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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Another "first" in health-related career training has been achieved by Cariboo College in Kamloops with Provincial Government approval of a new two-year program in Animal Health Technology.

Subject to anticipated approval of funding by the Ministry of Education's Occupational Training Council, the new program can admit its first group of students next September, according to Cariboo Principal Charles W. Brewster. It will be the only program of its kind in British Columbia.

"We were happy, but not really surprised, to receive educational approval for the program in a letter from Lorne Thompson, executive director of the Ministry's Program Services Division," Brewster said.

"This College has been pioneering in the health sciences area for some time, and Animal Health training fits in logically with our other established programs and our excellent new laboratory facilities. It is also a 'natural' for the B.C. Interior, and ties in with our continuing course cooperation with the University of British Columbia's Faculty of Agricultural Sciences."

Cariboo College offers the only Respiratory Technology program in the province, and was the first of the B.C. colleges to extend its Nursing program to three years from two. It also has a long-established and successful program in Medical Laboratory Technology, and offers shorter training in such areas as Long Term Care Aide and Community Health Service Worker.

The College's 1981-82 calendar, scheduled for publication in March, will include details of the new program, including admission requirements, which emphasize Grade 12 science courses. It will also list the various scientific component courses which will precede second-year specialized studies ranging from animal nutrition to radiography and anaesthesiology. Field and clinical experience will supplement the classroom and laboratory instruction.

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A pro-tem advisory committee composed of veterinarians and agriculture specialists from the Kamloops and Williams Lake areas and coordinated by Dr. M.R. Granger, the College's Chairperson of Physical and Life Sciences, helped the College to design the program. As described in the Calendar, it is aimed at training technologists to assist veterinarians in a wide range of procedures.

Members of this committee are being asked to serve on a standing advisory committee to represent the community and the profession in making recommendations as the program goes into operation, Brewster said. The College hopes to appoint an instructor-coordinator early in 1981, with additional faculty to be designated later.

Enrolment in Animal Health Technology will be limited, Brewster pointed out. Interested persons can write to the Cariboo College Registrar, P.O. Box 3010, Kamloops, V2C 5N3 or can telephone 374-0123 for application forms.

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College Affairs Manager