

Malaspina carpentry grads return to build new campus facilities

For the Daily News

When does a carpentry program know it's a success?

When the graduates return as journeymen and apprentice carpenters to work on a \$21-million construction project.

Such is the case at Malaspina University-College where two contractors have hired 15 graduates of Malaspina's Carpentry and Residential Construction and Carpentry Apprentice technical training programs.

Campbell Construction Ltd. has hired 11 grads and Knappett Construction hired four.

Superintendent John Scheeren says, "Campbell Construction is always looking for carpenters who take pride in their workmanship.

"I notice that Malaspina's car-

penry instructors are very proud of their students, some of whom are becoming our key people.

"The Malaspina carpentry students generally have a good attitude and skills, and they like the idea that they're building something lasting for their community."

According to Scheeren, job opportunities for B.C. tradespeople are bright, but the construction industry itself may be heading for a problem.

"There's no doubt in my mind that we're facing a severe crisis in trades because of the lack of trained tradespeople to replace the many who will be retiring in the next ten years.

"Campbell Construction is doing everything we can to emphasize the need for trained tradespeople for the future," said Scheeren.

Three pathways to career success

For the Daily News

There are three pathways to over 150 existing and emerging trades and technical careers in British Columbia.

The three pathways are: entry-level trades and technical programs available at post-secondary institutions such as Malaspina University-College; apprenticeship programs; and industry based training programs.

These pathways generally range from six months to five years and contain formal education and training combined with hands-on experience.

High school students in Nanaimo can now get an early start on their post-secondary education and training through the Career Technical

Centre (CTC), an innovative partnership between Malaspina University-College and School District 68.

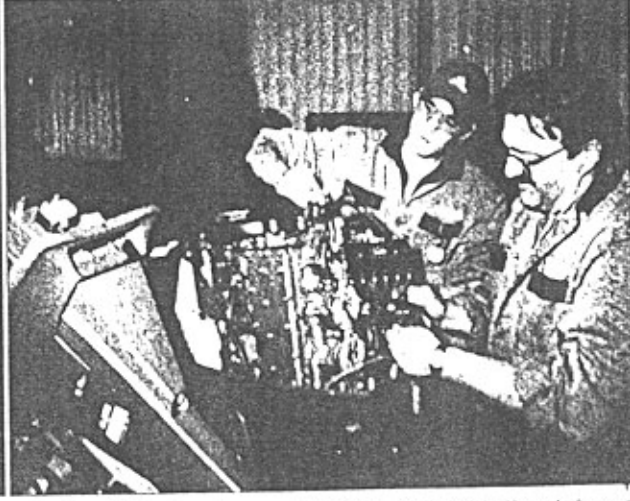
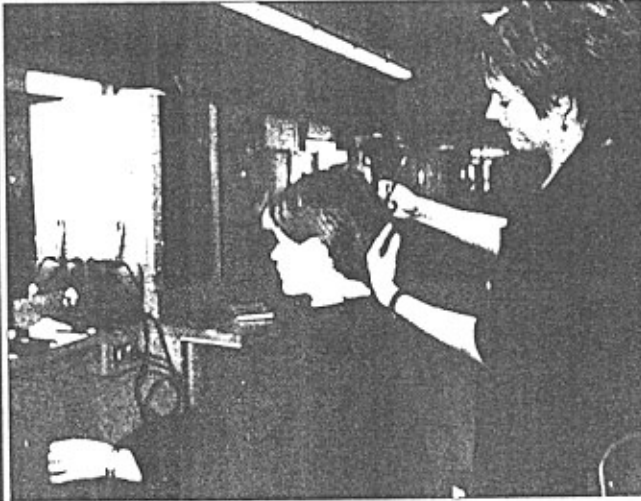
Students can complete their grades 11 and 12 and take selected Malaspina technical programs such as Automotive Service Technician, Applied Business Technology, and Internet Essentials.

For information on trades and technical training programs in B.C., look online for the website of the Industry Training and Apprenticeship Commission; <http://www.learnandearn.bc.ca> or www.learnandearn.bc.ca.

For information on Malaspina's trades and technical programs, please call Advising (755-8752), or click Calendar and look under Applied Programs on the website www.mala.bc.ca.



MALASPINA STUDENTS are encouraged to test their skills in provincial and national competitions. Culinary Arts student Liana Viani won gold in the Foodservice Expo 2001. (Photo submitted)



MAKING THE MOST of technical skills are, from left, Welding instructor Cy Fortin, right, with a trainee from Norske Skog Crofton Mill, hardressing students Brandi Bullen, left, and Angelique Gignac and Inboard, Outboard Marine & Small Engine Technician students Sheldon Lloyd Walters, left, and Doug Mowatt. (All photos submitted)