



## A Message from the President of BC Colleges, Jim Reed

May 12, 2010

### Message from Jim Reed - President, BC Colleges

Welcome to this month's edition of "What's New at BC Colleges". As we approach the end of the school year, I would like to take a moment to celebrate our leading edge programs, world-class instructors, their teaching excellence and the students who excel under their instruction. I was struck this month by the number of news stories that focused on accolades for programs, teachers and students within the BC Colleges' system.

Notably, **Langara College's** Kathryn Shaw, Artistic Director of Studio 58, won the 2009-2010 Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC) Bronze Teaching Excellence award. While this prestigious recognition took Shaw by surprise, it was unanimous among students and colleagues that it was well-deserved. Shaw's tenacious commitment to world-class teaching and her gift for training student actors to become artistically-and technically-seasoned professionals has earned her a prominent reputation in the theatre community. Kathryn is just one of the many instructors making a difference at BC's colleges. It is our plan over the coming year to introduce you to other excellent instructors at our 11 member institutions throughout BC.

On the student front, there were many competitions and many awards received in April and May. Helen Clay, a 2010 graduate of the Print Futures: Professional Writing program at **Douglas College**, won the Editors' Association of Canada's (EAC) inaugural Claudette Upton Scholarship. This monetary award supports continuing professional development in editing. On another front, a team of **Okanagan College** business students traveled to California where they were awarded Top Company and Top Report at the 46th International Collegiate Business Strategy Competition. A global recession and stock market crash were just two of the obstacles the team had to overcome. I'm sure you will agree that this is incredibly worthwhile training in today's turbulent economy.

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From a program perspective, Vancouver Community College's program for deaf and hard of hearing adults has been recognized by the Disability Resource Network (DRN) for its outstanding contribution to education for students with disabilities. Upon the awards announcement, DRN representative Shirley Coomber stated "Your team has been recognized for your commitment to excellence, support of students, and creative programming within the post-secondary system."

These are just a few of the many success stories during the past month at BC Colleges. In the coming months, many graduates will face one of their biggest challenges to-date, entering the work force. It is my belief that their college education will prepare them well for this challenge and provide an excellent foundation for success.

Sincerely,

**Jim Reed**  
**President, BC Colleges**

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