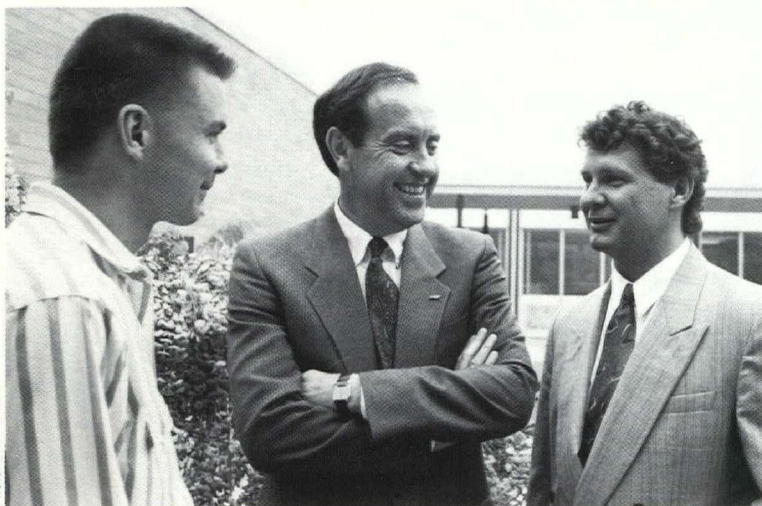


JOHN WATSON APPOINTED BCIT PRESIDENT

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BCIT President John Watson (middle) chats with Student Association President Dave Souder (left) and outgoing student President, Guy Steeves.

Photo: Brian Gauvin

I don't think there is any substitute for the kind of vitality and energy that students bring to an organization," says John Watson, reflecting on why he left his government post to take the helm of BCIT.

"My sense of fulfillment comes from being a part of the educational process, not from the paperwork," he adds.

The 45-year-old BCIT president, who holds a BSc degree from the Royal Military College and a MBA from the University of Alberta, brings to his new job a solid administrative background in post-secondary education. He was Vice-President Finance and Administration at Okanagan College and, more recently, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Advanced Education and Job Training.

Watson's experience at both the college and government levels gives him a unique understanding of the post-secondary system in the province.

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NEW FUNDING FOR BCIT

A \$13.75 million grant from the provincial government will allow BCIT to implement its new mandate as the province's centre for advanced technology. The news was announced on March 9, 1989 by Stan Hagen, Minister of Advanced Education and Job Training and Minister responsible for Science and Technology, together with Burnaby-Willingdon MLA Elwood Veitch.

"Graduates of BCIT have always excelled in their chosen fields of business, research and development," Mr. Veitch said. "It is gratifying that BCIT's world-class reputation has been appropriately acknowledged with its official mandate as B.C.'s centre for advanced technology training."

The financial package consists, in part, of three components:

• Equipment Replacement and Upgrade Grant

This grant of \$8 million over a two-year period is to upgrade basic laboratory and classroom equipment as well as to enhance computer facilities, particularly microcomputer facilities for students.

"The grant will certainly make an impact on the quality of instruction and the quality of the learning environment at BCIT," says Brian Gillespie, Vice-President Education.

By providing the funds over a two-year period, the grant allows the Institute to plan effectively, raise matching funds and explore with industry the acquisition of joint-use equipment.

• Technology Centre

A \$1.75 million grant will fund the BCIT Technology Centre, an applied research and

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"Certainly I think the president of a major institute in the province has to know how the bureaucratic and political processes work," he says. "So much rides on getting the right resources, getting the funding for facilities, and getting the backing for new programs."

"I want to use my knowledge of the bureaucracy to help BCIT build networks."

President Watson sees one of his long-term efforts as encouraging and assisting communication between government and BCIT.

Recognizing the important role BCIT plays in advanced technology and trades training in the province, he emphasizes that the Institute's new mandate "fits perfectly" with what the government is saying it wants to do with the provincial economy.

"The government's three priorities are the economy, education and the environment," he explains. "Our new mandate in advanced technology is precisely in keeping with the direction in which the government is trying to push the economy."

"The government wants to see more knowledge-based, high tech, value-added economic activity."

BCIT's new mandate, recently announced by Advanced Education Minister Stan Hagen, emphasizes advanced technology expertise and training, and technology transfer to business and industry.

"It's a great time to come to BCIT," says Watson with enthusiasm. "The Institute has lived through some tough times; there's no getting away from that. But I hope that this year's funding announcements are just the first of many."

As BCIT president, Watson wants to build on the Institute's strengths, one of which is a reputation for producing graduates who are ready to enter the workplace, he says.

"Our graduates have a good work ethic and good skills," he says. "They become productive, effective members of an employer's team right from the start."

But it's not enough today, says Watson, to have only a set of skills. "It's BCIT's responsibility to give our students tools so that they can keep themselves up-to-date in their field of study."

"Knowledge of how to use research techniques, database inquiries, libraries, and computers to get at information — this is the educational tool students need today."

"My hope is that we can take the credentials that we give our students and turn them into assets that increase in value over time," says President Watson. "The way to do that is to emphasize continuing education, communication, staying in touch with our grads and helping them return to BCIT for upgrading."

"I want employers to see our grads as terrific investments for their organizations."

The Institute won't take a passive role in accomplishing this goal, according to Watson. He says BCIT people must actively work with employers and with the alumni.

"I want to form a partnership between BCIT, employers, alumni and government," says President Watson, "so that all four parties are committed to the concept of ongoing education and keeping the BCIT credential up to date as a fundamental part of what we do."

"This is something we can offer employers — 'when you hire a BCIT graduate, it's like buying an IBM computer; we'll provide the maintenance for you.'"

As John Watson gets to know the BCIT campus and its people, he looks forward to people introducing themselves and telling him about their roles. "I want to be the president who doesn't have to tell people about having an open door. Instead, I want them to know it from their own experience." *

NEW FUNDING FOR BCIT...

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development body designed to develop ideas and expertise in high technology.

The Technology Centre brings together and enhances research and technology transfer activities that have occurred over the last five years at BCIT. This includes the Development Assistance Centre, the Applied Research in Computer Systems lab, an artificial intelligence research project jointly carried out with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the Electrical Contractors Association, interactive video disc projects, biomedical engineering projects with hospitals in the lower mainland, a variety of research projects with small companies where BCIT has helped improve their processes, and work with the National Research Council to fund two industrial technical

advisors at the Institute to assist B.C. industry.

"The grant allows us to hire a director of the Centre to focus these activities, to expand them, and to specialize in important areas of assistance to industry, particularly the manufacturing industry in B.C.," explains Gillespie.

He says the Technology Centre will focus on assisting small business with less than 50 employees. It will also help BCIT graduates develop entrepreneurial ideas into viable business activities through its "student venture" program.

"We'll also have people with expertise at the Centre who will work with industry in implementing new technology in the workplace," says Gillespie. "They will also give seminars and workshops for people in industry to explain new, appropriate technology."

• Funding for New Programs

A grant of \$3.25 million is allocated for new programs, including Advanced Applied Computing Systems, Pediatric Critical Care Nursing, Fish Harvesting and Processing Technology, and Collision Repair (Automotive Body Repair).

