

COLLEGE OF
THE ROCKIES

COMMUNITY REPORT | 2017

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Message from the President

“Rocky Mountain Inspired. Small College Proud.” If you’ve heard our radio ads or seen our hashtags on Twitter or Instagram, you’re probably familiar with this phrase. It is our brand promise to our students, staff, and our communities, but it is more than just a convenient catch phrase.

We are proud of our successes, which far outreach what you’d expect from a college our size. Students transferring from College of the Rockies to university have the highest graduation rate in the province and perform better academically than those from any other transferring institution in BC. Our students have opportunities to enrich their education and future careers through international internships, and study abroad opportunities. We welcome hundreds of students from over 40 countries to the College and our communities each year, and are proud to have been ranked number one in the world in overall international student satisfaction for two years in a row.

We are proud to be a small college and remain inspired to make a significant impact in the region that we serve and in the lives of our students. When our students begin their careers in our communities, they contribute economically to the health of our region to the tune of \$176 million plus annually. Within these pages, you’ll find stories that speak to the College’s mission – “to transform lives and enrich communities through the power of education”.

David Walls



Message from the Board Chair

For those of us who reside outside of the Cranbrook area where the main campus of the College of the Rockies is located, the scale of activities and impact on each community is not always apparent. During my three years as an appointed member of the Board of Governors, I have come to appreciate the magnitude of both the social and economic impact the College continues to make in our region.

Our mission is to transform lives and enrich communities through the power of education. From Golden to Invermere and Fernie through the Cranbrook/Kimberley corridor to Creston, we see examples every day of how students’ lives are transformed. Graduates become the business owners, innovators, health care professionals, skilled tradespeople, and service providers needed in our communities. In concert with our academic programming, industry partnerships and continuing education programs provide stability and address strategic niches within communities.

College of the Rockies serves a remarkable constituency of British Columbia by being an outstanding college. I am proud to have served as Board Chair for the last two years with an exceptional group of colleagues on the Board of Governors. Collectively the Board represents the geographic and internal constituents across this region. We are Rocky Mountain Inspired and Small College Proud!

Wilda Schab



The Aboriginal Gathering Place

The Aboriginal Gathering Place (AGP) was officially opened in October 2014. Since that time, many events, classes, meetings and other gatherings have taken place inside the stunning building. One of the great monthly AGP traditions is lunch with our Ktunaxa Elders in Residence, Marguerite Cooper and Herman Alpine. All staff and students are invited to the AGP to enjoy a hot lunch, connect with each other and to talk with the Elders. Twice a month Fry Bread Mondays are also a popular attraction for staff, students and community members. A member of the Ktunaxa community demonstrates the making of the fry bread and then all present get to enjoy the fruits of his or her labour and have a chance to connect with Elder Herman Alpine.

Outside of the AGP, students looking to connect with Indigenous services have access to our Indigenous Education Coordinator, Avery Hulbert as well as our Indigenous Cultural Liaison, Raye Stensgaard. ■

**WE HONOUR AND
SERVE THE KTUNAXA,
METIS AND SHUSWAP
PEOPLES.**

2016 - A Year In Review

January

A new year and a new transfer agreement. In January, we signed a new agreement with the University of the Fraser Valley. This agreement means that students who complete the Criminal and Social Justice certificate at the College, and who meet admission requirements, can block transfer their credits directly into UFV's Criminology diploma or Bachelor of Arts in Criminology.

February

As the first public step in our rebranding process, we unveiled our new logo on Tuesday, February 2. At the time, President and CEO David Walls said, "The continuous flowing shape of our new logo signifies life-long learning, a continuous journey, sustainability and opportunity and speaks to our being adaptive, responsive and approachable. The new look also pays tribute to our place in the Rockies without giving the sense that the mountains are the only thing that we're about."

March

After an exciting 'Cinderella story' PACWEST Provincial Championship win, our women's Avalanche volleyball team headed to Charlottetown, PEI in March to compete at the 2016 CCAA Women's Volleyball National Championship. Though the result may not have been what they wanted, they made the entire College of the Rockies family extremely proud.

April

In April, Kim Garety was introduced as the new manager of the Creston campus. Since she took over the reins in May, Kim has participated in a community consultation – out of which emerged a new Transitions to Employment program. This program will help those with developmental disabilities to gain the skills they need to be able to find employment.

May

This year, we were thrilled to have been celebrating our 40th year of recognizing students' achievements. For 40 years, we have celebrated the successes of our graduates while simultaneously feeling pangs of sadness that they have completed their programs and will be moving on. However, when we hear stories of the great things many of our graduates go on to do, we can't help but feel small college proud.

June

We received some exciting news in June when Premier Christie Clark announced at the Cranbrook Chamber of Commerce lunch that the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program will be held in its entirety at the College's Cranbrook campus. The program, held in partnership with the University of Victoria, has always required students to complete their final three semesters at UVIC. That will no longer be the case, starting with the Fall 2018 intake.

