



cariboo college

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cariboo College's Training Access (TRAC) program, leading to job qualifications in any one of seven vocational specialties, is now in effect during evening hours for the benefit of part-time trainees. The first group of evening students begins training this week (February 6).

Since its inception at Cariboo in 1982, TRAC has provided a more flexible, individualized system of trades training than the traditional pattern involving fixed starting and ending dates and uniform class progress, according to Ben Eldridge, the College's Director of Vocational and Industrial programs.

It permits a student to begin his or her training whenever there is a vacancy and then proceed on an individual basis, starting with a common core of general trades subjects, to specialization in automotive, diesel or heavy duty mechanics or in the carpentry, electrical, small engine and partsperson trades.

Hitherto this program has been available only to full-time students in the daytime. Extending it into the evening hours is a logical response, Eldridge said, to the expressed needs of people who are employed in the daytime or who can't afford full-time student status.

He added that since it is a part-time evening program, the trainee's availability for employment is not affected, so persons receiving unemployment insurance benefits can participate.

"We'll have teaching staff on duty in the shops from 6 to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday," he explained. "Frank Stevens, an instructor who has been associated with TRAC right along, will act as coordinator. Our learning resources centre will also keep evening hours so students will have ready access to manuals and other training materials."

Eldridge advised interested applicants for part-time TRAC to apply at the College Admissions Office at 900 College Drive between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

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on weekdays or, for more detailed information, to telephone Stevens at 374-0123, Extension 286, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

According to Stevens, students with some previous trades experience or training may enter the program at the level best suited to their background and will most likely move through the basic stages quite rapidly, by means of tests they can take whenever they feel ready.

"We interview all applicants and assess their individual skills and knowledge," he added. "Under this system, trainees progress at their own speed, not on a fixed timetable, and they compete only against performance standards, not according to a course outline."

He pointed out that more vacancies exist in the evening program now than will be the case once it is in full swing, just as occurred at the inception of the daytime program in 1982. Later it was necessary to establish waiting lists.

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For further information please contact:

Mr. Ben Eldridge at 374-0123, Local 254 OR
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