"These programs have one thing in common — upgrading," says Vice-President Gillespie. "The students — who may already be BCIT graduates — will come from industry and the workplace to learn new technology they may need in their jobs."

Gillespie says the choice of new programs resulted from reviewing industry's needs for new technology and listening to the ideas put forth from BCIT's many advisory committees. There are approximately 1,000 people who sit on such committees for BCIT programs.

The remainder of the financial package will be used to relocate the Power Engineering program to BCIT from Vancouver Community College, relocate the Applied Research in Computer Systems laboratory and develop a campus master facilities plan. *



Photo: Brian Gauvin

Vice-President Education Brian Gillespie:
"The grant will make an impact on the quality of BCIT's instruction and learning environment."

MICHAEL HARRISON APPOINTED DEAN, SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

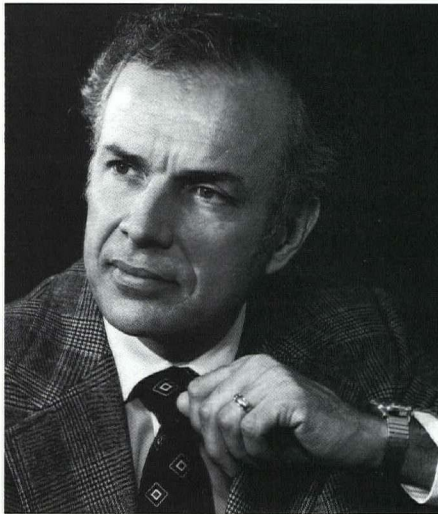


Photo: Karsh

Michael Harrison, Dean of Business: "When the goals and plans of the individual are developed in conjunction with those of the organization, you get stronger performance from both."

I'm a great believer in education as an investment for the future," says newly appointed Dean of BCIT's School of Business, Michael Harrison.

"That idea is something I practice in my own life, as well as preach. Now, more than ever, I'll have a chance to promote it at our leading institution for advanced technology and training."

Throughout his varied career in the public service, banking, telecommunications, associations and management consulting, Harrison has depended on universities and colleges to upgrade his skills. Starting with his first degree in engineering, he moved on to earn a diploma in Business Administration at the London School of Economics, and a fellowship in the Institute of Canadian Bankers, as well as taking other part-time courses for professional upgrading.

Harrison was formerly president of MCI Management Consultants International Inc., a consulting company which provides services such as corporate strategy, long-range planning and general management to a variety of organizations. He has worked in Canada, Great Britain, the U.S. and Japan.

With work experience and an education as varied as this, Harrison feels particularly comfortable in his new role as Dean of the School of Business.

"I feel confident in this new position because the School of Business has six departments and I have had experience in five areas," he says. "I think I'll have an understanding of the problems of my colleagues and an understanding of the

motivations of the students working within those areas; I've been there, after all."

Harrison says he would like to see more emphasis on the goals and initiatives of the students, faculty and staff of BCIT's business programs. "When the goals and plans of the individual are developed in conjunction with those of the organization, you get stronger performance from both," says Harrison.

"I see good reasons why this concept should work at BCIT."

Harrison says a strong education is more important than ever for individuals entering business today. For example, the impact of computer technology has been felt in all areas of business and understanding the tools and applications of computers is now an essential component of business.

"It is only a little over 30 years ago that the first business school graduate was hired by a Canadian bank," says Harrison.

"That graduate now happens to be chairman of the bank, which is a good sign. What is most notable, though, is this particular bank recognized earlier than any of the others that you needed to have some specific business training, rather than just practical experience.

"I've worked with a few entrepreneurs — brilliant people who have been spectacularly successful — but they are not businessmen.

"One reason why they were successful was that they had well-trained business people behind them managing their companies. They needed that disciplined approach to management that could only come through training."

SECOND YEAR BUSINESS MORE ACCESSIBLE TO TRANSFER STUDENTS

A newly established framework for the BCIT business program will make it easier for students entering the second year level from other post-secondary institutions and provide greater opportunities for specialization.

"Following over a year of discussion and input, we have restructured the business program to provide a course offering in the first year that is common to the post-secondary system in the province," says Brian Gillespie, Vice-President Education.

He says the restructuring of the business program makes better use of BCIT's specialized faculty, since more students will be enrolling in the second year of the program than in first year.

"We'll make better use of resources and faculty expertise and we'll see more business students completing the two-year business program and graduating."

The idea of a common core curriculum in first year and greater specialization in second year has been successful in BCIT's nursing program. Half the first year nursing class enters community colleges around the province and then comes to BCIT for the second year of the nursing program.

"People come here for the specialization, the faculty expertise and the sophisticated laboratory facilities," says Gillespie, adding that BCIT has a similar transfer program with several community colleges in the automotive program. *



Lee McBain, Civil and Structural Technology student: "People in the industry think highly of BCIT grads."

LIFELONG LEARNING FOR WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGIES

If the adage "learning is a lifelong experience" is true, Vera Blackwell, Susan Harding and Lee McBain are living proof. All three returned to school once their children were old enough not to need constant supervision.

As if the double weight of high BCIT standards and family demands were not enough, the three women also chose male-dominated fields.

"I've been surprised by the lack of sexism I've encountered," says Susan Harding. Although the new graduate of the BCIT Survey Program hears constant warnings about gender prejudice, she's "had no problems."

A 38-year-old single mother of two teenagers, Harding worked as an accounting clerk for seven years, but "wanted more challenge and variety," she says. It was about nine months after she decided surveying looked interesting that she found out about the BCIT program, and was impressed by the Institute's reputation. A chat

with BCIT faculty confirmed her choice.

"It's been hard work," she says, "but I have no regrets. I never would have believed how much I could do. I could never have managed it without considerable help from my children."

Vera Blackwell, 43, agrees that without her family's support she'd have had difficulty coping with the Building Program. Her four children, who range in age from nine to 17, think it's great that she went back to school, says Blackwell.

"But I worked hard to prepare them for it. Now, they're used to doing housework—although they still don't do dinners," she laughs.

Blackwell has always been interested in building design. "My father was a builder, and our family often lived in places that were partly finished. But, as a young woman, I found society's attitudes discouraging."

Like Harding, Blackwell has found the men in the program accepting, although she noticed that

"it was almost Easter last year before they asked me to join them for a beer after class!"

Her biggest surprise has been learning how few women enter her field. University architectural schools are reporting up to fifty per cent female enrolment, she says, as compared to only eight per cent at the technologist's level.

But Edwin Hull, Associate Dean of the Civil Group of Technologies, says that most of the technologies are closely related to engineering. "Similar numbers of women enrol in the technologies and in university engineering programs," he says.

"The biggest problem," he continues, "is that many girls drop maths and sciences in high school. But women shouldn't be intimidated. There's no reason why they should be less competent than men."

"I'm perfectly capable of doing the same job as a male technologist," says Lee McBain who is



Photo: Brian Gauvin

New graduate of the Survey Program, Susan Harding, uses survey equipment with electronic storage capability and a computer hook-up for information transfer.

finishing her first year of Civil and Structural Technology. A 38-year-old mother of two teenagers, McBain decided three years ago that it was time for something more than part-time retail work.