July/August

The summer months seem quiet at College of the Rockies' campuses, but we are actually very busy preparing for the start of the fall semester. Our Student Life department worked hard over the summer to coordinate events for Orientation Week in September and to welcome new and returning students to the College.

September

Once the registration deadline passed in September, we were happy to see that, once again, our enrolment numbers increased. Overall, our registrations rose 6.7 percent over fall 2015. Registrar, Jason Colombo was pleased with the continued upward trend: "Our ongoing increase in enrolments indicates that more students are realizing College of the Rockies is an excellent option for their post-secondary education," he said. Smaller class sizes, personalized educational experiences, lower tuition and excellent transferability are some reasons we may be seeing more students.

October

In October, we announced that Jeff Cooper was appointed as Business Development Manager, based out of the Kimberley campus. Jeff has been with the College since 2006, including several years as Manager, International Education. A long-time Kimberley resident, Jeff was excited to help grow the Kimberley campus operations while giving back to the community he loves.

November

Thanks to another \$25,000 RBC Learn to Play grant, the College's Physical Literacy Project – held in conjunction with School District 5 – was able to expand, once again. This new phase of the project will focus on inclusion. "Our objective is to include populations that have not been able to participate previously," says Sandi Lavery, Kinesiology instructor and lead researcher. "We want to ensure that physical literacy skill development is available to all students at the elementary level, and to include older students into some new recreational activities as well."

December

Once again (for at least the 15th year) our Financial Services department got into the true spirit of Christmas by spearheading our Christmas Giving Campaign. They collected donations of gifts, non-perishable food items as well as all the fixings for a Christmas dinner from College staff that will go toward three very deserving families who have recently transitioned from Haven House and are starting over on their own. Thanks to the generosity of our College community – these three families should be able to have a very merry Christmas this year. ■

726

◀ The number of
credentials granted by
College of the Rockies
in 2016

2020 Vision

In 2015 we published our Strategic Plan – Our Road Map to New Heights. From this plan, a set of goals emerged for what our institution will look like by 2020. Four main priorities emerged from this in-depth, collaborative process:

Students First

Without our students, we don't exist. We value each and every one of our students and our commitment to them is to continue to work to better prepare them for the job market after graduation and/or for the next stage of their educational journey.

Financial Health

To be able to focus on providing the best educational experience for our students, we need to remain a financially healthy and sustainable organization. To this end, we are committed to maximizing our resource allocation and increasing our revenue from diversified sources.

A Common Goal

College of the Rockies employees are committed to working together to enhance student life, and health and wellness; to strengthen student pathways to employment and further education, to increase access to learning, to see applied research grow and flourish, to enhance our program quality, and to expand demand-driven programs and courses. We will also work to enhance our strategic alliances to provide more experiential learning opportunities for students and to build our relationships with the community.

Working Better Together

Our internal resources – our staff, our facilities and our equipment – provide the foundation on which we build our success. We will continue to reinforce this foundation by enhancing the learning and working environment through appropriate usage of space and technology; improving our understanding of our students, employers and communities; optimizing the effectiveness of our amazing employees and enhancing sound governance and leadership. ■

From: Our Road Map to New Heights – Strategic Plan 2015-2020.

ADULT UPGRADING: A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION



Upgrading for academic or career entry can open doors. Adult Upgrading provides a unique learning experience tailored to each student's needs and goals. Adult Upgrading is offered in two ways: semestered and directed studies. Semestered courses have a specific start and end date with classes scheduled at a specific time once or twice a week. Directed studies courses are much more flexible. Participants still have a time limit to complete – either 15 or 30 weeks, depending on the course – but during that time, they can work from home when it is convenient to them and pop into the classroom when they need some extra help. Students can come into the classroom whenever it fits their schedule – for a quiet place away from distractions where they can focus and get their work done.

If a student is missing the prerequisites for other College

programs, he or she often can still enrol in that program and take many of the program's courses while simultaneously obtaining the needed prerequisites.

Health Care Assistant, Cook Training and Hairdressing graduates with grade 10 completion can take just TWO Adult Upgrading courses to obtain their BC graduation diploma. Their program courses act as their electives. Having a post-secondary education and a graduation diploma opens the door to many more employment opportunities.

Students who need assistance with the cost of adult upgrading may be eligible for Adult Upgrading Grants which cover tuition and other costs related to attending school. Completion awards are available to those not eligible for Adult Upgrading Grants. ■

BC's labour force relies heavily on workers with post-secondary education. According to *Post-Secondary Education Skills for a Prosperous British Columbia—2016*, prepared for BC's public post-secondary institutions by the Conference Board of Canada, in March 2016, 70 percent of BC's jobs were filled by workers with post-secondary education. This was not always the case and as recently as 1991, the share was evenly split between those with and without post-secondary education.

Achieving His Dreams

Raymond Bennett has benefited tremendously from the Adult Upgrading program offered at the Creston campus. Having left high school a few years prior, and after discovering he did not have the self-discipline needed to complete his high school education online, Raymond started taking courses at the College at the age of 17. After completing some upgrading at the Fundamental level, Raymond began taking grade 10 equivalent math and English courses.

