Applied Research Partnerships
Economic Development Division Webinar Series: March 6, 2018

Connecting Communities Through Research on Vancouver Island
About North Island College

- Serve 9000+ students (2400 FTE)
- 43 years of in-community and distributed learning
About North Island College

• Four campuses and one learning centre
  • Comox Valley
  • Campbell River
  • Port Alberni
  • Mt Waddington (Port Hardy)
  • Ucluelet
Centre for Applied Research, Technology and Innovation (CARTI)

- Coordinating innovative projects that link the needs of business and industry with College student and faculty expertise.
“Research” in a College Context

Applied research focuses on solving practical problems in the real world

This is different than “pure” or “discovery” research that tends to be theory based
Partnership Example - AQUACULTURE

• Important economic sector on Northern Vancouver Island
• 6,600 jobs and $1.5 billion towards BC economy
• Finfish and shellfish
• NIC aquaculture experts and students work with several companies to find solutions to industry challenges.
Partnership Example - AQUACULTURE

• Han Pacific Shellfish on Denman Island
• Partnership to explore effective ways to reduce predation of oyster seed by crabs.
• $25,000 grant from NSERC to support 3 students and one faculty member to investigate - including purchasing of netting materials.
Partnership Example - AQUACULTURE

- $25,000 grant from NSERC to support 3 students and one faculty member to investigate
- Funding included purchase of netting materials.
Partnership Example – Aquaculture and Eelgrass

• Eelgrass serves a critical function in estuaries and some feel that it adds a sweetness to adjacent oysters.

• Eelgrass is twice as effective in carbon sequestration as trees.

• Assessing eelgrass distribution to aid in placement of future shellfish farms.

• $25,000 grant from NSERC to support 2 students and one faculty member to investigate, including diver surveys
Partnership Example – Social Procurement Policy

• Investigating required policy changes and barriers to large institutions purchasing local food using social procurement framework.

• Implemented by North Island College, St. Joseph’s Hospital and Glacier View Lodge.

• $100,000 grant from McConnell Foundation and Comox Valley Regional District.
Partnership Example – FILM INDUSTRY

• Opportunity to build film sector and supporting trades on Vancouver Island.

• BC film industry is valued at $3B; total for all of Canada is $4.4B

• NIC received almost $500,000 to support film training, based on the request for support from local government and regional sector expertise.

• 137 grips, set designers, production assistants and lighting technicians have been trained.
Partnership Example – Indigenous Language and Leadership

• The project gathered knowledge from local Kwakwaka’wakw Elders, exploring leadership language and concepts.

• Insights from the project will be used to develop a youth leadership camp.

• SSHRC provided almost $25,000.
Partnership Example – Remote Sensing Tech

- Island Telemetrics needed to develop technology to stream sensor data to the cloud for real-time access.
- Two students built the prototype control boards, linked to the software and conducted testing for a remotely operated water quality monitoring system.
Partnership Example – Shellfish Sector Health

• Shellfish sector wanted to new, faster, less expensive screening test for shellfish disease.
• One faculty member and one student developed a new assay.
• NSERC provided $25,000
• Next step is to ground truth the new assay against the existing testing available.
More information

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