"I've always enjoyed fixing, poking and prodding," she says. After an aptitude test confirmed her technical orientation, a visit to BCIT suggested that the Civil and Structural Program, "would be interesting, provide job opportunities — and wouldn't involve shift work!"

People in the industry think highly of BCIT grads, she says. With this in mind, she hopes to go into site supervision within three to five years of graduation.

McBain has nothing but praise for BCIT's instructors and the Institute's open-door policy. And, like Harding and Blackwell, she speaks highly of her family's supportive attitude.

"Anybody can do what I'm doing," she says, "but it requires commitment. My family is as committed to this as I am."

Reflecting similar commitment Harding says, "I wish I'd done this years ago. It's been tough, but the rewards are there.

"I've done something that a lot of people said I shouldn't even try," she adds proudly. "And that's a wonderful feeling."

Building student Vera Blackwell: "My family thinks it's great that I went back to school."



Photo: Brian Gauvin

AUTOMOTIVE TRAINING PROGRAM SPECIALIZES

Photo: Brian Gauvin



According to Ron Evans, the impact of modern technology on the automobile may have made the all-purpose car mechanic a thing of the past. On-board computers and complex electronic systems have created a demand for such specialized knowledge, that even manufacturers' dealers have a hard time keeping up with new features.

"We have cars on the road now with five or six on-board computers and a body computer to control all the others," says Evans, BCIT's Associate Dean of Mechanical Industries Training.

"They control almost every function of the car, including the driver's comfort. They can sense the driver's alertness through electronic sensing in the steering wheel, then make adjustments to the seat, windows, air conditioning and radio volume so the driver doesn't doze off."

Evans says that automotive training has gone beyond learning about simple mechanical systems and is now venturing more into advanced science.

"The kinds of skills that mechanics of the future will require come more from the academic realm than anywhere else," he explains. "They need to be skilled in deductive reasoning, diagnostic and problem-solving processes. They must understand fibre optics, applied physics, computers, information processing and so on."

Few in the industry would challenge the fact that BCIT-trained automotive technicians are among the best coming into the workforce. Evans says the BCIT Automotive Program conducts about 65 per cent of all apprenticeship training in the province — from entry-level training through to specialized programs in automotive electronics and alternate fuels. And, because of the program's extensive contacts within the industry, it is able to maintain a curriculum that is current and has the most modern equipment.

BCIT has had a long-standing relationship with General Motors, most recently in the form of a contract to train its dealership mechanics. Three full-time faculty are training GM automotive technicians at Vancouver's Terminal Avenue facilities and five colleges throughout the province.

Evans explains that the GM contract is a major commitment for BCIT, but the Institute benefits enormously from the exchange. At the end of the two to three-year rotation at GM, Evans anticipates that faculty will exchange and return to the Institute with knowledge of the most current technology and techniques.

Last year, GM donated six new cars from its current product line to the Institute. Apprentices now have the opportunity to learn on the same up-to-date equipment that GM dealership technicians learn on. This provides them with a significant edge entering the workforce.

Short courses in new computer-controlled, anti-lock brake systems, for example, are available at a few locations in the province. But because of the newness of the technology, there are very few vehicles available that actually have the systems.

When GM introduced the systems, they developed a training program, including hardware, the materials and the mechanical components needed to offer it. BCIT faculty delivered the program to the GM dealerships, as well as to students in other Institute programs.

"We as a group are trying to develop and

Ron Evans, Associate Dean of Mechanical Industries Training, and Instructor Terry Fletcher (above) are shown state-of-the-art computerized automobile by Instructor Vince Piva at the wheel.

encourage other joint ventures with industry on that kind of basis," says Evans.

"We believe joint venture BCIT/industry training is one way we can stay close to the front edge of automotive technology."

BCIT Automotive Faculty have also worked with the Ford Motor Company in developing some of its training programs and maintains some co-operation with import auto companies, notably Toyota. BCIT is involved in a number of contracts with companies such as All Trans Transmission Centres, B.C. Automobile Association, MacMillan Bloedel and Vancouver Brake and Wheel, in addition to national chains such as Midas Muffler Canada Ltd.

To stay on top of specialization, BCIT's 16 full-time faculty have developed their own areas of expertise, as well as maintaining a solid grounding in the general program. Evans says that faculty become skilled in teaching all of the courses offered in the program, then develop specialties.

"Most specialize in one manufacturer's product line, and in one or two areas of product," he says. "One faculty member may be an expert in Ford products and transmissions, and another might specialize in air conditioning and GM products."

"So we cover a good spectrum of the industry."

The Automotive Department is the first of several mechanical training departments to gear up for participation in the new Transportation Training Centre, a BCIT development project. *

BCIT TAKING PART IN ELECTRONIC LIBRARY STUDY

BCIT will participate in a province-wide effort to improve resource sharing of library materials among post-secondary educational institutions.

The Ministry for Advanced Education announced April 5 that it will provide \$100,000 to fund a study on how to establish an "electronic library" in B.C. that will link the catalogues of all B.C. college, institute and university libraries into a single, universally accessible system.

The study will be headed by the Open Learning Agency and will involve broad representation from the province's colleges and universities. The Electronic Library Advisory Committee, chaired by Ian Mugridge, Principal of the Open Learning University, will make recommendations to the Ministry on the project's feasibility.

BCIT's representative on the committee, Vice-President Student Services and Educational Support, Paula Pick, says the Institute is taking a great interest in the project. BCIT has been the largest provider of inter-library loans in the college system, providing about 25 per cent of the total volume of inter-library loans in the province. The Institute also has the largest collection in the college system with more than 390,286 volumes.

According to Pick, the BCIT collection is unique because all materials are catalogued and available on-line, and access is granted to "anyone who asks for it."

"Given those reasons, we're very interested in what can be done to link us together with other colleges and universities," Pick says.

"It's far more democratic this way. It allows more people to share more resources in unthought of ways. Libraries are sharing institutions. They just can't operate effectively on their own."

Efforts were made in the early 1970s to centralize all college and university cataloguing systems in the province by making their records machine-readable to produce a micro-fiche union catalogue. While some success was achieved, not all libraries were converted (UBC, for example, had a larger task than most with a collection in the millions), and the system became progressively more expensive to maintain. Eventually, funding for the project was dropped.

Libraries now are turning away from micro-fiche in favour of on-line systems. Over the past number of years, different libraries have invested in different computer systems.

The problem facing the committee is that the systems by which the different libraries are catalogued are incompatible. Some are still on

micro-fiche systems, some are on-line, and there is no universal communication method between computer systems.

"One of the things we will explore is how to link the holdings information of all the libraries into a meaningful, more accessible format," says Pick.

"It would be great if I could find the availability of a certain book, for example, without having to use a micro-fiche here and a computer database somewhere else. That's the way it is now. None of it fits together.

"The technology's getting there. At some point, all of the interfaces between systems will be invisible."

