter Juaymah (centre) took culinary arts, while mother Corazon (right) graduated from the licensed practical nursing program. Their son, Jarius, is busy on work experience as part of the automotive collision program.

Bottom: baking and pastry arts students Valerie Low and Tsukasa Shigihara won gold and bronze, respectively, at the 2009 Baking Congress wedding cake competition.



Lucille Pacey

CONNECTED WITH INDUSTRY & COMMUNITY

VCC's new dance partner

In dance, timing is everything. Nothing could be truer than in the recent collaboration between VCC and Arts Umbrella who together created the dance diploma program – the first of its kind in North America.

"Everyone got it – key people from Arts Umbrella and VCC understood what we were trying to do," says Lucille Pacey, president and CEO of Arts Umbrella. "It's about the young dancers. They dedicate their lives eight hours a day, every day, and now they can find a program that provides them with options and credit for the work they do."

It is a perfect partnership between two established community-minded organizations. Arts Umbrella provides the high-level dance training including residencies with guest choreographers and rehearsals with the senior dance company, and VCC provides academic courses in arts and culture, rhythm training and professional business skills.

"We all knew the partnership would work, and the experience and credibility that VCC brought to the table made it that much easier," continues Pacey, who believes the program will give dancers a leg up in the field after they graduate.

"Here's a program where you get the best of all worlds, high art, first-class technical training and business smarts, all of which are essential to thriving in the cultural arena," says Sal Ferreras, VCC's dean of music.



Marcus and Riley Clark

The truck stops here

The heavy duty trucking industry has changed in 50 years, but one thing hasn't changed for Marcus Clark, president and CEO of Clark Freightways – that's the commitment to family and community.

When Clark toured VCC's heavy duty training facility where his son Riley was attending, he recognized a need for newer highway tractor trailers for students' hands-on training. He immediately donated three trucks to the program, all are in line with evolving industry trends.

Two of the donated trucks are Western Star models, and the third is a Volvo. The trucks are used for the heavy duty program's foundation and apprenticeship training classes.

"The industry has changed a great deal, and so has the mechanical skill set. Well-trained professionals in our service facility are essential," says Marcus Clark, who runs the family business his father, Jim Clark, started in 1957. Today, the family-owned and -operated carrier has distribution facilities across B.C. and reaches more than 600 communities.

"We are fortunate to be involved in an industry that is extremely supportive towards technical trades training," says Dave Niessen, one of VCC's heavy duty/commercial transport instructors.

"Clark Freightways has been proud to support VCC. We, like so many others in our industry, have learned the value over the years of properly trained, enthusiastic and professional mechanical staff," says Clark.

"VCC runs a top-notch program, and is helping to produce professionals who will always be in demand."



Becky Kilabuk

Celina Kalluk



Travis Dugas

BACK TO THE FUTURE

Aboriginal business showcase at VCC

Pounding drums, throat singers, and whirling dancers graced VCC's Broadway auditorium during this year's Talking Stick Festival, part of the Cultural Olympiad 2009. VCC, a proud sponsor of the festival, supports a dynamic aboriginal community through new initiatives including the aboriginal culinary arts program and the aboriginal music program.

The college is now excited to extend its involvement with the aboriginal community during the 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

VCC's downtown campus will be transformed into the Aboriginal Business Showcase and Artisan Village, an international marketplace organized by the Four Host First Nations representing Canadian aboriginal businesses to the world. Every evening, aboriginal culinary creations will be served to visitors prepared by the college's culinary arts department.

The Aboriginal Business Showcase and Artisan Village will be an extension of the 2010 Aboriginal Pavilion located on the Queen Elizabeth Theatre plaza. "We're proud to collaborate with the Four Host First Nations in this first-ever bridging of two worlds: business development and creative thinking. Sound familiar? That's because that's what we do here at VCC," says Sal Ferreras, producer and creative director of the 2010 Aboriginal Pavilion and the college's dean of music and design programs.

Celebrating 60 years of nursing

When VCC's first licensed practical nursing class began 60 years ago, eight students graduated. This year, 180 students made up the graduating class. The program has come a long way from hand-cranked beds – now students learn at VCC in the only high-tech simulated hospital in the province.

"LPNs have always played an integral role in the health-care team," says dean of health sciences Pat Bawtinheimer. "The role has expanded to include considerably more knowledge, skills and clinical judgment."

After graduation, VCC's LPNs can access career opportunities in community, long-term care and acute care facilities. "Every year, I'm delighted to recommend VCC's LPN graduates for key health-care positions where their professionalism and high level of skill are sought-after," says Candy Garossino, director of nursing education for Providence Health Care.

She adds, "The LPN program has reached this significant milestone by educating its students in the latest techniques and preparing graduates to succeed in a real-world environment."

VCC continues to be a leader in health-care education, and in January 2009 accepted the first class of a new bachelor of science degree in nursing.



Candy Garossino

"EVERY YEAR, I'M DELIGHTED TO RECOMMEND VCC'S LPN GRADUATES FOR KEY HEALTH-CARE POSITIONS WHERE THEIR PROFESSIONALISM AND HIGH LEVEL OF SKILL ARE SOUGHT-AFTER."

VCC GRADUATE STATS



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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: 92 per cent of career program graduates are employed. Roughly 83 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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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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