

17 December 1979

NEWS RELEASE

(for immediate release)

The perennial employment Catch-22 -- how to get experience when employers won't hire anyone without experience -- has been solved for some people in the banking field, at least, by a six-month training program at Cariboo College.

And under present plans, the College's Banking and Financial Services program will be reinforced next spring by an additional month of supervised on-the-job training in Kamloops area banks and other financial establishments.

Graduates have had little or no difficulty finding a variety of jobs related to their training, according to William S. Brown, coordinator and instructor. Most of them begin as tellers, but some have gone directly into other assignments, such as in mortgage or ledger departments. One person who graduated in March 1979 has been promoted to head teller in a bank in Prince Rupert.

Another 1979 graduate, Jacquie Baker, who started as a teller in the Kamloops branch of the Bank of British Columbia and is now in an administrative position, credits her College training with getting her past the "experience" barrier.

"It's very difficult to break in without some basic training," she says. "Of course, banking work calls for tremendous responsibility because of the confidentiality involved, but even maturity isn't enough if you don't have some pre-employment preparation."

The program, still the only one of its scope in British Columbia, provides 24 weeks of class work in banking practices, including teller-cashier work; credit and collections; and banking procedures in general, along with related courses in bookkeeping, customer relations and business communication.

A new class will begin training on January 2. Since it is partly filled and class size is limited, interested persons are advised by College officials to contact the Registrar's Office or Brown as soon as possible.

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The addition of four weeks of "internship" in banking institutions is based on the recommendation of the local banking community, according to Brown. It will provide the trainees with a chance to apply their knowledge, and will give them and their employers a better idea of what specific niche they are best qualified to fill.

Brown is an honours graduate in economics from the University of Victoria, with eight years experience in the consumer credit and bank administration field. He is an Associate of the Institute of Canadian Bankers.

C.W.F. Bishop
College Affairs Manager

CUTLINE

GETTING A START IN BANKING

Cariboo College as a route to a career in banking and other financial fields is the subject of discussion in the Kamloops office of the Bank of British Columbia as Bank Manager Lorne Earle chats with two graduates of the College's Banking and Financial Services program, Jacquie Baker (standing) and Karen Farquhar (seated). The six-month College program is being extended by another month in 1980 to provide for supervised on-the-job experience.