Not only will the committee explore technical issues such as where the database will be stored, how will it be stored and how it will be accessed, but policy issues such as who and what should libraries charge for inter-library loans. *



Photo: Brian Gauvin

Paula Pick, Vice-President Student Services and Educational Support: "We want to electronically link BCIT's library catalogue with those of other colleges and universities."

NEW ELECTRONICS TRANSFER PROGRAM

BCIT's Electronics Technology Program is extending its reach through the establishment of a new transfer program jointly offered by the Institute and East Kootenay Community College.

The program, due to begin this September, will enable students in the East Kootenay region to take the first year of BCIT's two-year Electronics Technology Program at the regional college in Cranbrook, B.C. Successful completion of the curriculum will qualify students for the second year of the program at BCIT.

Associate Dean of Electronics Technology Joe Casimir says the new program guarantees East Kootenay students straight access to BCIT and delays their having to leave the region for further studies.

"We've been getting inquiries from students in the region who are enthused about getting a BCIT diploma and not having to relocate for as long as they might otherwise have had to," Casimir says.

Electronics Technology courses will be delivered by East Kootenay Community College instructors following BCIT course outlines, competencies and laboratory exercises. "Core" courses, such as math, physics and communications, will be delivered using an enriched university transfer program to ensure that a consistent standard is met.

East Kootenay students will also be eligible to take any of the five BCIT electronics options following the first year.

BCIT Electronics Technology transfer programs for first year have been offered through other regional colleges in the past, according to Casimir. Those colleges have gone on to develop their own second year programs with BCIT's help and now offer similar diplomas, though with fewer options for specialization.

"We still get some students from those colleges who want options not offered where they come from," Casimir says.

"They are still eligible at BCIT."

Transfer students are also eligible to take BCIT's co-operative education option, which mixes two terms of work experience with four terms of study.

"The ones who are coming into the field of electronics without work experience, or without experience inside the industry, can get a taste of what happens in the field by going into the co-op program," Casimir explains.

"They get valuable work experience which helps their study and helps their employability when they get their diploma." *



Photo: Bert H. Schendel

Students from Japan are learning drafting design and building techniques using the BCIT curriculum at Royal Oak College, a private training facility.

TRAINING JAPANESE IN CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES

BCIT is assisting with a unique training program established in the Lower Mainland by the Nikken Gakuin Company of Japan. Under the auspices of Royal Oak College, the program trains students from Japan in the techniques of 2x4 house construction, a method which has been growing in popularity in Japan since the 1970s.

Nikken opened the private college on March 23 on the site between ICBC and the Motor Vehicle office on Wayburne Drive. Inside the building, designed by a Japanese-born Canadian architect, 97 students aged 18 to 28 have been learning drafting design and building techniques. English language training is provided by English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers from Vancouver Community College.

BCIT became specifically involved in sharing technical knowledge with Royal Oak one year ago when representatives from Nikken discussed training possibilities with Executive Director of

International Education, Henry Arthur, and others on campus.

The result was an agreement between the Institute and Royal Oak wherein BCIT would design the teaching program, write the curriculum and provide some direct instruction. In addition, Royal Oak students have access to the BCIT library and recreation services and the privileges of BCIT Student Association membership.

"Through the efforts of many people, BCIT has quickly developed a very positive spirit of friendship, co-operation and good will with Royal Oak," says Arthur.

Tony Start, instructor in the Drafting Design Department, is currently responsible for teaching technical courses, along with three other Royal Oak instructors. Several Drafting Design instructors, including Start, Bill Chandler, Peter Kavanaugh and Program Head Brock Hilliard, are developing course materials assisted by Sheila Thompson of Print Services and Rick Kolebaba

of Learning Resources.

"The students have a good attitude and are generally very mature for their age, but at the moment their understanding of English is very limited," says Start.

Faced with communicating complex drafting and construction terminology to his Japanese students, Start has adapted his teaching style by talking more slowly and stressing key words. The college ESL teachers support his efforts by using construction terminology during their classes with the students.

Royal Oak College's current group of students, most of them from families which own small construction companies in Japan, will graduate in 1990. When they return to Japan, they will begin to work in the housing industry.

According to Start, their expertise in 2x4 construction techniques may result in an expansion of sales of Canadian lumber and construction materials to Japan in the future.

TECHNOLOGICAL EXPERTISE FOR HEALTH SCIENCES FIRMS

Small and medium-size firms in the health sciences field will now have greater access to technological expertise through a BCIT Industrial Technical Advisor (ITA).

The new ITA position, which is jointly funded by the Institute and the National Research Council (NRC), was recently filled by Nicholas Fong, the first ITA in Canada to be engaged in health-related activities.

Fong is a Professional Engineer and a Certified Clinical Engineer with a B.Sc. in Physiology and a B.A.Sc. in Electrical Engineering from the University of B.C. He has worked as a biomedical engineer, taught Biomedical Electronics at BCIT, and most recently worked as a Laboratory Engineer at the SFU School of Engineering Science. His consulting work has involved industrial electronics, medical devices and software development.

As an ITA, Fong's activities will involve biomedical equipment and devices, applications of

clinical engineering and technologies, and health care cost containment. He will also be assisting clients in electronics and applications of microprocessor technologies.

Fong and another ITA, Owen Edwards, whose specialty is mechanical systems technology, offer advice and assistance to business and industry through the Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP). Their role is to help small and medium-size firms to become more productive, profitable and internationally competitive.

The ITAs act as facilitators between the company requiring assistance with a particular problem and the resource on or off campus that can help solve the problem. The solution may be found in any number of ways, from a faculty member's expertise or specialized laboratory on campus to BCIT students working in the company or funds for development.

According to Ernie Iannacone, who administers the IRAP program and applied research activities

at BCIT, the Institute will be expanding its overall industry and enterprise development activities. As the advanced technology centre of the province, the Institute will focus on initiatives that increase the level of entrepreneurial activity in the province.

"We will be expanding into such new areas as a manufacturing technology centre and a business 'incubation' centre," says Iannacone.

The expanded role of the Institute will further enhance the relationship between the National Research Council's ITAs, the business and industrial community and BCIT, allowing for additional sharing of special expertise and knowledge.

If you feel the National Research Council's IRAP program may benefit your company, please contact the BCIT Development Assistance Centre at 432-8373 or call Nick Fong (432-8286) or Owen Edwards (432-8317) direct. *

NETWORK TO IMPROVE INDUSTRY TRAINING

B.C. business and industry will be getting a big boost in advanced technology training from a BCIT concept designed to provide more flexible, focussed, high-quality training than ever before.

The Industry Technology Training Network (ITTN), due to be implemented this September, is a means of delivering short, focussed training programs with an interdisciplinary approach.

While BCIT's training offerings have always been geared to industry, the ITTN concept is quite new, according to Health Sciences Dean George Eisler.

"Training is targeted not so much to the individual, but to companies or portions of industries or a specific sector of the B.C. economy," Eisler says.

"ITTN programs are not primarily geared to obtaining a credential, though that could also be

done. The goal is to meet the specific skills or knowledge demand of an industry, and the offerings will be quite different than the traditional time format."

