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No change in degree granting policy is good news for B.C. college students

(NORTH VANCOUVER, B.C.) – The Ministry of Advanced Education’s announcement that “there will be no change at this time to current policy with respect to degree granting at colleges” is good news for the students at Capilano’s three campuses in North Vancouver, Squamish and Sechelt.

The announcement was made May 2 in response to feedback regarding recommendation 37 in Geoff Plant’s Campus 2020 report, which states: “restore the primary focus of community colleges by precluding colleges from granting degrees.”

“We are very pleased that the ministry has recognized the affect of the Campus 2020 report on our students, potential students and alumni,” said Capilano’s president, Dr. Greg Lee. “We’ve had numerous inquiries from worried students who are now feeling much more relieved by the news from the ministry.”

The Campus 2020 report contains many valuable recommendations, including the suggestion to create a new type of university – the regional university – and recommends converting four existing institutions into this new entity. It defines a regional university as a degree-granting teaching intensive regional learning institution that is not focused on research. Capilano believes that this describes exactly what it has been doing for its region and is asking to be included on the list of institutions given that designation.

“Despite the moratorium by the ministry on the report’s recommendation to suspend degree granting at B.C. colleges, Capilano will still be seeking to become a regional university,” Lee said. “That designation will provide students with ongoing assurance that we will continue to provide opportunities for specialized employment-oriented degree programs.”

Over the years, Capilano has earned a strong reputation for teaching excellence, educational innovation and commitment to First Nations communities. Students have benefited from its degree programs offered for the past 15 years. The institution currently offers degrees in Business, Tourism, Jazz Studies and Music Therapy. It has eight more prepared in Film Production, Performing Arts, Early Childhood Care and Education, Global Stewardship, Graphic Design, Autistic Child Support, Paralegal and Animation. Becoming a regional university would not change Capilano’s commitment to offer Adult Basic Education, Adult Special Education and its certificate and diploma programs.