

# The West Vancouver Chamber of Commerce

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## Director's Report...

### Capilano University—it sounds good, but what does it mean?

Capilano College already had a solid reputation of quality teaching, small classroom sizes, unique programming and an excellent environment to prepare students to succeed at university. Graduates of the degree and diploma programs were successful in finding careers in business, health, entertainment, arts and tourism and the continuing education and developmental studies programs supported a wide variety of learner needs. At the same time Capilano brought in roughly 48 million dollars annually into regional income, 20 million of which came from international students.

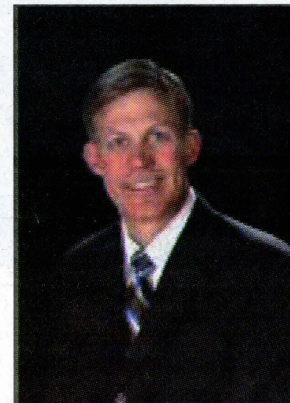
#### So why become a university?

The answer is simple. Change. The world around us is changing and so is the role of education and the way in which education is delivered. By moving to a teaching university Capilano will be able to keep all the programs that have made it so successful in supporting the communities of the North Shore, West Vancouver, Howe Sound, Sunshine Coast and First Nations, while creating new degree options to sustain a vibrant and relevant post secondary education model for our region and for our future students.

A degree from an accredited university is becoming the minimum requirement for employers and is being sought out by students locally and internationally. The reasons for this are obvious. Demands in the workforce in all sectors are evolving and becoming more complex. But often the solution for students is to obtain a university degree only to discover they need to go to college to get an applied diploma to give them the real life skills that are essential for success. This does not make for an efficient educational system and does not support the needs of students who are tied up for six or more years paying tuition fees and unable to participate in a meaningful way to the community. Universities can and must play a more effective role in supporting the development of our youth and those who are seeking to upgrade their education. Just as technology is evolving and improving, so is education and learning. Capilano University, with its focus on teaching and relevant programs is uniquely and ideally situated to prepare students for success in a wide range of disciplines through its entry level certificate and diploma programs that have options to continue on to meaningful applied degrees. Post secondary education must be an inclusive process

not an exclusive one and as a teaching university Capilano will be a leader in this new post secondary model.

So what does this mean to our communities specifically? For our local high school students it will allow more of them to start and finish their university education right here in our neighbourhood. Our society will benefit from the university's ability to attract students from across the province, country and world, who will come to study, live and work in our communities. And Capilano itself will be able to operate on a level playing field and succeed in what has now become a highly competitive market.



*Paul Dangerfield*

—Paul Dangerfield, Director,  
West Vancouver Chamber of Commerce