Over time he began to gain confidence in his abilities and enjoyed helping other students in the classroom. Instructor Paula Harper says, “He was such a joy to have in the classroom to calm and reassure other students before their exams or to help explain something to students whose first language was not English.” Raymond’s education benefitted as well, as his classmates were all too happy to return the favour.

Working on a farm had always been a dream of Raymond’s. As a child, he had visited a family farm and fell in love with farm life. When he was offered a job at Piper’s Farms in Creston, he couldn’t resist. He has worked for them performing various tasks including operating equipment and performing repairs on it when needed.

Raymond found a particular fondness for fixing the farm machinery when it would break down so he took a big step and applied for the College’s Heavy Mechanical program. Having completed several Adult Upgrading courses, he was able to pass the assessment required for entry into the program and officially began his Heavy Mechanical education in September 2014. After completing the foundation-level program in May 2015, Raymond wasn’t ready to be done with school yet. He had his eye on his adult graduation diploma – which he successfully completed in 2016.

“Having the adult graduation diploma was important to me as most work places require a grade 12 or equivalent,” he says. “My experience with the College was excellent, the instructors were incredible. They truly make the College what it is.”

Having come as far as he has, Raymond’s not quite ready to stop yet. His next objective is to complete his apprenticeship in Heavy Duty Mechanics. We have no doubt he’ll achieve this goal too! ■

THE EFFECT OF FORMER COLLEGE OF THE ROCKIES STUDENTS ON THE REGIONAL ECONOMY AMOUNTS TO APPROXIMATELY \$176.4 MILLION IN ADDED INCOME.

*Source: Analysis of the Economic Impact and Return on Investment of Education, December 2013



Scaling New Heights

When Mary Shier isn’t teaching Adult Upgrading or acting as an Education Advisor at our Fernie campus, you can frequently find her hiking in the spectacular mountains in the Elk Valley.

After completing a Freedom Climb in Colorado in 2014, she was inspired to continue to give back to this very worthy cause by participating in another Freedom Climb – this one held right in her beloved Fernie.

Freedom Climbs focus on stirring compassion, action and advocacy on behalf of the nearly 30 million people – mostly women and children – who are exploited, enslaved, and trafficked globally. Climbing mountains is a symbolic representation of the hardships endured by those affected by human trafficking.

The Fernie Freedom Climb raised almost a quarter of a million dollars, money that will go a long way to helping women and children enslaved by human trafficking. You can read more about Mary’s inspiring Freedom Climb on our blog: cotr.ca/blog ■

UNIVERSITY SUCCESS INCREASED



**AFTER
ATTENDING
COLLEGE
OF THE
ROCKIES**

Students who began their studies at College of the Rockies completed university with an overall higher grade-point-average (GPA) than did their counterparts at most other BC colleges and universities.*

College of the Rockies students who transferred to a university scored the highest graduation rate for transfer institutions (85%) and second-highest of all BC post-secondary institutions. We have many transfer agreements with institutions throughout BC, Alberta, and the rest of Canada.

*2015 British Columbia Council on Admission and Transfer (BCCAT) report

Visit cotr.ca/transfer for more information.

Starting University at the College

**DUAL ADMISSION
APPLICANTS ARE
CONSIDERED A
STUDENT OF BOTH THE
COLLEGE AND ONE OF
THE UNIVERSITIES
AT THE SAME TIME**



Photo: College of the Rockies Vice-President Academic & Applied Research Dr. Stan Chung and Dr. Catherine Mateer from UVic sign a dual admission agreement between the institutions as (l-r) Dean of Instruction Heather Hepworth, Dean of Instruction Darrell Bethune, Director of Student Affairs Doris Silva and Dean of Instruction Jack Moes look on.

Attending post-secondary can be a daunting experience. For many people, the trepidation is heightened by the thought of going to a big university. Whether someone is just out of high school or returning to school after some time away, the thought of getting lost in a crowd of other students can be intimidating.

What some don't realize is the first two years of your university education can be completed at College of the Rockies. With numerous transfer agreements in place, students can easily transfer their credits to the university of their choice, after completing one or two years at the College.

An even better option? Dual Admission. College of the Rockies has dual admission agreements in place with both the University of Victoria and the

University of Lethbridge. With these agreements, applicants are considered a student of both the College and one of the universities at the same time. Once they have completed two years at the College, they move seamlessly into their seat at either UVIC or ULeth to complete their credential.

In those first two years students will have eased into the post-secondary world in a supportive environment. We hear all the time from our alumni about how helpful and encouraging our faculty are. Students are not just a number here – many times faculty members become trusted friends and mentors. With the cost of attending a college being significantly less than at a university, students also save money in those first two years, especially for local students who choose to remain at home. ■



Giving Back to the Community

Students in College of the Rockies' Welding program were able to use their skills for a great cause in 2016 – fabricating and donating a bike stand for the Cranbrook Boys and Girls Club.