Eisler, who heads a BCIT committee to implement ITTN, says the concept is one of the strategies to fulfill BCIT's new mandate of enhancing the province's economic development. Earlier this year, the Institute initiated the Technology Centre, an applied research and development arm of BCIT designed to develop ideas and expertise in various advanced technology fields.

"We thought that if we were going to be involved in advanced technology through the Technology Centre, then we should also make our training expertise available to related industries in a more direct way," says Eisler. "ITTN is a logical extension of those initiatives."

ITTN provides an essential link between the applied research and development activities of the Technology Centre and the traditional training activities of the Institute, according to Eisler. The three activities will be complementary, he says.

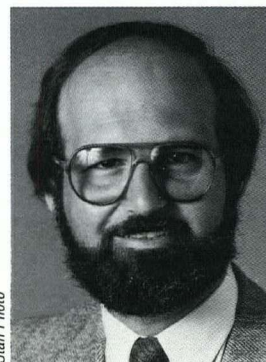
Many different course delivery methods will be used at times and dates that best suit the client. BCIT facilities will be available for ITTN activities between the traditional day and evening classes as well as on weekends. Effectively, it means BCIT's doors will be open seven days a week, 12 months a year.

Flexibility in program delivery is nothing new at BCIT, according to Eisler. BCIT schools have already been involved in developing courses that are a direct response to industry requests. Specialized programs have been delivered to a variety of companies, industries and government bodies.

"We not only have the capability to adapt our programming to specific requests, but we have considerable experience at this," Eisler says. "All our schools have done it."

"Now we're saying that as an institution, we've created a framework to make that whole process easier."

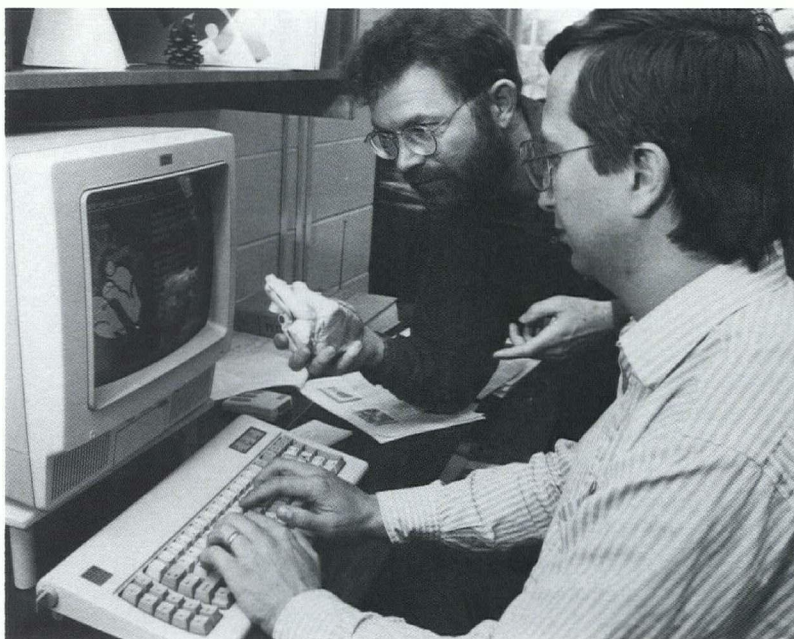
See Network page 13



Staff Photo

Health Sciences Dean George Eisler:
"We have the capability to adapt programming to specific requests."

INTERACTIVE VIDEO ON THE HEART



Project Leader Griff Richards and Software Programmer Peter Fenrich (foreground) discuss BCIT-developed interactive video presentation on the physiology of the heart.

The computer screen shows an image of a rotating human heart, over which the words "The Anatomy and Physiology of the Heart" are super-imposed. The subtle sound of a heartbeat emanates from the speaker. On the bottom right hand screen is a simple, irresistible invitation: "Touch the screen to begin."

It is what Project Leader Griff Richards calls the "attract sequence", the beginning of an interactive instructional video program aimed at BCIT's Health Sciences students on the human heart. The student touches the screen and becomes engaged in the video program.

What follows is a fascinating presentation, complete with video segments of surgery and autopsy, medical images, animations and explanations. Viewers chart their own course through the program by touching box menus on the computer screen. They can re-play segments as they wish and take short, multi-choice tests at the end.

The BCIT-produced "The Anatomy and Physiology of the Heart" is a shining example of interactive laser disc technology—the use of large CD-type laser discs and a computer program that controls the presentation sequence of information stored as video on the disc or as graphics on the computer. Viewers are asked what they want to see next and the computer program instantaneously finds and plays the new segment.

The BCIT disc, for example, can tailor a program to suit specific knowledge requirements. It is designed for students in 14 BCIT Health Sciences programs (such as Nursing, Bio-Medical Engineering, Diagnostic Sonography, etc.), all of which require different levels of detail.

At the beginning of the presentation, students are asked in which Health Sciences program they

are enrolled. The computer then chooses from a matrix of 25 lessons and presents a program suited to the student's course of study. Students can investigate their subject in as much depth as they wish, or access more detailed information as required.

"It's like those colour-coded encyclopedias," says Richards. "The colour-coding tells you the basics, the supplementary material, then recommended reading. You can look at anything in this production and, in that way, we're not cutting people off from additional information."

Richards adds the program can also be used by instructors in the classroom.

The project was released for classroom use this June, following extensive testing with students from several health-related programs. A second release is expected for the fall, following minor adjustments based on evaluations over the summer.

Already, Richards has received inquiries about the video from across Canada and abroad and recently won a grant from the Science Council of British Columbia to assess the market potential for this and other IVD projects.

Almost two years in the making, "The Anatomy and Physiology of the Heart" is one of the first projects developed by the IBM/BCIT Interactive Video Disc Development Project (IVD). It was begun in 1987 when IBM loaned 20 of its InfoWindow system units that had previously been used on the Expo '86 fairgrounds. (Funding for IVD came from the provincial government's "Excellence in Education Fund".)

Richards says instructors from Basic Health Sciences were seconded to the "Heart" project for design and development. There was also extensive involvement from other agencies in the health care industry, educational agencies

and pharmaceutical and medical equipment companies.

"It was very much a team-produced interactive video disc," Richards says. "We were fortunate in having good people involved in this project from start to finish. Everybody brought something to the project and that made it work."

Production is already underway for an interactive video designed for nurses in BCIT's Advanced Critical Care Nursing Program and for nurses in hospitals who require training in cardiac pacemakers. Richards is also working on a computer simulation of an electro-cardiogram, whereby a learner can play "pacemaker" and restore the function of a simulated heart.

Richards, an "instructional designer" with extensive background in media and computer technology, says designing interactive videos like the "heart" project has its constraints.

"The problem with television is that people develop very passive television-watching attitudes," Richards explains. "They just sit down and 'turn off.'"

"What we have to do when we develop video that's going to teach people is make it interesting and interactive. The key is to interrupt that passive viewing pattern."

"The classroom instructor, making use of the images on this video disc is one way; another way is to force the viewer into doing something. The longest segment on the video is about one minute and most of them are much shorter. As soon as that segment is over, the viewer has to make a decision what to watch next; then touch the video screen to activate the next segment. Otherwise, nothing happens on-screen."

