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NEWS RELEASE

(for immediate release)

Students in selected academic disciplines will be able, beginning next year, to start work at Cariboo College toward the new "Co-op" type of bachelor's degree which the University of Victoria is finding increasingly popular with both graduates and employers.

The "Co-op" degree is awarded for a combination of the normal eight semesters of full-time study plus five semester-length terms in course-related employment with participating industries.

For students who can maintain a high scholastic average and perform well on the job, the advantages of a "co-op" degree are numerous, according to XXXX Chambers, Chairperson of Mathematics and Computing, who is Cariboo's co-ordinator for the program.

At the moment, the subject areas being considered for "Co-op" degree planning are Mathematics, Computing, Geography, Chemistry and Physics. Others may be added later, but current negotiations with UVic involved only these five.

Here is how it will work if all goes according to plan: The student will register for his normal group of first-year courses in September, then apply the following January for the program. If accepted, based on his fall semester achievement, the student will be referred to an appropriate job somewhere in British Columbia or Alberta for the summer term, subject to interview and acceptance by the employer.

The process continues, possibly with variations (such as three semesters of study followed by two of work experience), until graduation with a degree in science or arts designated "Co-op".

The advantages cited by Chambers include not only a high level of employability at better than ordinary salary, but also summer employment that is both well-paid and career-oriented. Holders of these degrees are much in demand in industry, he added.

(more)

The program originated in England, and was brought to Canada in 1958 by the University of Waterloo, where it was first tried in Engineering and then extended to other areas. Dr. Howard Petch, President of UVic, is a former vice-president of the University of Waterloo.

The steering committee for the program includes the following Cariboo instructors in addition to Chambers: Geography, Barry Weaver; Chemistry, Dr. David Cane; Physics, Dr. Roland Cobb.

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