

Vancouver Island University students at work on Habitat for Humanity site



Students in Vancouver Island University's heavy equipment operator program worked on a Habitat for Humanity site for several weeks.

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Six new homes to be built in South Nanaimo by Habitat for Humanity will have a solid foundation to build on, thanks to students in Vancouver Island University's heavy equipment operator program.

In an ongoing partnership with Habitat for Humanity Mid-Vancouver Island, VIU students gain valuable work experience as they use a variety of heavy equipment on the sites and during the construction phase.

"I loved it, it bumped up my confidence to a whole new level - it was an awesome project to work on," said student Libby Stubbs, a Courtenay resident who graduated from the HEO Foundations program June 19.

Instructor Brandon Lindsay said HEO students worked on the Habitat for Humanity site near Extension over several weeks in the spring, operating excavators in site preparation, clearing and stripping.

Stubbs, who is considering several job options near Red Deer, Alta., in home construction site preparation, gained specific experience that will relate to her future career.

"Tyson (Folz) and Libby did the mas excavation of the site, which entails excavations for house foundations, which is directly related to the work Libby will be doing," said Lindsay.

VIU has partnered with Habitat for Humanity for several years, most recently on two Nanaimo duplexes that provided hands-on experience for students in the Construction program.

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