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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The focus of technological training in British Columbia may well be shifting northeastward from the Lower Mainland toward Cariboo College in Kamloops.

Cariboo has just received approval from the Ministry of Education to initiate three new programs designed to produce skilled workers in three new and sophisticated specialties: computer aided drafting technology, computer systems management and welding technician.

The drafting technology and welding technician program will be unique in British Columbia, Principal C.W. Brewster reported. In this respect they resemble two health-related technology programs also exclusive to Cariboo in the province -- respiratory technology, which made its debut in 1979, and animal health technology, which is scheduled to start this fall.

Subject to expected funding by the Ministry's Academic Council, the three newly-approved programs will enrol their first classes in September, Brewster said. He invited interested persons to write or telephone the College Registrar for an application package.

"This College continues to prove," Brewster said, "that it is alert to the needs of our Western economy for well-trained specialists in the widening spectrum of occupations growing out of computer-related and other technological advances. We're pleased that the Ministry recognizes our position in the vanguard of technological and vocational training, based on a decade of successful performance."

He outlined briefly the purpose and scope of the newly approved offerings as follows:

Computer Aided Drafting Technology - A two-year diploma program of technical training that combines drafting skills with knowledge of computer programming and computer graphics. Graduates will be qualified to assist engineers in the design and development of many types of products and processes, using automatic drafting equipment.

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Computer Systems Operation and Management - A two-year diploma program emphasizing design and operation of small computer systems as well as how to manage them. Computer related courses are supplemented by studies in business administration.

Welding Technician - A nine-month certificate program (September-May) for journeyman welders with at least five years' experience. Its graduates will have a thorough working knowledge of advanced theory relative to welding design, inspection and quality control as well as proficiency in specialized welding, and will be qualified to serve both as in-plant instructors and as assistants to the engineering staff.

Although approval of the three new programs arrived too late for their inclusion in the 1981-82 College Calendar (now on the press), Brewster said that the College can supply information about prerequisites and course content on request.

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