

17 December 1979

NEWS RELEASE

(for immediate release)

Most graduates of Cariboo College's General Drafting program go to work in architectural offices, right? Wrong.

Actually, the 30 or so students who complete the 10-month course of study each year (a class of about 15 every six months) find jobs promptly with a wide variety of employers: utility companies, governmental agencies, manufacturers, to name a few.

The Drafting program at Cariboo --- one of only three of its kind in British Columbia --- has been a reliable route to draftsperson jobs since it began in 1971. In most years the applicants for the program outnumber the places available; a waiting list is the result. The next intake of students, starting classes next February 25, is almost filled.

Instructors Gene Turney and Peter Halek, both holders of teaching degrees and both experienced in the drafting field, emphasize the "general" nature of the College's approach to preparing students for careers.

The intensive 10-month curriculum teaches students to work in four specialized areas -- mechanical, civil, architectural-structural and piping -- after they have mastered basic drawing techniques and the necessary mathematics. A fifth specialty area, electrical drafting, is being added for 1980.

All 15 of the December 1978 graduates found jobs readily, 12 of them in drafting positions and three in related endeavours. All ten of the smaller group earning their diplomas last June are also now employed, nine of them being placed within a month of graduation.

Six of the current group of 15 scheduled to graduate at Christmas have already accepted jobs, according to Turney, and prospects are good for the others.

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"Employers seem to like our policy of insisting on quality and good work habits," notes Turney, who has been instructing for 11 years, the last two of them at Cariboo. "They also like to take on employees who are well grounded in the basics and versatile, people they can then train further to suit their particular needs."

One large manufacturing firm in Calgary has become a steady employer of Cariboo-trained junior draftspersons, he added, after starting with one Cariboo graduate who now helps select new staff.

Applicants for the General Drafting program must have Grade 12 completion or equivalent, with at least a C Grade in Mathematics 11. Senior secondary school drafting is also desirable, but not essential. Related experience may be taken into account in the case of adult applicants.

Some students in each class are enrolled under Canada Manpower sponsorship. Anyone interested in such sponsorship should contact the nearest Manpower Centre, according to College officials.

C.W.F. Bishop  
College Affairs Manager

#### CUTLINE

College Drafting Instructor Gene Turney looks over the work of drafting student Randy Apps. Apps is enrolled in the College's 10-month drafting program.