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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Young people thinking about a possible career in the many aspects of the criminal justice system no longer need to wait for their 19th birthday to qualify for Cariboo College's Corrections and Criminal Justice program.

Instructor-Coordinator Ron Boucher has called their attention to a revision of the entrance requirements, effective with the next enrolment period, which specifies only Grade 12 completion and eliminates the previous minimum age provision. The "mature student" entrance route remains open as well.

The program is increasingly taking on a university-transfer character in addition to direct career training, Boucher pointed out, since four of its courses are now accepted by Simon Fraser University for credit toward a bachelor's degree. Criminology is increasingly viewed as a prerequisite for legal training, he added.

Thus, recent secondary school graduates who want to explore such areas as police, probation or parole work as well as institutional positions will find the program worthwhile for an overview of the criminal justice system, he explained.

Graduates have readily found jobs with Federal and Provincial agencies in British Columbia and Alberta, some of them being placed before they complete their course work.

Their success prompted a recent visit to the College by Catherine McKenzie, Regional Staffing Officer for the Correctional Service of Canada, with specific reference to openings at Kent and Matsqui prisons. She spoke to the program's community advisory committee as well as to students.

The program runs for eight months beginning each September, and includes field work with correctional institutions and related agencies.

Additional information is obtainable from Boucher or from the Office of the Registrar at the College.

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