



cariboo college

P.O. BOX 3010
KAMLOOPS, B.C. V2C 5N3
PHONE 604-374-0123

academic • career • community programs • university transfer • technical • vocational

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NEWS RELEASE

Increasingly, over the ten-year span of its existence, Cariboo College has become an integral part of daily life in Kamloops, in terms of both group activity and individual pursuits.

"The College" has come to mean many things to people in the Kamloops area. These people may be among the tens of thousands who have taken one or more of the hundreds of Continuing Education courses offered every year; they may have started or resumed post-secondary education in academic, careers or vocational fields; or they may simply attend meetings on the campus from time to time.

"This is a comprehensive College," says Principal C.W. Brewster. "It is committed to offering the broadest possible range of educational opportunities and services to the people of the region."

Educational opportunities, he points out, are not restricted to the traditional academic disciplines for young and not-so-young students who find it advantageous to start their university degree work at the College; nor to the areas of paramedical, technical, commercial, social service or vocational training.

"All these programs feed into the local pool of people qualified to contribute to the community's prosperity and progress," Brewster adds. "But we envisage the College's total responsibility to the community as much broader and more direct."

For example, evening courses in every field make it possible for full-time workers to upgrade their knowledge and skills in preparation for career advancement. The wide range of business-related credit courses given in the evening is a prime example of this type of service.

A total of 222 non-credit courses, some of them vocational and others designed simply for personal satisfaction and enrichment, attracted more than 3,700 registrants in the second half of 1979 in Kamloops and neighboring communities.

Vocational programs are a direct service to local business and industry, Brewster said, and in more ways than the basic training they provide.

In many trades such as welding, carpentry, electrical and mechanical, the College provides upgrading instruction for apprentices and other practising workers. Recently the College began contracting with large-scale employers for specialized upgrading of their employees. Not long ago the College sent an instructor and his course a mile under ground to improve heavy equipment maintenance techniques at Craigmont Mines near Merritt.

Training ties with local industry will be even closer in the coming months with the expansion of the Federally financed Canada Manpower Industrial Training Program through College facilities. The College has assigned a full-time consultant to this program, serving the Okanagan region as well as Kamloops and the Cariboo-Chilcotin.

For people whose education was cut short in their early years, the College provides a chance to catch up through basic courses for adults preparatory to worthwhile employment. Women get special assistance through a job opportunities course and specialized counselling.

Brewster also points out that the College functions increasingly as a meeting place and a host for significant events. The Board Room, the gymnasium and even classrooms are increasingly heavily booked, free of charge, by responsible community groups. Seminars, workshops and other informational gatherings are frequent.

Last year, for example, the College accommodated hundreds of young athletes taking part in the B.C. Winter Games. Early this month the College put its new Science Building at the disposal of the 23rd annual Post-Graduate Course in Medical Technology. This weekend the campus was the scene of the important "Alternatives for Growth" forum.

Brewster also noted that faculty and staff members of the College are active in a wide range of civic, cultural, athletic and other community activities, including City Council and other governmental bodies.

C.W.F. Bishop
College Affairs Manager