



Vancouver Community College Education Council
 Special Meeting Agenda
 January 24, 2024
 3:30–4:15 p.m. Videoconference
<https://vcc.zoom.us/j/67943555803>

	Topic	Action	Speaker	Time	Attachment	Page
1.	CALL TO ORDER		N. Mandryk			
2.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT		N. Mandryk			
3.	ADOPT AGENDA	Approval	N. Mandryk	1 min	✓	1
4.	BUSINESS ARISING					
	i. International Education Strategic Plan (IESP) 2024-2029	Approval	J. Gossen	45 min	✓	2-13
5.	NEXT MEETING & ADJOURNMENT	Info	N. Mandryk	1 min		

Next meeting:
 February 13, 2024, 3:30–5:30 p.m.



DECISION NOTE

PREPARED FOR: Education Council

DATE: January 24, 2024

ISSUE: International Education Strategic Plan (IESP) 2024–2029

BACKGROUND:

VCC has developed a five-year International Education Strategic Plan (IESP) to inform and guide our local and global engagement in our internationalization efforts. This plan was developed with a keen eye to the British Columbia Ministry of Advanced Education & Skills Training International Education Framework and EduCanada’s consultations on the forthcoming renewal of the federal International Education Strategy. It is intended to be responsive to evolving student and sectoral needs, provide strategic vision and direction to VCC campus and community members, and position VCC to lead the College sector in BC in global engagement.

DISCUSSION:

The IESP includes strategic objectives that were developed with input from internal and external stakeholders including students, staff, faculty, and partners. This input was collected through various engagement events including meetings, focus groups, surveys, and presentations. In addition, we formed an IESP Advisory Committee to provide input, be informed and make recommendations on the plan.

This institution-wide plan outlines strategic objectives and action items that showcase opportunities for VCC to advance internationalization across the College and will be further developed in the next phase of community-wide implementation planning. Objectives include Indigenous Perspectives; Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Access; Student Success; Global Experiences and Partnerships; and Sustainability.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Education Council recommend the Board of Governors approve, in the form presented at this meeting, the International Education Strategic Plan (IESP) 2024–2029.

PREPARED BY: Jennifer Gossen, Director International Education

DATE: January 18, 2024

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN (IESP) 2024 - 2029

VANCOUVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

VCC
International Education Strategic Plan

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Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that Vancouver Community College (VCC) is located on the traditional unceded territories of the x^wməθk^wəyəm̓ (Musqueam), Sḵw̓x̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), and səliłw̓ ətaʔt̓ (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples who have been stewards of this land from time immemorial.

President's Accountability Statement

For nearly 60 years, VCC has been committed to ensuring a diverse, globally engaged and locally grounded community for students, employees, industry partners, and community members. We are proud of our commitment to internationalization and look forward to making an even greater impact in the years to come.

The International Education Strategic Plan (IESP) was developed to meet evolving student and sectoral needs, ensuring a learning and living environment that will serve our community and our province well into the future. Our unwavering dedication to international education and global engagement is central to this plan. We take responsibility for promoting sustainable and ethical initiatives, and through this strategic plan, we embark on a journey to integrate relevant programs, practices, and values across our organization.

At VCC, we believe that true progress cannot be made without also furthering reconciliation, equity, and accessibility. These values have strongly informed this plan and will continue to guide our way in the decades to come.

Thank you to all of those who contributed to this plan, and to the International Education Department and Advisory Committee members for your dedication, time, and collaboration on the IESP.

Thank you for joining us as we shape VCC's future together.

Sincerely,



Ajay Patel
President and CEO
Vancouver Community College

About the International Education Strategic Plan (IESP)

The International Education Strategic Plan (IESP) is a collaborative effort led by the VCC International Education Department and supported by the IESP Advisory Committee on behalf of the broader VCC community. The plan is informed by and aligned with the VCC Strategic Innovation Plan (SIP, 2022 - 2025) and other VCC commitments, including the Campus Plan, Accessibility Plan (2023 - 2026), Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2023 - 2028) Mental Health and Well-being Framework (2022-2026) and the Indigenization Strategy (forthcoming). It was developed with a keen eye to the British Columbia Ministry of Advanced Education & Skills Training International Education Framework (2021) and EduCanada's consultations on the forthcoming renewal of the federal International Education Strategy (2025 - 2030).