“This was a perfect project for our welding students,” said College of the Rockies Welding instructor, Ken McKay. “Not only did it allow our students to complete the required fabrication experience needed for their program but we were also able to meet a community need. It is our hope that the Boys and Girls Club will enjoy the use of the bike rack for many years to come.” ■

BUSINESS STUDENTS GATHER DATA FOR CITY

The City of Cranbrook is interested in finding ways to make the community more truck friendly, and so needed to learn more about the long haul truckers that come through town, and what their thoughts are on the local services currently offered.

A team of Bachelor of Business Administration students from College of the Rockies were keen to help. They conducted a survey at the game check located on Highway 3 just east of town – and found that truckers would like a truck stop that provides: ease of access, healthy food, easy refuelling and lots of parking.

Working with City of Cranbrook – and the Ministry of Transportation – was a great opportunity for our BBA students to put their classroom learning about research into action.

REAL LIFE. REAL LEARNING.

Whenever possible, we take the learning out of the classroom and into real-life situations. The following images depict just a few of the opportunities that have enhanced the learning experience for our students. ■





A SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIP



Sometimes it seems things happen for a reason. Ashley Tanner was interviewing for a job opportunity for a local company when she met Bruce Hryciuk, who was conducting the interviews on behalf of another client. Bruce is the founder of local accounting firm, Hryciuk Gallinger, Chartered Professional Accountants. Though she was not the successful candidate for that position, she caught the attention of Bruce Hryciuk, who told his partner Donna Gallinger, “I think this one’s got it.”

Whatever “it” is, Bruce has a keen ability to spot it. He had the same experience when Donna began working for him as a receptionist. Donna proved him right and worked her way up the company, becoming Bruce’s partner in 1995.

Bruce’s intuition has again proven right as Ashley has also now been named partner.

Ashley began working at Hryciuk Gallinger in 2007 - performing some bookkeeping tasks and then worked her way up from Junior Accountant to Intermediate Accountant before reaching a more senior level, and now - partner. Through it all, Ashley continued to focus on her education, with the support of Bruce and Donna. She completed her CGA and as a result of the accounting merger, wished to obtain her degree to meet the requirements of the CPA/CGA designation.

A colleague of Ashley’s mentioned College of the Rockies’ Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) program. “It was a great option

for me to be able to go to the local College and get the degree which, in turn, allowed me to complete my CPA/CGA,” Ashley says.

With the College’s BBA focussing on sustainable business options, Ashley was required to complete a capstone project with an emphasis on sustainability. “The hardest part of the project is coming up with a good idea,” Ashley notes. “We were considering transitioning to a paperless office at Hryciuk Gallinger so I decided to make that my project. I thought I could do some of the research, with the partners also doing their own research, into what programs were available, how you go about transitioning to paperless, as well as the challenges that others who had moved to paperless had encountered.”

Now almost two years later, Hryciuk Gallinger continues to use a paperless client records system. “At first there were some growing pains, of course, trying to get everything transitioned,” Ashley says. “But even some of our employees who were maybe a little hesitant about going paperless are totally onboard now because it is so efficient.”

Ashley graduated with her Bachelor of Business Administration in Sustainable Business Practices in 2015 and has also completed her CPA/CGA designation. She is grateful that the College offers degree-level options in the East Kootenays. “I think it was a great program and it is amazing that the College is now offering this sort of program at a local level and at an affordable price. I know so many people who would like to get a degree but can’t necessarily afford to go to an expensive university.”

“Also the teachers there are amazing,” she adds. “I still have great contacts with all of the teachers that I went through the program with. Now as a partner, it is wonderful to be able to recommend the program to employees we’ve hired here.”

