

PEARSON COLLEGE



News Release

New Pearson Head Begins with a ‘Traditional’ Bay Jump

13 August 2020

In one of his first acts as new President and Head of [Pearson College UWC](#), newly-arrived [Craig Davis](#) (and three of his children!) [went for a jump in Pedder Bay](#).

“It’s a tradition at year-end that graduating students at Pearson, Canada’s only United World College -- located on the unceded territory of the [Sc’ianew First Nation](#)-- plan ‘choreographed’ jumps in the bay to celebrate their two years of hard work at the school,” said Vice-President, Operations and Administration Tyrone Pile who also went for a cold water dunk on a warm August afternoon.

“We wanted to use a Pearson tradition to mark this transition in a safe and physically-distanced way,” added Pile who led the College as Interim President and Head prior to Davis’ arrival.

The Pearson campus, southwest of Victoria, normally welcomes 200 students aged 16 to 19 from across Canada and around the world every fall for an intensive International Baccalaureate and experiential education. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Pearson moved quickly to distributed learning last March and is looking forward to offering a safe and supportive on-campus learning experience in 2020-21 for students who are able to come to campus with a complementary online experience for those whose arrivals may be delayed.

“To say the least, this is an unusual and a challenging time to move halfway across the globe to take on the leadership of a new school,” allowed Davis, formerly Director of Education for Dulwich College International, based in Singapore.

“But the opportunity to work with Pearson students and the entire campus community as we tackle big subjects like racial justice, Indigenous reconciliation and climate change at a pivotal time in its history is unmatched,” added Davis who holds degrees from the University of British Columbia, University of London (U.K.) and the University of Wales.

Davis most recently was Principal of the Senior School at Mulgrave International School of Vancouver from 2014 to 2017 giving him an excellent understanding of the structure and role of independent schools in the British Columbia and Canadian contexts. His international teaching and administrative experience is an excellent fit for Pearson’s uniquely global student community, which includes students selected from Canada and up to 160 countries around the world.

“I’m looking forward to getting to know the Victoria and Westshore communities and to refreshing my network of education and community contacts in the Lower Mainland and across Canada. Pearson is truly a gem among schools in Canada and I’m looking forward to reminding Canadians about this institution, inspired by Lester B. Pearson’s commitment to international understanding, that is within their very midst!

“Nearly 4,300 young people from across Canada and around the world have graduated from Pearson since the first cohort of students literally built the school’s original residence furniture with their own hands,” added Davis. “Over the school’s nearly half-century, its alumni have gone on to become scientists and researchers, tech innovators and leaders for positive change in organizations and social justice causes in every part of the globe.”

Davis’ spouse Sarah is a Vancouver native and, together with their three children, will be living on campus. An older daughter is currently completing secondary school overseas.

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Craig Davis MA, PGCE Short-form Bio: Craig Davis became President and Head of Pearson College UWC August 1, 2020. His education career spans nearly three decades, commencing after he completed teacher training at the University of London (U.K.) and his master’s degree at the University of British Columbia where he also was an instructor in the English Department and the First Nations Access Program. Davis joined Pearson from Singapore where he was Director of Education for Dulwich College International, a school network spanning London and four Southeast Asian countries. Prior to that, he was in a senior leadership role with Mulgrave International School of Vancouver where he helped shepherd the final stage of a \$30 million capital campaign.

About Pearson College UWC: Pearson College UWC (www.pearsoncollege.ca) is Canada’s most international school and one of 18 United World Colleges around the globe. With up to 200 students from every province and territory and up to 160 or more nations around the world, the College opened in 1974 inspired by the vision of Prime Minister and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Lester B. Pearson who asked, “How can there be peace without people understanding each other, and how can this be if they don’t know each other?”

Pearson, like most Canadian schools, temporarily converted to an all-online education and learning model for the 2019-20 winter/spring term. The unique, two-year pre-university college is gearing up to welcome students on campus this fall for the 2020-21 school year, subject to strict health and safety measures and procedures in line with B.C. Public Health Office directives. Any students whose travels are impacted by border restrictions and/or international travel limitations will be supported through distributed education and welcomed to campus at a later date.

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