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NEWS RELEASE

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The Cariboo College Board adopted last night the draft of a five-year Education Plan based on "steady, controlled growth," especially in fields related to various technologies, health and human services and natural resource development.

The draft will now be sent to regional school officials for review and comment before being adopted in final form and forwarded to the Minister of Education.

The plan, in addition to outlining the College's goals through 1985, is designed as a focus for decisions about College programs and services and as a "directional beacon during a period of moderate, innovative transition."

It foresees increased enrolments in all university transfer subjects, particularly in mathematics, computing and such social science fields as economics and sociology. In the careers area the biggest growth is expected in Nursing (from 92 students to 150) as the new three-year program takes full effect.

In response to needs highlighted by the several exhaustive surveys on which the plan is based, it also emphasizes the need for action in student housing, career counselling and expansion of outlying centres, and reemphasizes the immediate need for expansion of the College Library.

The numerous specific findings and recommendations are scattered throughout the 88-page report under the various subjects discussed, but are summarized under four main headings:

PROGRAMS AND PROGRAM DELIVERY

Maintenance of quality and diversity in university transfer programs must be combined with new approaches to course delivery, such as weekend or summer scheduling.

Programs in various career/technical and vocational fields must be added, expanded or revised to meet present and anticipated market needs, as recommended by employer panels and Community Advisory Committees. Some programs should be presented in short intensive format and under contract with industry.

More emphasis is needed on curriculum development.

Current cooperative relationships with post-secondary agencies such as the provincial universities, the Open Learning Institute and the Knowledge Network of the West should be expanded.

(more)

STUDENT SERVICES

Counselling and job placement services must be expanded.
The need for student residences is ongoing.

PROGRAM SUPPORT SERVICES

A computing centre must be established to serve not only all instructional areas concerned, but numerous administrative functions as well.
The proposed addition to the Library should go ahead as soon as possible.
More College Centres are needed in outlying areas.

MISCELLANEOUS

Improved evaluation procedures for staff, programs and service functions must be put in place.
Articulation with other educational institutions and agencies should be improved.
Physical facilities must be provided to permit the College to carry out its mandate.

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The plan is the outgrowth of 18 months of work that began with extensive surveys of the educational needs, desires and opinions of current and recent College enrollees, secondary school students, employer groups and the public at large throughout the 60,000-square-mile College region. The results of the thousands of questionnaires, tabulated by computer, were supplemented by up-to-date regional economic and demographic studies.

These data, along with enrolment breakdowns and projections, occupy the first half of the document. An analysis of current and projected instructional programs required another 20 pages. Other chapter headings include facilities, evaluation and the College's relationships with other educational systems, with industry and with the communities it serves.

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