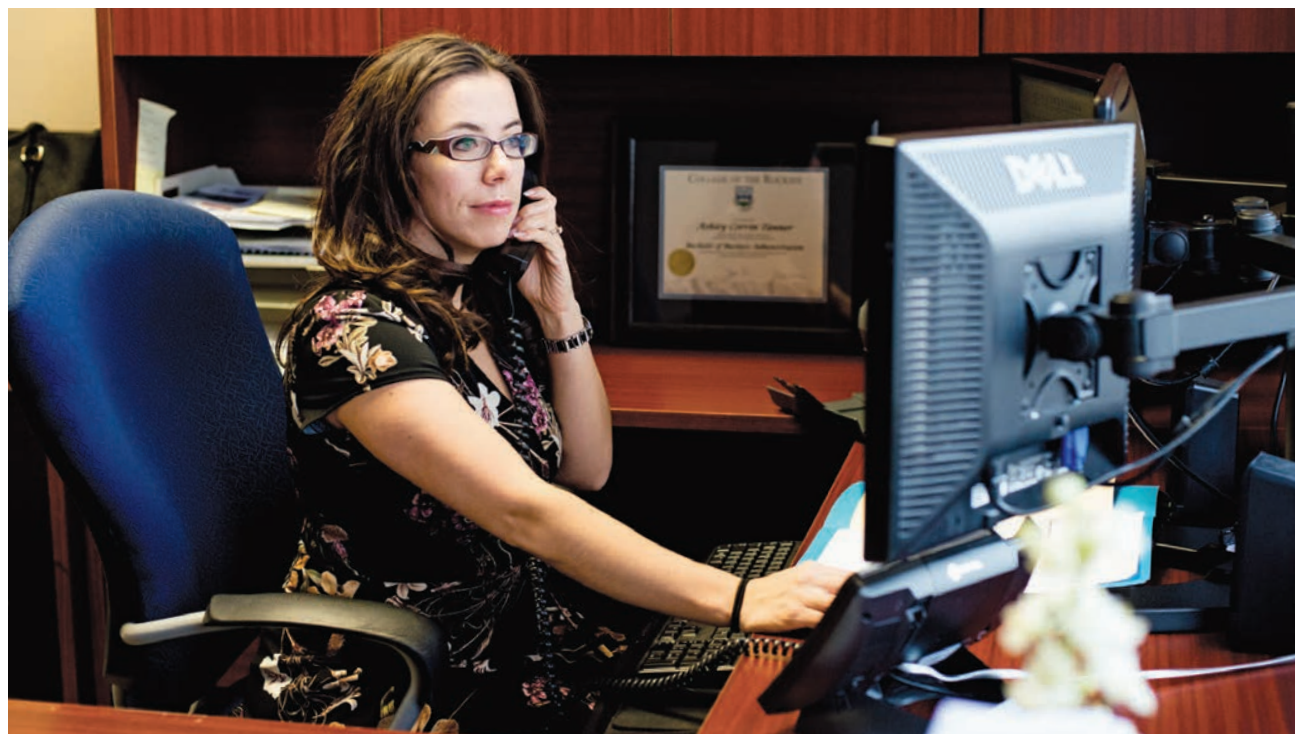
Looking ahead, Ashley is very excited about being named partner. “It’s been a great experience working here and, having worked up through the ranks, I am very familiar with most of our clients. I look forward to doing more of the consulting and getting to know our clients businesses even better.”

One of the additional perks of her College of the Rockies BBA is her ability to advise her clients on matters of sustainability. “Learning about the pillars of the sustainability model I can kind of offer my clients a package deal. Not only can we advise them

financially but I can also give them tips to help make their businesses more sustainable.”

Donna looks forward to working with Ashley in her new role. “We’ve mentored and trained Ashley right from square one so it’s been fascinating to watch the growth in her and the maturity that has come about. I am happy she’s going to be a partner and I’m quite proud of her.”

Thinking back to the doors opened to her through her BBA, Ashley concludes, “Thank you to College of the Rockies for providing that opportunity for me because I wouldn’t have been able to get my CPA/CGA without the degree. I’m grateful that the College has that program there. As accountants we are always looking for good staff members so it is nice to have that local offering – and that it is also available online!” ■



SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION

Cranbrook campus' residence building utilizes two types of solar technology on the facility's roof – photovoltaic and solar thermal – which allows the system to pull in as much heat as possible.

The College also installed photovoltaic panels on the roof of the Cranbrook campus' Kootenay Centre building which was determined to be the biggest consumer of electricity and had the best physical space for the solar panels.

The Kootenay Centre solar project produces 109,000 kilowatt-hours per year of electricity, enough to operate 14 houses for a year – while reducing the College's greenhouse

gas emissions by 12,000 kilograms of CO₂e (carbon dioxide equivalent). Combined, the solar systems have saved 26 tonnes of CO₂ from entering the atmosphere.

Pinnacle Hall trades building has a solar wall along one side which helps to draw heat into the building, improving indoor air quality and reducing heating and operating costs.

The south entrance expansion, completed in 2010, achieved certification by the Leadership in Energy in Environmental Design (LEED) certification program, indicating the new construction meets the highest environmental performance criteria in Canada.

Construction of a new trades building at the Cranbrook main campus, which will begin in spring 2017, will also consider LEED criteria.

All exterior lighting fixtures at the College (approximately 215) are LED lit as are thirty percent of the interior fixtures, with interior LED lights increasing by 20 to 30% per year.

Future plans for the College include a new recycling plan in conjunction with the College's Sustainability Committee, the installation of a "green wall" and exploring the feasibility of a composting plan for the main campus. ■

Inspiring Physically Literate Children



In fall 2016, College of the Rockies received another \$25,000 RBC Learn to Play grant for their Physical Literacy project. This marks the third RBC Learn to Play grant the project has received. "Physical literacy is the motivation, confidence, physical competence, knowledge and understanding to value and take responsibility for engagement in physical

activities for life" (Canada's Physical Literacy Consensus Statement, June 2015). Children and youth need to engage in a variety of skills to help them develop fundamental movement and fundamental sport skills. These abilities allow them the opportunity to lead a healthy and active lifestyle.

The Physical Literacy project, held in partnership with School District #5, has seen improvement in the physical literacy of students who have participated in a physical literacy lunch hour games program.

"Since the joint project between Steeples Elementary school and College of the Rockies/

UVIC Teacher Education began, we have noticed improved fundamental movement skills from our students," says Steeples Elementary School principal, David Martin. "Teachers have embraced the teaching of these skills and have reported being more focused in their delivery of physical education. Students appear to be more coordinated, better able to participate in physically demanding activities and are experiencing greater success when being physically active."

