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NEWS RELEASE

Expansion of Cariboo College's Electronics Technician program from ten months to twelve, to stay abreast of rapidly changing technology and introduce new specialties, has been approved by the Minister of Education, College Principal C.W. Brewster has announced.

Each of the program's two parts, the basic electronics course and the intensive course in one of three specialty options, will be extended to six months from the current five, Brewster said. The specialty areas are telecommunications, home entertainment servicing and electronic business machines.

The additional time will give trainees more in-depth knowledge of basic and intermediate electronics theory and techniques. It will also permit the inclusion of cablevision installation and maintenance and earth station installation and maintenance as part of both the telecommunications and home entertainment options. Digital electronics and microprocessors will be strengthened subjects in the basic course as well as the various options.

Cariboo graduates in electronics have been in demand among employers since the program began in 1972, according to Don Graham, acting Chairperson for Electricity and Electronics. The College has thus far produced more than 150 Electronics graduates, most of whom are working and advancing in the field.

The newest of the three options, business machine repair and servicing, has a particularly heavy demand for trained technicians, Graham said, partly because it is the only program of its kind at the technician level in Western Canada.

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The new earth station course will also be unique in Western Canada, as far as Graham knows, and the specialty course in home entertainment electronics is the only one of its type in British Columbia outside the Lower Mainland.

The new 12-month schedule goes into effect in September for the business machines and home entertainment options and next January for telecommunications.

Since there is a waiting list for entry into the program, Graham advises interested applicants to contact the Registrar's Office for information and an application package.

Admission requirements include Grade 12 completion or equivalent, including Mathematics 11 and Electronics 12, Chemistry 11 or Physics 11. Adults with appropriate related experience may be exempt from some or all of these requirements, but must write a Mathematics test.

Some trainees are sponsored by Canada Manpower.

C.W.F. Bishop
College Affairs Manager