

For Immediate Release

**SUMMER SEMINAR: HIGHLIGHTING BC'S  
OUTSTANDING INTERNATIONAL EDUCATORS  
WHILE SHINING THE SPOTLIGHT ON A PRIME STUDY DESTINATION**

VANCOUVER, BC – July 24, 2012

International education contributes \$1.8 billion to British Columbia's economy making it BC's fifth largest export. The leadership and direction of international education professionals at our BC schools, school districts and institutions, in partnership with the provincial government, have contributed to the positive impact of this vibrant sector on BC's communities.

At BCCIE's Summer Seminar in Kelowna, six remarkable international educators were honoured during the conference's *Final Banquet and International Education Awards Ceremony* on Tuesday, June 26. The winners represented a broad range of leading professionals in international education that have made significant contributions to advancing the international education interests of our province.

2012 Award Winners:

- **International Education Distinguished Leadership Award**  
Patricia Gartland, Coquitlam School District No. 43
- **International Education Distinguished Service Award**  
Carolyn Russell, University of Victoria  
(University of Northern British Columbia at the time of nomination)
- **Outstanding Program in International Education Award**  
SFU Dual Degree Program in Computing Science (Simon Fraser University)
- **Rising Star in International Education Award**  
Caroline Rueckert, University of British Columbia

2012 Special Categories

- **Innovation and Excellence in International Education Award**  
"Hope For Youth" Scholarship Program (Languages Canada)
- **International Education Lifetime Achievement Award**  
Bob Bagshaw

To read more about this year's winners visit: [www.bccie.bc.ca/educators/awards/past-winners/2012](http://www.bccie.bc.ca/educators/awards/past-winners/2012).

"We applaud these outstanding international educators and programs which are currently active as well as those educators that have left a lasting legacy and built a solid reputation for BC as a high quality study destination at all education levels across all regions," says Colin Doerr, Director, Communications and Programs at BCCIE.

In building on BC's reputation as a study destination in Canada, Summer Seminar served as a public launch pad for StudyinBC.com, an online resource for study options in BC. StudyinBC.com features student bloggers,

photographers and videographers who will document their study in BC experience and share it with others considering the same path. Topics include everything from education quality and options to culture shock, making a realistic student budget, and understanding the process of how to get a student visa.

Summer Seminar is Western Canada's largest international education conference, hosted annually by BCCIE. From June 24-27, 2012, over 200 international education professionals from BC and beyond gathered in Kelowna, BC for this year's conference. BC delegates were also joined by some of their peers nationally and internationally. Highlights included a National Conversation on International Education with leadership representatives from across Canada, an address from BC's Minister of Education, George Abbott, keynote address from Stan Chung, Camosun College, Thought Leader Dialogues featuring recognized experts, Dr. Daniel Guhr (Illuminate Consulting Group) and Kyra Garson, and 26 concurrent sessions from experienced educators covering a variety of key professional streams.

### **About Study in BC**

StudyinBC.com is a destination resource for study options in British Columbia, and is the only directory covering all regions and types of institutions in the province. This interactive, student-focused website recognizes the exceptional and assured quality of BC's education system and provides a unique glimpse of what it means to study in BC. The site recognizes the importance of student voice and gives international students a platform on which to share their experiences. StudyinBC.com features content from student bloggers, photographers and videographers who will document their study in BC experience and share it with others considering the same path.

Reflecting BC's educational diversity, StudyinBC.com showcases institutional and destination content and highlights different regions and communities around the province, thus helping to increase institutional and regional visibility.

For further information, visit [www.studyinbc.com](http://www.studyinbc.com).

### **About the British Columbia Council for International Education (BCCIE)**

The British Columbia Council for International Education (BCCIE) is committed to advancing the international education interests of the province of British Columbia. We are a leader in the successful development, promotion and maturation of international education in BC. Through consultation and liaison with the provincial government, the direction of the Board, and broad engagement with the diversity of sectors representing international education, we support our mission through four key strategic goals: leadership, market support, communication and service, and internationalization.

For further information, visit [www.bccie.bc.ca](http://www.bccie.bc.ca).

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### **For more information:**

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