



# cariboo college

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## NEWS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The first graduating class of Computer Systems Operations and Management at Cariboo College will be leaving the college this spring after two years of study.

Cariboo College is the first B.C. college to offer C.S.O.M. The program is designed to train the students to manage computer systems of the smaller businesses that can afford a computer, but not a programmer-analyst.

Jack Mathews, coordinator of C.S.O.M., feels there are many businesses that have a need for such analysts but they are not aware these people exist locally. Historically, institutions have trained students to work within the systems of larger organizations.

Derek Chambers, Director of Computer Services, recognized the need for a computing management course for the smaller business, Mathews explained. After examining the programs at the universities, Chambers incorporated their best features into one for Cariboo College. This course was made available late in the summer of 1981.

These students have been trained in three computer languages, accounting skills, written and verbal communications, and supervisory management skills. Each student has an in-depth, comprehensive background and is able to run a system efficiently, according to Mathews.

At present, the students are working on practical assignments which require that they design a system. This means they must investigate, propose, and finally implement a program that will work for a given company.

Although there are only seven students in the pioneer graduating class, the group which will graduate in 1984 is much larger. Twenty-three students are currently completing first-year courses, and enrollment applications for next September are already coming in.

For the students of C.S.O.M., the two years has meant many late hours. There have been nights in the past when students would line up until 2:00 A.M. for a terminal. And the record set for a continuous working stretch is 36 hours.

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Since last year, a new VAX 11/780 computer, capable of accommodating 30 users at a time on its terminals, has been installed. This computer is also much faster than earlier models.

Chambers is very optimistic about the future of computing. He said there is an obvious shortage of trained people, especially with the number of businesses applying for computers increasing by over 10 times. He added that there are not enough people coming into computer systems to satisfy this need.

"Cariboo College has one of the best programs available in the province," Chambers said. The college is "very lucky with the first class." He believes these people are excellent grads and will be good ambassadors for the college.

Anyone wishing to register into C.S.O.M. should have Grade 12, including Algebra 12, as well as an interest in technical subjects. For further information, interested students and prospective employers should contact Jack Mathews at Cariboo College (374-0123, Extension 337 or 241).

( 30 )

For further information please contact:

Jack Mathews at 374-0123, Ext. 337 or 241 OR  
Derek Chambers at 374-0123, Ext. 379