With the additional grant money, the project will be expanding the program to be more inclusive of students with physical disabilities. ■

AN AVALANCHE OF SUCCESS



2016 was an exciting year for volleyball at College of the Rockies. Not only did the men's and women's teams both advance to the PACWEST Provincial Championships, but the women's team, ranked number 6 going into the tournament, walked away with the gold medal!

"We peaked at the right time," said team member Kelsey Thompson at the time. "While some teams peaked earlier on in the season, we came into our own at the right time. And if we lost a point or a game, we didn't panic. We just stayed positive and kept pushing."

The women's Avalanche team travelled to Charlottetown, PEI to compete in the 2016 CCAA

National Championships. Though they perhaps didn't compete as well as they hoped, it was still a wonderful learning experience for them.

And speaking of learning, four members of that provincial championship team: Kara Froese, Taylor Forster, Mackenzie Morey and Miranda Myndio were also named 2015/16 Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) National Scholars. To be recognized as a National Scholar, a student athlete must achieve honours standing at the post-secondary institution in the current academic year.

What a year to be a member of the Avalanche. ■



Architectural rendering of new trades building to be built in 2017 at the Cranbrook Main Campus



AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE

On January 10, 2017 we were proud to take part in an announcement of a \$10-million investment in the College's trades programs via a new trades training facility. Of the total investment, \$4.2 million comes from the Government of Canada, \$3.8 from the Province of BC, \$1 million from the College and \$1 million from the Columbia Basin Trust.

The new building will allow the Industrial Mechanic (Millwright) and Electrical programs to move from the Gold Creek campus to become a part of the main campus. Space will be available for the Heavy Mechanical program in the new building as well. All three programs will benefit from being held in a facility designed specifically for their unique needs. Construction will be underway in spring 2017 with the expectation the facility will be ready to welcome students in fall 2018. ■



**THE PROVINCE HAS
INVESTED MORE THAN
\$900K INTO NEW
TRAINING EQUIPMENT
AT THE COLLEGE FOR
IN-DEMAND TRADES
OCCUPATIONS**

DISCOVERING TRADES IN INVERMERE



With the ongoing shortage of skilled tradespeople in BC, students at Invermere's David Thompson Secondary school are getting an opportunity to not only learn about a wide variety of trades options but to get some real hands-on experience as well.

The Discover Trades program held by the College's Invermere campus is the result of a partnership between David Thompson Secondary, the Shuswap Indian Band and local community trades businesses

including Canfor and the Invermere Home Hardware. Held at the Shuswap Indian Reserve, students are introduced to carpentry, plumbing, electrical, drywall, tiling, flooring, auto body, and automotive mechanic. They will also receive 10 industry-related certifications. The introduction to so many different trades was appreciated by participant AJ Bruce who said the program was "a real eye opener to what is in trades and what is involved and what opportunities are available."

As part of their hands-on experiential learning, students build 8 x 12 foot sheds which are then sold through the Invermere Home Hardware. Proceeds are donated to the Columbia Valley Junior B hockey team – a group agreed upon by all the program partners. We are proud to be able to combine valuable learning about in-demand career options with giving back to our campus communities. ■

CULINARY ADVENTURES



Nick Zsillei first took cooking classes when he was in high school and soon realized he loved it. Having Level 1 Professional Cook training available at College of the Rockies made it easy for him to decide what to do after he graduated.

“The Chef instructors prepared us in every way for the cooking environment, including knife skills, speed of preparation, quality checking, sanitization and proper food handling procedures,” he says. “They made the program soar above and beyond what I had initially expected and I hope to keep in touch with them for years to come.”

Since completing Year 1 of the Professional Cook program, Nick has found employment –and an apprenticeship opportunity – with the Heid Out Restaurant and Brewhouse in Cranbrook. In July 2016 he completed the requirements necessary for his second year apprenticeship and is on his way to becoming a Red Seal Chef.

Once he obtains his Red Seal, Nick feels the sky is the limit. “I’ve always wanted to open my own small restaurant but working for a large place like the Heid Out has really made me want to try hopping from restaurant to restaurant around the world. That will allow me to spread my knowledge and to learn new ideas along the way.” ■



Setting the Bar

Fernando Arteaga was born and raised in Ecuador where he had a budding career as a lawyer. Intrigued by the common law legal tradition in North America, he felt an urge learn more about it.

Knowing he would need to improve his English skills, Fernando began to explore his educational options. Having heard great things about Canadian colleges and universities, he paid a visit to the Canadian consulate in search of additional information. In the end, he applied to two Canadian colleges – and College of the Rockies quickly responded back.

Initially, Fernando's plan was to complete his English Language program at the College, register for a Master's degree program and then return home to Ecuador. His time at the College changed that.

"My decision to attend College of the Rockies was the beginning

of an exciting journey. It changed everything," he says. "At the College, because my instructors were so approachable, I spent many hours talking to them. At first we would talk about courses and classes but eventually some of my instructors became my mentors and friends."

