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Winners of the International Studies student photography contest announced!

The ISSofBC Student Photography contest, launched in August 2009 by the International Studies program, welcomed photo entries from ISSofBC students depicting the theme:

What did you do with the money you saved by coming to ISSofBC Language College?

The photo contest celebrates that ISSofBC students receive a high-quality learning experience, while still having the opportunity to travel and enjoy their time in



Koji Matsumoto's winning photograph

Vancouver. The contest closed in September 2009, and judges chose three winners from more than 200 entries. Koji Matsumoto won the top prize, and will have his photograph featured on ISSofBC's Skytrain platform advertisements. Congratulations, Koji!

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ISSofBC GETS RECOGNIZED!

Jim Siemens, Manager of RAP/Welcome House was awarded the 2009 Dr. Soma Ganesan Spirit of Hope award at the 14th Annual Cross Cultural Mental Health Conference. Jim was recognized for his outstanding

The winners:

1st Place: Koji Matsumoto

2nd Place: Iwao Ichisaka

3rd Place: Virginia Giung

Maria Vivian (Jan) Sastrillo: her CareerAxis success story



Jan Sastrillo (right) with her classmate, Maria

"When I first came to Canada, I knew I couldn't expect the same job I had in the Philippines, but I was hoping for something similar.

In the Philippines, I worked as an Executive Vice President for a bank. Upon arrival to Vancouver, we got a brochure at the airport listing agencies for immigration assistance. We chose Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISSofBC) because the name seemed most relevant to our situation. After one week in Canada, we contacted ISSofBC. ISSofBC is a great agency for helping immigrants in so many ways, including providing us with the opportunity for a reality check, acceptance to a new life, and moving on.

I was referred to CareerAxis by my case manager to attend a full time job search workshop. At the workshop, I learned more about the Canadian environment, not only about work ethics, but also "the Canadian way" as a whole. I was surprised at how many changes I had to make to my resume; the resume and cover letter is different from how we write it in the Philippines. Changing

work with refugees, and he was presented with the prestigious award last week at Simon Fraser University.

Congratulations, Jim!

BIKE TO WORK WEEK

Don't forget, Bike to Work and School Week takes place November 2 - 9! For more information about the program, prizes, and commuter stations, visit the [Bike to Work Week](#) website.

GREEN TIP

With the weather changing, here is a great **GREEN** Idea! **Upgrade your thermostat:** Changing your thermostat to a programmable one allows you to control the temperature without you being home. Keep the heat off when you are out of the house and program the thermostat to turn back up before you get home. The thermostats range from \$90 to \$175, but they can save 12% or more on your energy bill and will pay for itself within three years. And don't forget to bundle up instead of turning up!

COMPUTER TIP

When you are using Microsoft

the resume meant writing detailed sentences to demonstrate our past experiences and relate it to the needs of the Canadian company. Not only did I learn about job searching with the CareerAxis workshops, but I also gained more networks and friends. We still send emails to each other to support one another with encouraging words and information about jobs.

One day, I was searching on the internet and Canadian Western Bank's website popped up. I sent my newly updated resume to them and got an interview. Usually in the Philippines, we never research about the company; however, I was told by my counsellor that I should extensively research the company before the interview. In the interview, the interviewer was so impressed with my knowledge of the bank. I think it demonstrated my initiative and my understanding of the Canadian labour market.

Well, I was hired by Canadian Western Bank, and I will be flying to Edmonton for a one week training. I am on the road to reaching my goals. Thank you, CareerAxis and ISSofBC for providing me with information, giving me the opportunity to meet other immigrants, and helping me with my new life in Canada. More power to you, and may more immigrants like me benefit from your services. You are truly a partner to the new immigrants. "

ISSofBC expanding language services in Richmond

ISSofBC is expanding, and with the addition of a second Richmond location, ISSofBC will provide new immigrants with a wider range of services and course offerings. The new Cedarbridge location, which opens in

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This will remove any previously deleted messages, and the messages will not be retrievable once they are gone.

ISSofBC NEWS BLOG

For up to date news and information on migration topics, visit the [ISSofBC News Blog!](#)

November 2009, will offer an expanded Language College, with International Studies classes and full-time and part-time day classes for ELSA Level 1 up to Level 3. In addition to being conveniently situated close to the Canada Line station and to ISSofBC's Alexandra location, the new Cedarbridge location also features 6400 square feet of spacious facilities, which includes a student lunchroom and five classrooms on the first floor, and offices on the second floor.

Skills Connect fosters partnership with Back in Motion and BCIT

The Skills Connect for Immigrants program,



which launched at ISSofBC on 1 September 2009, is pleased to announce that it is working in partnership with Back in Motion and the British Columbia Institute of Technology.

As a sub-contracted partner to Back in Motion, ISSofBC is able to provide Skills Connect services out of the Surrey location. Any clients that would prefer to access services in Surrey can be referred to Back in Motion through Nigel J. Farmer at nigel.farmer@issbc.org, or by calling the Back in Motion central referral line at 604.575.3800. More information about this program in Surrey can be accessed at www.skillsconnect.ca

BCIT, as a sub-contractor to ISSofBC, provides individualized program advising for Skills Connect clients at the Terminal Avenue location in addition to the BCIT Burnaby campus. The BCIT program advisor can provide

ISSo/BC/Skills Connect clients with information about programs, courses, financial aid, advanced credit and the current labour market. If you would like more information about this service, please contact Lois Armerding at lois.armerding@issbc.org.



ISSo/BC's Youth Connexion program: off to a strong start

Youth Connexion is a demonstration project targeted at immigrants and refugees aged 16 - 25 who have English as an Additional Language (EAL), encounter difficulties accessing programs or services in the community, are struggling to navigate the public education system, and are not attending full-time schooling, vocational training or employment programs. Funded by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development (Immigrant Integration Branch), the project aims to provide a safe and nurturing place for immigrant and refugee youth, and to facilitate a smooth transition towards identified goals and career plans.

Youth Connexion has been operating out of ISSo/BC's New Westminster office since April 2009. The first intake group consisted of



Youth Connexion participants from the first cohort

twelve youth from six different countries - namely Afghanistan, China, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia and Somalia - speaking more than ten languages. Over an 18-week period between the end of May and September, the Youth Connexion team delivered program components that included ESL tutoring, settlement and personal management, career exploration, individual or group therapeutic work, workshops, computer sessions, and certificate courses such as First Aid, Food Safe, WHMIS, and Cashiering.

One key component of the Youth Connexion project is a volunteer/work placement option. In collaboration with community partners, program participants in the first cohort secured placements with organizations such as the Arts Umbrella, Covenant House, the Salvation Army, and with companies such as Zellers. Currently, the project team is gearing up to start a second cycle of the program with a new group of fifteen youth.

For more information, please contact the Youth Connexion team in New Westminster at 604.522.5902.

You are receiving our monthly newsletter because you opted in at our website <http://www.issbc.org/>

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