

# Focus on Skills



Issue 1 – November 20, 2013

## Upcoming Events

**Nov. 20:** Industry Training Authority (ITA) Youth Day, 4 Seasons Hotel, Vancouver.

**Nov. 21/22:** Career Education Society Conference, Seasons Hotel, Vancouver <http://ces.bc.ca/>

**Nov. 27:** Victoria Makerspace, Greater Victoria Public Library. Register at [gvpl.ca](http://gvpl.ca) or by phone at 250-391-0653.

## Larry's Blog

Should we expose students to the skilled trades earlier than we typically do? Find out what Larry Espe, our Superintendent of Trades and Student Transitions, has to say about it.

<http://engage.bcedplan.ca/2013/11/starting-earlier/>

## 2013/14 Non-Instructional Day

This year's non-instructional day focuses on skills, trades and apprenticeships instruction and programs. See here for ideas and contacts to help you plan your day:

[http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/careers/apprenticeship\\_trades.htm](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/careers/apprenticeship_trades.htm)

## Skills Exploration 10-12

Skills Exploration 10-12 (STX) is a joint project between the [Industry Training Authority](#) and the Ministry of Education. STX will allow students to explore trades or technology careers through hands-on experiences. It is designed to assist students in making smooth transitions to either the workplace, or an appropriate post-secondary program.

Skills Exploration 10-12 is available in draft form now for schools who would like to try it out in February. For a copy of the program guide please email us at [EDUC.DistributedLearning@gov.bc.ca](mailto:EDUC.DistributedLearning@gov.bc.ca).

## The Mentorship Project

The Mentorship Project is a new initiative from the Industry Training Authority (ITA) designed to connect youth trade apprentices with certified trades people. The Mentorship Project is currently being piloted in three school districts (Kitimat/Terrace, North Okanagan and Vancouver) with the goal of expanding to more school districts and trades-related employers in Fall 2014.

Visit <http://www.itabc.ca/youth-trades/mentorship-project> to learn more about The Mentorship Project.

## Check out the New WorkBC Website

WorkBC has launched a new version of its website—and it's a beauty! This new website gives visitors the ability to connect with crucial career planning, labour market and employment information on their mobile devices. The new site also features improvements to the search, a new employer gateway, a streamlined registration process, and a new job alert system.



This new website makes it easier than ever for citizens to plan their careers and connect with employment opportunities in their communities and across the province. Check it out at [www.workbc.ca](http://www.workbc.ca).

## Help Evaluate WorkBC's Resources

WorkBC is also looking for educators, counsellors, and others to help evaluate their resources. Contact [deanna.young@gov.bc.ca](mailto:deanna.young@gov.bc.ca) by December 6 if you'd like to take part in an evaluation session.

## Trades Program Finder

Have you checked out the Trades Program Finder from LearnNowBC? With this great tool you can find [ACE-IT](#) programs in three ways: By district, school, or by specific trade. These programs are delivered by certified instructors in a high school, partner post-secondary institution, or at an ITA-certified training facility.

[LearnNowBC](#)

<http://www.learnnowbc.ca/trades/TradesFinder.aspx>

## Skills Canada InSPIRE project

[Skills Canada BC](#), in partnership with [Trades Training BC](#), has launched a Province-wide pilot program that will provide teachers and students with an informative and activity based insight into the many career possibilities in the trades and technology sectors. **InSPIRE** (In School Presentations: Inform! Relate! Excite!) will feature mentor testimonials and engaging team-based activities that will provide teachers and students with resources to make informed career decisions.

The program is currently being offered as a pilot in select schools across the Province, but it is expected to be open to general registration in the Fall of 2014. For more information, or to register your school in the pilot program please contact Rene Ragetli, Skills Canada Director of Operations, at (604) 432-4362.

## Share Your Story



What is your school or organization doing to introduce students to the skills and trades? Who from your ranks has gone on to pursue a career in this area — perhaps as a chef, a carpenter, an esthetician, or an electrical engineer? What were your students' paths to their chosen careers, and where are they now?

Help inspire the next wave of youth to consider a career in the skills and trades. Share your story with us at [EDUC.DistributedLearning@gov.bc.ca](mailto:EDUC.DistributedLearning@gov.bc.ca) and we'll consider publishing it in a future edition of this newsletter.