

BCIT and Vancouver School Board Work on MoA

Earlier this year the VSB, BCIT and ASTTBC signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) signaling our collective interest in advancing technology education in K-12 leading to special consideration as a student at BCIT. Since signing the MoA, BCIT and VSB have been working on a number of projects in particular in support of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) initiatives. BCIT Vice President, Paul Dangerfield reports, "This has involved BCIT's High School Liaison Team and the School of Computing and Academic studies. Further coordination will take place shortly and will also include the School of Business." Paul and VSB CEO Steve Cardwell report one concept being discussed is a model where high school students would take STEM type courses in a BCIT type learning environment. This concept has been presented to the School District Principals, who seem interested. BCIT, VSB and ASTTBC will meet soon to consider further program modelling.

On September 4, 2013 Steve Cardwell was interviewed by the Vancouver SUN in which he said, "We know the province is projecting a huge shortage of skilled workers in the future," a key consideration as the educational community considers its focus. The article noted, "The district will try to move more students to work experience and post-secondary institutions. It's working with the B.C. Institute of Technology, or BCIT, to provide opportunities for students to complete secondary and post-secondary courses concurrently, and the board has partnered with Vancouver Community College, which is newly offering five first-year scholarships for aboriginal students." Cardwell concluded by saying, "We don't want to lose our focus on core subjects such as science and math and English and social studies." On school programming he stated, "The real world isn't an hour of science and an hour of math and an hour of English, it's much more integrated and we want to provide those opportunities."