



Gord Armour

District Coordinator Transition, Training and Trades
School District 27 (Cariboo Chilcotin)

<http://www.sd27.bc.ca/programs-and-services/career-development>

5,046 students

For many years, Gord Armour has been a champion of the Career Programs in School District 27, which grew out of the old Career Preparation programs. From the outset, there was a strong commitment in the district to fully utilize the Work Experience component of those programs and to develop solid community partnerships with business and industry.

“The strategy is that real learning does not take place just within the classroom. Students must be given the opportunity to connect classroom learning with the outside world and learn from the community as well,” Gord says.

The development and delivery of quality programs and opportunities for students, helped convince the district to maintain a certain level of funding to continue its support. Gord and his team strive to maintain consistency in delivery across the district. Early on, the district bought into the value of quality Career Development for all students and continued to work towards that goal. With the exception of the ACE IT program, Career Development is now funded directly by the district.

Along with post-secondary partner Thompson Rivers University, SD 27 has strong partnerships with local industry that includes: Taseko Gibraltar Mine, Imperial Metals, Mount Polley Mine, Tolko Forest Products, West Fraser Forest Products and all of their suppliers and contractors. The district has also developed valued links with the business community for the delivery of other programs such as: Junior Achievement, Wild Fire Fighting training, RCMP Youth academy, Mining Camp of Discovery, Trades Forums, YES 2 IT events and Health Care related opportunities.

What does Gord see as the challenges? “Hard work and constant commitment to standards and delivering a valued product are the biggest challenges. Once community members and employers are onboard, you need to keep them there through constant communication with them.”

In order to form strong partnerships, Gord sees himself much like a salesperson making the appropriate connections with the right people. He believes there is a need to understand how the business community works, learn how to work with that community, and make them feel valued. Once community members and employers are onboard, he needs to keep them there via constant communication.

Gord believes that “...our students have a greater opportunity for quality career development in partnership with the various community members we work with than other districts our size. To some extent, our students are afforded outside opportunities that are not available in large, urban districts that may have access to a larger and wider array of industry and business.”