Fernando did have to adjust to a very different lifestyle than he was accustomed to. Coming from a large city, the more rural and slow-paced lifestyle of the East Kootenay region of British Columbia was a bit of an adjustment. "Before the College, I loved buildings, malls and movies," he notes. "Now you have no idea how much I miss being so close to the Rocky Mountains or riding my bike to Jim Smith Lake and jumping into it."

After completing his English Language program, Fernando completed a diploma in Criminal

Justice. He also ran for and won the position of President of the Students' Association as well as a seat on the College's Board of Governors. "Before the College I did not care about being involved," he admits. "After my experience with the Students' Association and Board of Governors, I always try to be involved in different activities as much as I can."

Eventually, Fernando found himself drawn back to the legal profession. He completed the Masters of Laws program at the University of Calgary and applied for his reaccreditation to work as a lawyer in Canada. His goal is to become a litigation lawyer focussing on civil cases.

Fernando has had a lot of support through his journey. He met Jasmin at College of the Rockies when he was recruiting volunteers for a Students' Association project. They have now been married for seven years and hope to have children in the near future.

"I have changed a lot as a person since coming to College of the Rockies," he concludes. "I have a different understanding now of tolerance, diversity, gender roles and religion. I have different priorities and goals. I am so grateful to this great country of awesome people for the things I have experienced."

Because of his love of the country, in March 2014, Fernando became a Canadian citizen. We are proud to have been a part of his journey. ■

A Rewarding Experience



In August 2017, 3rd year Bachelor of Science in Nursing student Brittney Schroeter, along with six other nursing students, took part in a field school in Kenya.

"I've always wanted to travel," Brittney says. "So it was a great opportunity to get out and see the world. I knew it would be really beneficial to my nursing practice to get an idea of what health looked like globally and just to see how different things are done around the world. I learned a lot about data collection and just about global health in general."

While in Kenya, Brittney documented some of her experiences in photographs. Upon returning she learned about a BC Study Abroad contest. She entered 15 photos (worth three entries) and ended up winning the overall prize – a Go Pro!



When asked if she thought she'd use the Go Pro, she exclaims, "Oh ya! I'm from the Kootenays! I love the outdoors."

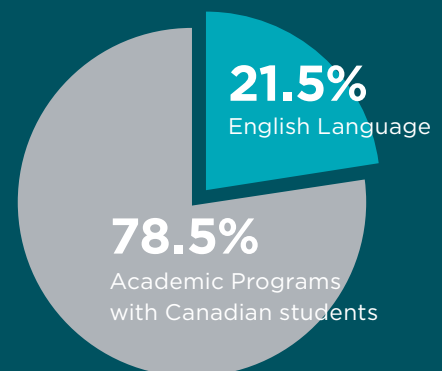
Brittney got much more out of the experience than just a Go Pro, however. "It was a fantastic opportunity," she says. "It was almost entirely paid for with bursaries and scholarships through the College. It was my first time travelling abroad overseas so it was a really awesome opportunity for me who has never had the time or resources to do something like that before. It was nice that I got to see a part of the world, but because it was focussed around school it was so much more enriching than if I had just gone vacationing there." ■

Fun Facts From Our International Department

247 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FROM 38 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD ATTENDED COLLEGE OF THE ROCKIES IN THE FALL SEMESTER OF 2016.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ARE ENROLLED IN
20
DIFFERENT COLLEGE PROGRAMS

PROGRAMS OF STUDY



Responding to Community Need in Creston

When College of the Rockies undertook a community consultation process in Creston to get a better sense of the needs of the community, one strong message was heard. The community had a lack of programming for those with developmental disabilities.

The College formed a working group with representatives from local non-profit societies, parents and caregivers, and Kootenay

Employment Services to explore training opportunities that would provide individuals with disabilities with the skills they need to achieve a high quality of life and a sense of purpose within the community.

Transitions to Employment began on January 9, 2017 and will run until June 23. Through a combination of classroom and hands-on learning, participants discover the skills they need to prepare them to find and maintain employment.

Kootenay Employment Services has been integral in finding work placement opportunities to ensure students gain real-world job skills and experience. The program was made possible, in part, by a one-time, targeted investment of \$75,000 from the Ministry of Advanced Education aimed at the development of programs and supports for students with disabilities. ■



Fernie Ambassador Program

Fernie is well known as a tourism mecca. People travel from all over the world to enjoy the amazing outdoor recreation opportunities and astounding beauty of the BC Rockies. Even those things are not enough to keep people coming back, however. What really counts is the experience that visitors have when they are here.

That was the thinking behind a group of volunteers from College of the Rockies, EK Employment, Park Vacation Management,

Fernie Lodging Company, and Grow Children's Boutique - who came up with a unique way to help ensure visitors had a memorable experience when they spent time in Fernie.

The Fernie Ambassador program is an education opportunity for anyone who is lucky enough to call Fernie home. It builds on the community spirit and cooperation Fernie is known for. The program teaches residents how to provide a superior experience through

customer service skills and a thorough knowledge about Fernie and the surrounding area.