The IESP is a five-year strategic plan (2024 - 2029) that informs and guides VCC's local and global engagement in our internationalization efforts. The IESP was developed to be responsive to evolving student and sectoral needs, provide strategic vision and direction to VCC campus and community members, and position VCC to lead the BC College sector in global engagement. It is an institution-wide plan created with support from the Senior Leadership Team and the Board.

VCC is committed to community engagement in all of our strategic planning. We conducted internal and external stakeholder engagement, and their feedback was integrated into the development of this IESP. The IESP will be followed by a detailed College-wide implementation plan that will be community-built and initiated.

Thank you to the International Education Department, the IESP Advisory Committee, and internal and external stakeholders for sharing valuable ideas and helping shape this strategic plan. We also thank external consultants Kate Jennings and Sarah Mines, who provided expert training and senior advisory services throughout the development of the IESP.

About VCC

Vancouver Community College (VCC) offers in-demand programs leading to employment that support provincial and federal strategies for internationalization. As a key player in the post-secondary landscape in BC, VCC's connections to industry and community ensure that our students have direct access to employers and community resources. The majority of VCC's programs incorporate experiential and work-integrated learning to prepare graduates for employment, as demonstrated by our high graduate employment rates.

VCC prioritizes student learning with small classrooms in cohorts that provide individualized and specialized support for learners. VCC's cohort model embeds essential student support for language, intercultural and academic competencies. Our instructors bring industry experience to the classroom and our on-campus facilities provide real work and practical skills to promote community engagement and further ensure our graduates are ready for the workforce.

One of the College's core values is to create an accessible and sustainable environment in the local and global classroom, industry and community where students build the skills, develop the attributes and gain the experience needed for success now and in the future. We are deeply committed to furthering equity, accessibility, decolonization and reconciliation and adopting environmentally sustainable practices into our internationalization initiatives and operations, which makes VCC a unique and exciting place to study and work.

VCC administrators, staff and faculty foster a student-centered environment and ensure students have access to services and resources to enhance their success. We recognize our role in ensuring students are successful both on- and off-campus. We are committed to working with local partners to create living and learning spaces that are responsive to student needs. Through holistic student services and programs, VCC supports the entire student journey from pre-arrival to graduation and beyond.

International Education Strategic Plan

VCC Vision Statement

The first choice for innovative, experiential learning for life.

VCC International Education Vision Statement

An inclusive environment for students, staff, and faculty to engage in international learning and contribute to the local and global VCC community.

VCC International Education Mission

- Advance internationalization efforts at VCC through strategic internal and external partnerships
- Deliver high-quality, inclusive education and services for students to thrive academically, culturally and socially.
- Promote and provide local and global engagement opportunities for students, staff and faculty and contribute to a more sustainable and interconnected world.

VCC International Education Strategic Objectives

The following strategic objectives position VCC to be responsive to global trends and opportunities and to lead the BC College sector in global engagement. Each objective has related actions, which are highlighted below. The actions showcase opportunities for VCC to advance internationalization across the College and will be further developed in the next phase of community-wide implementation planning.

Indigenous Perspectives

Integrate practices of decolonization and reconciliation in VCC's internationalization initiatives and actions to provide opportunities for the College Community to learn about, celebrate and honour Indigenous knowledge, cultures and ways of being and in keeping with United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action.

Actions:

- Collaborate with Dean of Indigenous Initiatives, Dean of Curriculum and Pedagogy, Elders, Knowledge Keepers and Indigenous Faculty Initiatives Advisor to seek input, advice, and participation in the development and implementation of internationalization initiatives.
- Ensure international partnerships and collaborations align with principles of decolonization and reconciliation.
- Prioritize relationships with institutions that share a commitment to diversity, equity and respect for indigenous rights.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Access

Integrate practices of equity, diversity, inclusion, and access in all areas of internationalization to promote a positive and inclusive College community.

