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NEWS RELEASE

(for immediate release)

Expressing himself as "delighted to be associated with an institution in the process of setting up educational goals based on response to clear-cut community needs," Charles W. Brewster has assumed his duties as Principal of Cariboo College.

The former vice-president of the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology has set as his first priority at Cariboo the acquiring of first-hand knowledge of the College region and of as many of its people as possible, as well as of the College's staff and facilities.

At the moment he is involved in familiarizing himself with provincial budgeting procedures as the College adapts its current and its proposed (1980-81) budgets to the more detailed new formats prescribed by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

Brewster is also gratified by the College's "innovative forward outlook," as exemplified, he observed, in various new program offerings and such administrative streamlining as the new procedure for advanced registration which makes its debut next month.

"A lot of good and significant things are happening," he said. "The needs assessment survey is in full swing as a preliminary step toward our five-year educational plan; but instead of sitting back and waiting for results, we're going right ahead with such new programs as Respiratory Technology, Practical Horticulture, Retail Merchandising and other employment-oriented offerings. At the same time, the university transfer courses are being maintained and refined."

The College's long-term goals must be based on expressed and demonstrated community needs, Brewster believes, which is what the current educational plan project envisages. The current survey will be the basis for a plan in draft form, which will then be submitted for further community input before being finalized and presented to the Ministry.

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It's a basic principle for any enterprise," he said. "You recognize a need and then fill it. The survey, plus our demographic and economic data, will help us identify the needs. Our goals will be to meet those needs effectively."

How efficiently the College meets this goal is also of concern to the new Principal. He considers an institutional audit as a necessary check on progress and achievement.

"Meanwhile," he adds, "we must be doing some things right. The College enjoys a good reputation and a good participation rate. In other words, in almost all our school districts, the majority of students pursuing post-secondary education or training are doing so through Cariboo College."

Brewster, a physicist and computer specialist, holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Manitoba and a Master's degree from the University of Calgary. He has been associated with SAIT for 19 years, first as an instructor and then as an administrator. He is Cariboo's second Principal, succeeding Jack Harrison, who resigned last year.

Brewster and his wife and four children have moved into a home in the Westsyde area of Kamloops.

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