"With a little bit of structure, television technology can really shine." *

Photo: Brian Gauvin



Photo: Brian Gauvin

Associate Dean of Nursing Margaret Neylan (left) and Director of Part-Time Health Sciences Programs Kathleen Bach respond to industry requests for training.

PEDIATRIC CRITICAL CARE NURSING PROGRAM ANSWERS URGENT NEED

B.C. Children's Hospital will receive an infusion of trained pediatric critical care nurses this December, thanks to a responsive new BCIT program.

The Pediatric Critical Care Nursing program answers a long-standing shortage of nursing specialists in this field. The shortage has resulted in a restriction of service, particularly at Vancouver's B.C. Children's Hospital. Because of the urgency of the situation, BCIT developed and implemented the training program in co-operation with B.C. Children's Hospital within a year after the Institute was first approached for assistance last July.

Associate Dean for Nursing Margaret Neylan says BCIT Health Sciences has responded to numerous industry requests for training programs in the past, but none have been implemented as fast as the Pediatric Critical Care program.

The program was implemented sooner than usual, thanks to interim development funding from Children's Hospital while a request for provincial funding was waiting approval. As well, a compressed time frame option was developed to allow nurses to complete courses at a faster pace. Parts of the program are still under development as students begin taking the first courses.

"We bent over backwards to get this program off the ground because of the sense of urgency at B.C. Children's Hospital," Neylan says.

"Serious illness in children creates a great deal of stress in parents and families. People are more vocal about demanding treatment for their children than they likely would be for themselves."

When the Pediatric Critical Care program is fully implemented, it will be part of a BCIT Advanced Diploma in Health Sciences, Neylan says. BCIT is the designated provincial training centre for post-diploma education in specialized nursing.

Neylan says the program, like other BCIT post-diploma nursing courses, will be delivered in a flexible format to allow nurses to continue working. The theory courses will normally be delivered in a distance education format, with telephone tutoring, so that nurses can study part-time while living and working in their communities.

The clinical portion of the course will require full-time practice in a location where clinical resources are available. Clinical work is structured in three to four week segments to allow nurses to book off work on professional development or vacation time.

"Nurses are people who, for the most part, live their lives in three shifts and work any of seven days a week," Neylan says.

"If they had to take courses in a regular classroom format, it would be difficult without taking extensive time off work.

"Our programs are very intensive, so we have to build in as much flexibility as we can."

Director of Health Part-Time Studies Kathleen Bach says the Pediatric Critical Care program will also be available for nurses who already have an expertise in the field.

"This will allow experienced nurses, who have come up through the system without the benefit of any formalized, accredited education, the opportunity to acquire credentials in the area," Bach explains.

"These nurses will be eligible to challenge the theory courses. Our challenge courses deliver outlines, objectives, references and some sample exams to ensure the nurses know what is expected of them."

Neylan says the Pediatric Critical Care program has been developed through extensive consultation with other hospital programs, including Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children. Program Co-ordinator Seonag Cresswell developed the curriculum, which was approved by the Advisory Committee last February. Pauline Mister, who was recently hired as instructor, has an extensive background in pediatric critical care. Cresswell developed BCIT's Neonatal Care Nursing program.

"BCIT has developed a real expertise in responding to industry requests for training, particularly in Health Sciences," Neylan says. *

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY MARKETING PROGRAM A FIRST

BCIT Advanced Technology Marketing grads, Heather Tillson (left) and Michele Morrison, provide marketing and research consulting services in Vancouver.



Photo: Brian Gauvin

The BCIT Advanced Technology Marketing program, B.C.'s only high technology marketing course, has already produced over 100 graduates since it began five years ago.

The program was developed by Dave Chowdhury, now Dean of the School of Engineering, and Randy Vandermark, Associate Dean of Marketing and Tourism. It was designed to meet the needs of two B.C. groups, the Electronic Manufacturers' Association (EMABC) and the B.C. Software Association, for trained marketing people who understand the nature of high tech industries.

In a position paper recently presented to the provincial cabinet, the EMABC cited BCIT as having "the only technology marketing program in the

province producing a small group of high quality graduates each year."

It recommended that "this very successful program be duplicated by other colleges and universities to meet the growing needs of the industry." The paper also recommended the government pay for high tech marketing training at the post-secondary level.

The need for more marketing students in this area was backed by figures showing the growth of the electronics manufacturing industry alone to be 25 per cent annually. Over 300 companies employ about 8,000 people now. Within five years, the Association foresees employment reaching over 50,000.

Students who major in Advanced Technology

Marketing take the first year general marketing courses and enter the Advanced Technology Marketing specialty in their second year. To be accepted into the program, students must already possess the strong technical background that will make them a good fit with the industry upon graduation.

Current graduates are working in the telecommunications, computer vending, hardware and software industries. Principal employers are Richmond Software, Nexus Engineering and B.C. Tel.

The Advanced Technology Marketing program includes a balanced program of lectures, readings and field trips, concluding with a directed studies project which puts classroom knowledge to the

test. Students work in teams on a practical marketing problem for a sponsoring firm under the guidance of a faculty advisor.

"The directed studies project provides firms with an excellent chance to get a free look at what students can do," says Randy Vandermark.

Mike Dinsmore, one of the program's first graduates, has been with Nexus Engineering, one of B.C.'s top five high tech employers, for three years. He has high praise for the line-up of speakers brought into the Advanced Technology Marketing program.

"They provided valuable insight into the industry," says Dinsmore, an account executive in Nexus Engineering's international division. "With more and more competition, companies have to be able to compete on an international scale."

Two 1988 graduates, Michele Morrison and Heather Tillson, recently co-founded Rechelle Research Services Inc., a company that provides marketing and research consulting services.

Their successful experience working together "under real-life pressure" on their directed studies project at BCIT resulted in their decision to form a business partnership.

Currently, Rechelle Research Services Inc. is under sub-contract to Westex Distributors Inc. to set up distributors and handle the marketing for a PC-based mapping software program called "Quikmap". The program was developed by Environmental Sciences Limited of Victoria.

The difficulty with this particular product, says Tillson, is its applications blanket many industries as opposed to selected vertical markets, which is the norm.

According to *Computer Software News*, "desktop mapping is expected to be the next major horizontal market, akin to desktop presentation and database management. Major growth will come from specialized applications developed by the VAR (value-added resellers) channel for either analysis or operations. PC-based mapping products will grow from its current 10 per cent to 25 per cent by 1992."

The task of Rechelle Research Services is to find qualified potential value-added resellers and set up strategic partnerships or licensing agreements.

Although Dave Chowdhury and Randy Vandermark are pleased with recent industry recognition of the Advanced Technology Marketing program, neither is known for resting on their laurels.

Already plans are underway to meet new demands for professional training with a new delivery approach, says Vandermark. This fall, for the first time, courses will be available for the employees of high tech companies. Among the courses planned are product development, marketing strategies for high technology products and a project course in product planning. *

PROGRAMS TO UPGRADE WORK FORCE

Several new programs at BCIT will go ahead with the help of \$3.25 million in new government funding. The focus of the new programs is to provide advanced technological training to upgrade the current work force. BCIT's numerous advisory committees were consulted on the program selection, as were employment projections for different job sectors.