Actions:

- Ensure that internationalization efforts and operations align with VCC's equity, diversity, inclusion, and access priorities.
- Support access to VCC programs and ensure regional, economic and demographic student diversity in alignment with provincial and federal priorities and frameworks.
- Support the ongoing development of teaching, learning and assessment strategies that are inclusive of diverse ways of knowing and being.
- Coordinate intercultural competency training for students, staff and faculty to enhance understanding of diverse cultures, backgrounds and perspectives.

Student Success

Support the well-being of students and enhance their experiences in successfully reaching their personal and professional goals.

Actions:

- Enhance student supports and services with a focus on mental health, career and settlement, and safe and secure living conditions, to help students overcome challenges and achieve their academic goals.

- Support program development that aligns with in-demand labour market outcomes as identified by provincial and national labour market analyses.
- Ensure opportunities for students to gain employment in careers related to their field of study and maintain high graduate employment rates and successful graduate outcomes.
- Prioritize students' best interests and hold VCC and its partners, including education agents, accountable to ethical business practices that comply with provincial and federal standards.

Global Experiences and Partnerships

Develop and enhance opportunities for the VCC community to participate in and benefit from global engagement through strategic partnerships and internationalization at home.

Actions:

- Develop a framework, establish partnerships and create consistent processes for global engagement, mobility and exchange (both virtual and in-person) to increase student, staff and faculty access to global experiences.
- Establish strategies for embedding internationalization at home into College initiatives.
- Provide financial support for internationalization and global engagement initiatives.
- Leverage positive outcomes from global experiences and partnerships to support students, staff and faculty to navigate complex global challenges.

Sustainability

Integrate and align relevant United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and environmental best practices into VCC's internationalization efforts and operations.

Actions:

- Strengthen our capabilities to design and implement strategies that minimize the negative impacts of social, economic and environmental crises and emerging challenges in alignment with the UN SDGs.
- Integrate environmental stewardship and best practices for sustainability into internationalization efforts and operations.
- Make operational decisions that support climate-conscious activities and align with provincial and federal frameworks and VCC's Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

IESP Aspirations

The IESP (2024 - 2029) sets VCC on a solid path for the next five years as we evaluate and enhance our internationalization efforts and operations. Throughout the IESP process, we considered why we were embarking on this work and setting strategic objectives for VCC. The vision became clear as we articulated our long-term aspirations. The IESP objectives will help ensure that VCC

- is an institutional partner of choice for global learning opportunities with local, national and international institutions and governments; has increased engagement of VCC faculty and program areas participating in global learning opportunities; and is the college of choice for inbound and outbound mobility;
- is recognized locally and globally by students and employers as the first choice for skills training and career opportunities supported by high-quality student services; has the highest graduate employment rate in BC and is a role model institution for graduates who meet labour market demands and bring diversity and global competencies to the workplace;
- integrates practices of decolonization and reconciliation in its internationalization efforts and operations; proactively collaborates with indigenous colleagues in keeping with UNDRIP and advancing the TRC Calls to Action;
- integrates equity, diversity, inclusion and access in its internationalization efforts and operations; has a truly diverse student body supported by diverse faculty, staff and community members; is recognized as a local and global leader in creating accessible and inclusive student-centered programs and supports; and
- is known as a local and global leader in the College sector in its commitment and actions related to the UN SDGs; is reducing emissions within its internationalization efforts and operations and is positioned to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

Get Involved

Implementing the IESP will involve broad engagement with internal and external stakeholders. We look forward to working together to hold up the objectives and carry out the actions of this plan.

We encourage you to contact us if you would like to get involved in our strategy. You can reach out to Jennifer Gossen, Director of International Education at jgossen@vcc.ca or ieservices@vcc.ca