

U. of Victoria Student Branch Outreach

Collaboration with other engineering clubs broadens workshop offerings



Technical skills are in high demand by employers seeking co-op students. University engineering programs cover a wide range of subjects and focus on theory, leaving little time to teach “hands-on” skills.

The University of Victoria’s IEEE Student Branch has bridged that gap with SkillDev, an innovative series of free workshops providing practical, technical skills to interested students in all disciplines.

As of the fall of 2016, there had been 409 participants in a total of 15 workshops over two semesters. “It was fun to use a tool that might actually be part of our future careers,” enthused one participant. “Amazing group of

seminars,” stated another.

To ensure the workshops provided the most up-to-date knowledge and skills, the IEEE Student Branch reached beyond electrical engineering to collaborate with other engineering clubs for workshop content and presentation.

Soldering Fundamentals was presented by the Autonomous Underwater Vehicle interdisciplinary engineering team, (AUVic), with circuit boards provided by a B.C. based company. Embedded systems basics were explained by Jason Long of Engenuics Technologies. Autocad was taught by a structural designer from Tetra Tech and Bearing Fundamentals by the University of Victoria Formula Society of Automotive Engineers. Not ignoring the “soft” skills, a Public Speaking Workshop was hosted by the Engineering Student Society.

The University of Victoria’s McNaughton Centre has been key to many of these activities providing space and equipment for development and testing of workshop projects.