The new area of Advanced Applied Computing Systems encompasses four programs: Geographic Information Systems, Software Development, Machine Vision Systems, and Advanced Industrial Control Systems.

The Geographic Information Systems program will provide advanced training for people working in B.C.'s civil engineering, forestry, land management, mining, oil and gas, and surveying and mapping industries. The credential awarded for completion is the BCIT Advanced Diploma (3rd year) in Engineering Technology. (The Advanced Diploma is a series of courses offered to people working in industry.)

The Software Development program will upgrade computer systems technologists for careers in the fast growing software development industry in B.C. This new program will train people for specialization in one of four areas—database management, computer graphics, systems programming, and data communications.

Such trained technologists, who will earn the Advanced Diploma in Computing Systems Technology, are needed by public and private communications carriers, electronics, film and other related industries.

Machine Vision Systems is a new program that builds on the experience of the BCIT Robotics Manufacturing and Computing Systems graduates. It offers an Advanced Diploma (3rd year) in Engineering Technology.

A number of local high technology industries are applying machine vision techniques to their manufacturing and processing operations for use in inaccessible or hazardous locations, in space, undersea and radioactive environments, and for medical imaging.

The new program in Advanced Industrial Control Systems will upgrade the electrical and instrumentation trades and engineering technologies in B.C.'s resource industries. Such industries are investing heavily in new automated systems which require higher competencies in their current trades people.

The BCIT program will provide hands-on training in advanced control systems and will offer an advanced certificate to engineers, technologists and technicians.

Upgrading for the fishing and fish processing industry will be provided by a new BCIT program in Fish Harvesting and Processing Technology. This part-time, diploma program is intended for people who supervise fish processing, quality assurance, and sanitation operations.

An urgent request of Children's Hospital has resulted in the new Pediatric Critical Care Nursing program. The post R.N. program will train nurses to provide nursing care to children of all ages in pediatric critical care and step down units in B.C. Children's Hospital and regional hospitals.

Lastly, in BCIT's transportation training centre, a new program in Collision Repair answers a demand for trained tradesmen in the automotive body repair and refinishing industry.

The funding for these new programs is part of a \$13.75 million financial package from the Ministry of Advanced Education and Job Training to assist BCIT to fulfill its mandate to provide advanced technology training.

"Without this funding," said Ed Taylor, Chairman of BCIT's Board of Governors, at the March 9 funding announcement, "our new mandate to be an innovative technology enterprise would have been only a dream and a plan." *

NETWORK TO IMPROVE INDUSTRY TRAINING...

from page 9

"ITTN will also have an impact on funding and the sophistication of some of our labs," Eisler adds. "If our role is to support industries technologically at the leading edge, then we will have to acquire the necessary support to do that, both in terms of the sophistication of the equipment, labs and classrooms as well as the currency of faculty assisted by the new professional development plan.

"We're taking the role of participating in and enhancing economic development in the province very seriously. We understand that part of our mandate very clearly, and we will be carrying it out either by contributing to the creation of new products or by supporting industry in the implementation of more up-to-date and cost-effective systems." *

CAMPUS MASTER PLAN ON THE DRAWING BOARD

Photo: Brian Gauvin



Physical Plant Director Walter Watkins is developing a blueprint for a campus master plan.

Members of the BCIT community on all levels are now involved in the creation of the campus master plan, a blueprint for the Institute's future facilities development. Walter Watkins, physical plant director and project manager, sees campus-wide input as "the opportunity to make sure all wants and wishes are recognized."

Among the objectives of the campus master plan are creating a satisfying environment for academic and non-academic functions, consolidating and clarifying the campus image and character, improving the movement of pedestrian and vehicular traffic to ensure safety and convenience, and making the institution accessible for handicapped persons.

A major goal of the plan is to make the campus more hospitable to the public. For example, location information, proper signage and places to sit down and rest tired feet are important considerations for visitors to campus.

"One theme that has already emerged," says Watkins, "is the need to unify the old PVI and BCIT campuses so that the campus will present an identifiable image and character."

He points to the need to establish diagnostic clarity and to bring unity to the different zones that compose the campus, such as the recreation zone, the residential zone, the academic zone and the parking lots.

"The funds recently received from the provincial government augur well for the future quality of our facilities," says Watkins. In addition to the \$13.75 million grant to BCIT, \$3.5 million has

been earmarked this year for facilities upgrade.

The campus master plan will take into consideration such upgrade requirements as renovating labs for existing programs and preparing facilities for new programs. As well as general renovations, infrastructure, parking lot and landscape improvements are essential.

To assist BCIT in developing the plan, the firm of Hotson Bakker Architects and the Cornerstone Planning Group, educational planners, have formed a team of experts. The team includes landscape architects, Don Vaughan Ltd.; the engineering firm, Reid Crowther and Partners Ltd.; transportation consultants, N.D. Lea Consultants Ltd.; and cost consultants, Barnett, Treharne, Yates Ltd.

This group of consultants will meet with members of the BCIT community, faculty, administrators, heads of the student association and members of various unions. "It's a very interactive process," says Watkins.

Suggestions of faculty and support staff are a valuable part of the consultants' information gathering process. July will see the presentation of their findings, by which time planning principles will have developed and certain themes will have emerged that can be addressed. August is slated for BCIT board of governor approval of the final document.

"It is hoped that the strategies developed in the campus master plan will allow for an orderly process of change and growth," says Watkins. *

CLASSROOM UPGRADE UNDERWAY

BCIT's classrooms are getting a long awaited overhaul as part of an institute-wide facilities upgrade program.

A committee headed by Vice-President Student Services and Educational Support Paula Pick, is looking at ways to bring classrooms and labs up to standard as part of a \$3.5 million allocation for facilities upgrade provided by the provincial government.

The committee, called "Project Classroom", is identifying areas for improvements and intends to make specific recommendations that will be implemented by September 1989, according to Pick.

Replacing worn or damaged drapes, improving lighting, installing new audio-visual equipment and repairing damaged furniture and fixtures are some of the tasks of the committee.

"We're also looking at some longer-range considerations, such as implementing mechanisms for reporting damaged facilities or equipment, more appropriate scheduling of classrooms to suit class sizes, and recommendations for renovations and improved cleaning practices," Pick says.

Pick adds that painting and other repairs will be among the recommendations, including an attempt to update the colour selection of the buildings' interiors.

The committee will also identify standard elements for every BCIT classroom, including equipment, furniture, storage and other considerations depending on their specific use. All classrooms will eventually be brought up to the recommended standards.

"What we've found in a lot of cases is that many classrooms are not designed for their present use," says Pick. "Some of our computer labs, for instance, are equipped with standard blackboards. The chalk dust created from blackboard use is building up in the micro computers."

"The committee has agreed to replace the computer lab blackboards with whiteboards, which use special felt-tipped pens instead of chalk. We are also considering installing whiteboards in all new classrooms."

