



cariboo college

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NEWS RELEASE

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Cariboo College Launches New Electronics Program

On February 27, 1978 Cariboo College will add another important option to its Electronics program with the inauguration of training for Electronic Business Machines Technicians. The new Electronic Business Machines option will train students to work on the new generation of electronic calculators, scales, cash registers, teletypes, computers, and video terminals which are currently coming onto the market. Electronics instructor, Gary Schwartz, who was instrumental in planning the new program states that in the past training programs for business machine repair stressed the mechanical nature of the machines. "In the past five years," he said, "the calculator business, for example, has gone through a total reversal where 90% of the parts are now electronic and where it takes a pretty fair electronics background to understand how they work and how to repair them." Schwartz noted a tremendous market has developed for electronic business machines of the more complex variety and that the need for trained technicians to repair them has grown just as fast.

The new Electronic Business Machines option will consist of a five month basic course in Electronics and Electricity followed by five months of specialized training on electronic calculators and other electronic business machines. Fees for the new program will be \$15.00 per month for the ten months and potential students can also approach Canada Manpower to determine if they are eligible for sponsorship. Inquiries about this program or any other Cariboo College program can be directed to the Registrar, Cariboo College, Box 860, Kamloops, B.C.

C.W.F. Bishop
College Affairs Manager

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- CB: Basically, Gary, what is new about this proposed Electronics Business Machines Program:
- GS: Well, we're trying to start a new program that is primarily Electronics oriented. Most of the programs, so far, have been oriented towards the mechanical end and this is the old style technique where the business machines, adding machines, calculators were primarily mechanical devices that now say in the past five years technology has changed that the calculator business has changed totally, has gone through a total reversal where 90% of the components in there now are electronic and it takes a fair ~~amount~~ of electronic knowledge to understand how they work and how to work on them and repair them. We're going to try and approach ~~the~~ it from an electronics end and the maintenance and repair of business machines which include cash registers, calculators, electronic scales, photocopier, computers. Small business systems like that.
- CB: Well, how then does this program differ from the Electronics program that the college is currently offering.
- GS: We're currently offering a program in Telecommunications and Home Entertainment. Students who are graduating in these options are working for (if they are in the Telecommunications option, large telephone companies, the major electronics communications companies, and the people in the home entertainment option are working primarily with television repair shops or companies who are oriented towards the home entertainment business, television, stereos things like that. We are now looking at a large market of people who are using computers in small businesses, electronics scales like the types that are in the supermarkets that calculate the weights of products and automatically compute the prices and stamp the prices on the goods whether it is meat or whatever. Also, many businesses use calculators to have printing mechanisms. There is a tremendous market for these devices. That kind of a business or industry providing calculators for businesses is really growing. They need people who can work on calculators that are fairly complex and fairly costly pieces of equipment. We are not too concerned about the \$5, \$10 calculator market that is sort of a disposal type of market. But where you have primarily business type equipment.
- CB: Basically, then, what kind of employer would be hiring graduates of this program when they first come on the labour market?
- GS: We hope to look at employers like Xerox, for the photocopier market, small businesses in various communities that might employ one or two technicians to do the maintenance on the calculators that they lease out, places like Adcash, Interior Office Equipment. We hope to look at Burrows, IBM for their small computer installations where we could get technicians to work for them helping their customers get their equipment up and running and maintaining it and also places like Hobarth which maintain and lease out electronic scales which go to the supermarkets and the corner markets and places like that.