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Mayor Mike Ruttan of the City of Port Alberni today welcomed a group of students participating in the first onsite delivery of an academic course at the University and in the Alberni Valley.

PCU-WHS Hosts First Onsite Academic Course

WHDM 409 – *The Changing Nature of Work: Implications for the field and practice of Disability Management* is being delivered as an intensive three-day, 1.5 credit course by Lynn Shaw, PhD, the University's Vice President Academic in collaboration with key selected guest speakers.

In welcoming participants to the University, community and region, the Mayor remarked on how fundamental the “changing nature of work” has affected the Alberni Region over the last three decades, with rapidly changing national and international economics, coupled with major technological advances transforming a region once exclusively dominated by forestry and fishing related activities into one where a range of sustaining economic activities, including education, must be developed.

WHDM 409 is part of the University's Bachelor in Disability Management (BDM) program which was officially launched in Fall 2014 with an on-going program of new course development and delivery.

Students registered in the course are primarily interested through the opportunity of combining professional development with academic learning, all having degrees in a variety of areas and bringing a diverse professional background ranging from Disability Management and Rehabilitation activities to Prevention related work with a broad cross section of organizations including WCB's, unions, private and public sector companies, and service providers.

Attending from locations spread right across Canada, a number of individuals are combining this unique educational opportunity with a chance to visit highly regarded international attractions in the region, such as Pacific Rim National Park on the West Coast of Vancouver Island, about a one hour drive from PCU-WHS.

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