Pick explains that the committee has been given no specific budget with which to work; its mandate is only to identify what needs to be done. *

SHEET METAL PROGRAM WINS RECOGNITION

BCIT's Sheet Metal Program was the focus of attention last March when two of its apprentices won first place in the Regional Sheet Metal Apprentice Contest. Two others finished in the top ten and the BCIT team took the overall award for combined marks.

Competing against 35 apprentices from Oregon, Washington, B.C. and Alaska, Roger Day (second year) and Brian Kuzek (third year) earned top honours in the competition, earning them a place in the National Contest in Minneapolis in May. They competed against apprentices from across the U.S.

The contest, sponsored by the U.S.-based National Training Fund for the Sheet Metal Industry, consisted of a drafting project, a written test, a blueprint reading and an eight-hour shop project.

While both students missed top spots in the national contest, BCIT Chief Instructor Gord Bradbury, who accompanied them to Minneapolis, was pleased with their performance.

"The fact that a student even gets to the national contest is really something," Bradbury says. "They are competing against the cream of the crop in the sheet metal field.

"It's quite a feather in their caps to have gone to Minneapolis."

In an industry that relies on well-honed fabrication skills, BCIT is turning out some of the most qualified sheet metal apprentices in the province, according to Mike Cannell, Associate Dean of Construction and Metal Industry Training programs.

That's good news for sheet metal employers who are currently demanding more qualified apprentices than ever before.

"Employment opportunities for sheet metal workers are phenomenal, right now," says Cannell. "We've gone from the recessionary low point in the construction industry to a boom situation right now.

"We can't get them into our program fast enough or get them out fast enough."

Due to industry demand, BCIT has added a second Sheet Metal entry-level class this year.

"The reason a lot of people haven't been coming to the construction trades is that during the recession, people didn't think they offered much career potential," Cannell explains.

"All that has changed and what we're seeing right now proves there is a great need for trained



Photo: Brian Gauvin

Sheet Metal Program Chief Instructor Gord Bradbury: "Employment opportunities are very good in the sheet metal industry."

people — there always will be. Career potential has never been better."

Graduates of the program take jobs in a variety of industries, most notably in areas where moving air and materials are required. They build air conditioning and ventilation ducts for the pulp and paper industry, mining industry, wood-working factories, commercial offices and residential housing. They also build "blowpipe" for moving grain or sawdust, and stainless steel kitchen/restaurant equipment.

Cannell and Bradbury admit the sheet metal field is not immune to the cyclical nature of the construction industry, despite the high demand for qualified journeymen.

"Some areas are more consistent than others," says Bradbury. "Work in the blowpipe industry, for example, is more continuous because of the amount of repairs. Sawdust and grain just eat out the pipes, no matter what materials are used."

"It's a very high-paying industry as well," adds Cannell.

While other industries are being inundated with technological change, Cannell says sheet metal fabrication has moved at a slower pace. New equipment and materials have changed somewhat but the basics of fabricating metals remain the same.

"There has been some automation in the field, notably plasma arc cutting systems," says Cannell.

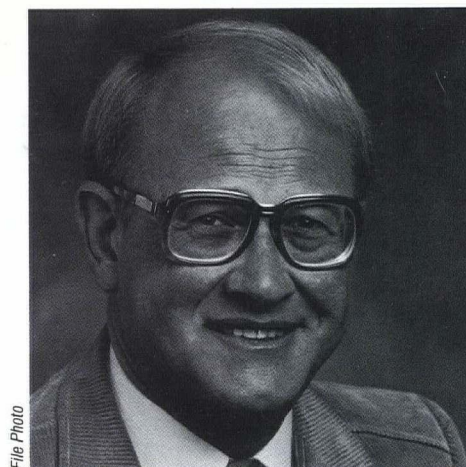
"That is our goal here — teaching highest quality fabrication skills, and providing industry with the best journeymen." *



Staff Photo

Instructors and students from the Sheet Metal Program are proud winners of the Sheet Metal Apprentice Contest: (l to r) Brian Kuzek, apprentice, Dave Stewart, instructor, Gord Wilson, apprentice, Jim Bower, contest co-ordinator, Don Feary, training co-ordinator, Roger Day, apprentice, Rick Vandenberg, apprentice, and Gord Bradbury, chief instructor.

HAGEN ANNOUNCES INCREASED ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENTS



Advanced Education Minister Stan Hagen:
"Our student financial assistance program
is one of the best in Canada."

Minister of Advanced Education and Job Training Stan Hagen, has announced increases in the maximum assistance available to students under the B.C. Student Assistance Program.

Hagen said the program will also be restructured so that assistance is calculated on a weekly basis rather than on the basis of the school term. This allows for equitable allocation of funding to students participating in longer programs.

The increases, which take effect August 1, 1989, will greatly improve the funding available to individual BCIT students, who are often enrolled

in programs that are several weeks longer than the usual school term. Standard BCIT Technology Programs are two years in length, with each academic year consisting of nine months or 39 weeks.

Significant changes to the financial aid program were made two years ago after an intensive study by the Advisory Committee to the Student Financial Assistance Review, chaired by Dr. Les Bullen, a former Ministry of Education official. The committee, now succeeded by the Standing Committee on Student Financial Assistance, included students, financial aid officers, representatives of the general public and of the

Ministry of Education. The Advisory Committee reported, and the Standing Committee reports annually, to Minister Hagen with recommendations.

According to Bullen, the committees base their recommendations on four principles:

- Students should have equal access to post-secondary education regardless of financial resources;
- As both society and the student benefit from post-secondary education, both should share the costs;
- Both need-based and merit-based programs are important components of a student assistance program;
- A student assistance program should encourage successful and timely completion of a program of study.

"Improvements have been made since the Advisory Committee report was tabled," Bullen says. "The maximum award levels and maintenance allowances have both been raised, amongst other positive changes."

The increased student assistance is especially beneficial to BCIT students who are sole support parents. This year's maximum assistance for qualifying students has been increased to \$10,200 from \$8,400, for a 34-week term. The maximum for a 52-week term is \$15,600.

As well, if a student has not attended a post-secondary program before coming to BCIT, he/she can be considered for B.C. Student Assistance that includes both a loan and generous grant portion. The grant portion is available for the first two years of post-secondary study. *

CORPORATE SUPPORT FOR BCIT SCHOLARSHIPS, BURSARIES AND AWARDS

June is the month our technology students graduate from BCIT and eagerly pursue the job market to put their new skills to work. British Columbia industry responds each year by hiring a great number of our graduates and, over the last 25 years, BCIT has built its reputation around this demand.

It's also a time to recognize how important business and industry is to student scholarships. Through support of the BCIT scholarship, bursary and awards program, some 500 companies and individuals provide awards to our top students in the Schools of Business, Engineering, Health and Trades.

This commitment of approximately \$250,000 annually provides assistance to students and recognizes the academic achievements of our best graduates.

Financial aid to students continues to be a major focus at BCIT and an integral part of our commitment to industry — to provide job-ready graduates for British Columbia. It is through the generosity of individuals and corporations that students can receive financial recognition that is quite often the assistance they need to finish their studies. The June awards ceremonies are a reminder for us at BCIT to say thanks to you . . . for the students. *



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