Administered by the Fernie Chamber of Commerce in partnership with College of the Rockies the program also acknowledges support from the Resort Municipality Initiative (RMI). In its first year of existence, the Fernie Ambassador program trained 151 Ambassadors and expected to train another 100 in time for winter. ■

Continuing Education and Contract Training



◀ IS THE NUMBER
OF STUDENTS
TAKING CONTINUING
EDUCATION
AND CONTRACT
TRAINING COURSES
ACROSS OUR
REGION
in the 2015/2016
Academic Year



▲ IS THE NUMBER OF
CONTINUING AND CONTRACT
TRAINING COURSES OFFERED
ACROSS OUR REGION
in the 2015/2016 Academic Year

Hot Careers Ignite In Kimberley



When it comes to hands-on learning, few programs can surpass the Fire Training certificate offered at our Kimberley campus. Students in this 23-week program do spend some time in the classroom but a greater percentage of their learning is spent either with working firefighters at the Kimberley Fire Hall or at the live fire training facility, amongst actual fires or simulated smoke.

Fire Training students also receive recognition for a number of certifications essential to the firefighting profession including: working with hazardous materials, rescue techniques, first aid and emergency responder training, and emergency services

workplace preparation. Students also earn their BC Class 3 license, making them eligible to drive most firetrucks.

Fire Training can prepare participants for careers in the oil and gas, forestry and mining industries in addition to rural and municipal fire halls. Currently about 75% of our Fire Training certificates students find employment within six months of graduation.

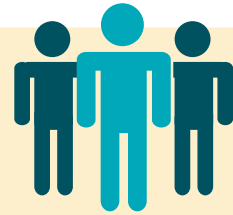
All College of the Rockies' fire training is ProBoard Certified. Custom fire training is also available to meet the specific needs of working fire departments. ■

THIS PRO-BOARD CERTIFIED PROGRAM DRAWS IN STUDENTS FROM BOTH IN AND OUT OF REGION.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC GENERATING IMPACT

College of the Rockies
employs 295 (FTE)
faculty and staff.

**Annual payroll
of \$21.5 million.**



Much of this is spent in the College
of the Rockies region to purchase
food, clothing, goods and services.

The College purchases
approximately

**\$13.8 million in
goods and services**

to support its operations each year

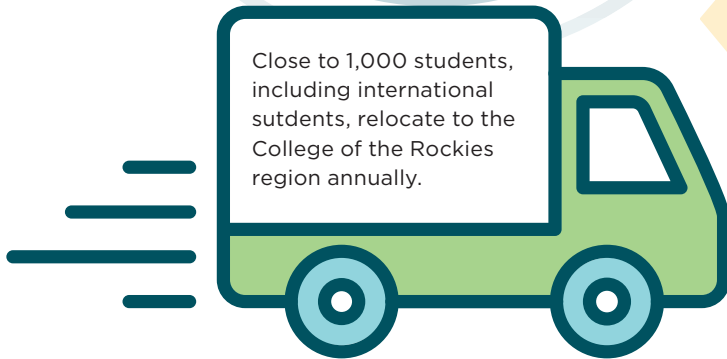


Net impact of College payroll
and expenses in College of the
Rockies' region is approximately

**\$27.2 million in added
regional income.**



Close to 1,000 students,
including international
students, relocate to the
College of the Rockies
region annually.



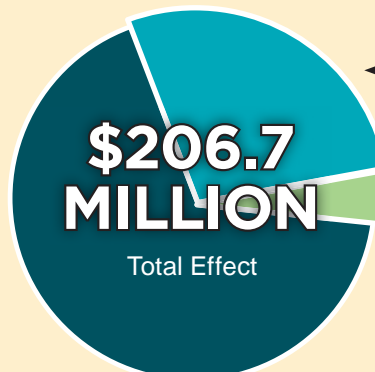
Out-of-region student spending

**adds approximately \$3.2 million
in income to the region.**

REGIONAL INCOME CREATED BY COLLEGE OF THE ROCKIES

The effect of former
College of the Rockies students
on the regional economy amounts
to approximately \$176.4 million
in added income.

College of the Rockies' total
impact on the region's economy is
approximately
**\$206.7 million in
added income.**

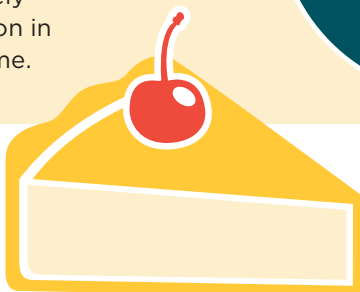


\$27.2 Million

Effect of college operations

\$3.2 Million

Effect of student spending



**That's equal to 4.7% of the
region's Gross Regional Product.**

*Source: Analysis of the Economic Impact and Return on Investment of Education, December 2013



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Henry James

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appointed member Elk Valley
appointed member Creston
appointed member Cranbrook
appointed member Cranbrook
appointed member Cranbrook
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elected student member
elected student member
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COLLEGE OF
THE ROCKIES

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