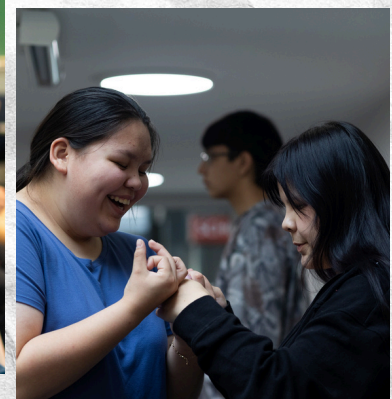
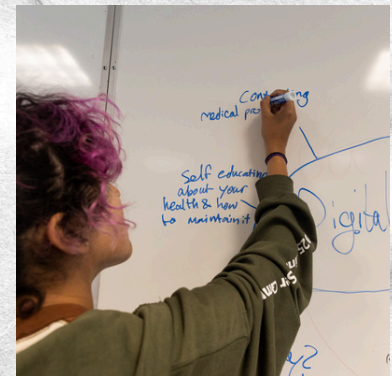




UVIC 

MINI-UNIVERSITY SUMMER CAMP

JULY 7 - 11, 2025



We acknowledge and respect the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and Xʷsepsəm/Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands, and the Ləkʷəŋən and ƵSÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

MINI-UNIVERSITY SUMMER CAMP

An immersive experience for Indigenous youth

For one week every summer, UVic's classrooms, dorms and outdoor spaces become home to teenage visitors from BC and the Northwest Territories. A week packed with academic, creative, cultural and social activities provides an immersive opportunity for participants to experience the authentic UVic student experience.

Beginning in the summer of 2008, the Mini-U Summer Camp has made a significant impact, totaling 315 participants in grades 9 - 12 as of 2025. Among this group, 36 participants have either attended or are currently enrolled at UVic. This demonstrates the efficacy of the Mini-U Summer camp in exposing youth to the UVic experience, while contributing to their pursuit of higher education.

The impact that Mini-U has on Indigenous youth is evident in the many smiles you will see throughout this photo book.



Photography: Lillie Louise Major

Mini-U Logo: Butch Dick, Songhees Nation

IACE Logo: Late TEMOSEN̓FET (Charles Elliott), Tsartlip First Nation

WELCOMING CEREMONY

IACE Elders in Residence Kathy Horne and Doug LaFortune from Tsawout attended the Mini-U welcoming ceremony. Together they shared wisdom and teachings with the students and chaperones. The Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement (IACE) Elders in Residence program is one of the many supports offered to Indigenous students attending UVic.





CREATING ONECARDS

MONDAY JULY 7TH

Students headed to the Campus Services Building to create their own ONECards. A staple resource in daily student life at UVic, ONECards can be used like a campus debit card, library card, gym membership card and so much more.



SALVE WORKSHOP

MONDAY JULY 7TH

The Salve Workshop offered youth a hands-on opportunity to connect with Indigenous plant medicine and wellness practices. Hosted by the Aunty Collective, this session introduced participants to the traditional teachings and uses of medicinal plants found on Vancouver Island.







PET CAFE

MONDAY JULY 7TH

The UVic Multifaith Centre, the Pacific Animal Therapy Society, and the Victoria Native Friendship Centre collaborated to provide a Pet Cafe for campers. This is a regular program for UVic students during the academic year. Campers were joined by Elders, and together they spent an hour with the dogs on campus.



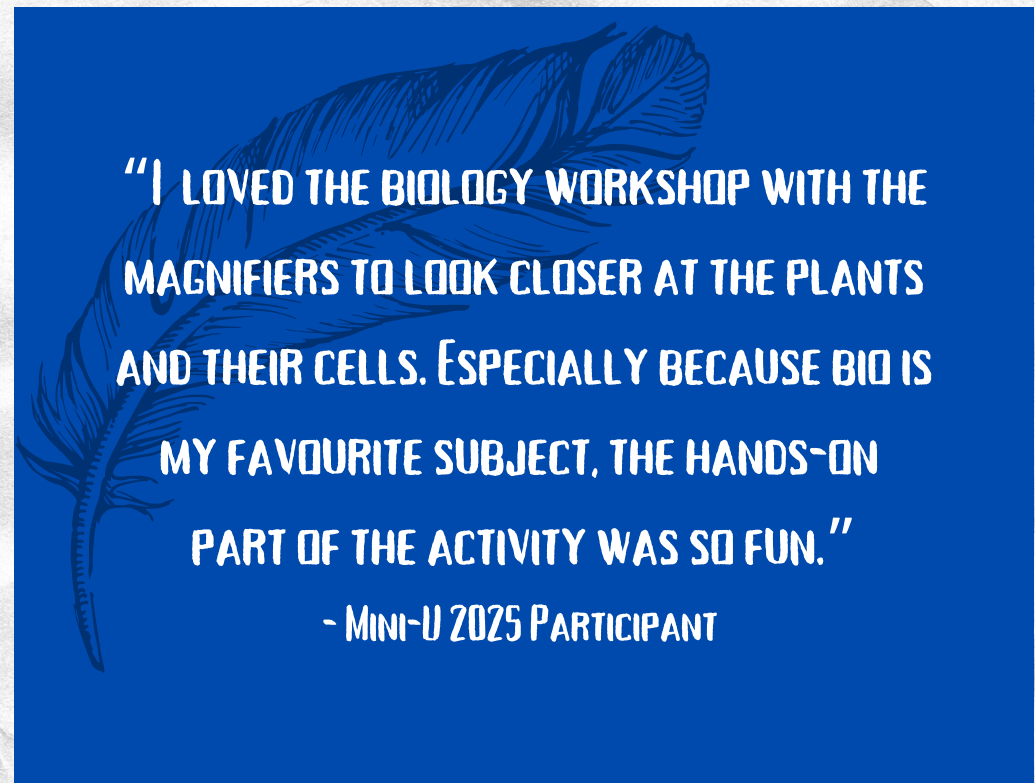


STEM WORKSHOP

MONDAY JULY 7TH

The STEM Workshop was facilitated by Izzy Ward, and introduced campers to hands-on science and technology activities. During the session, campers were given two cameras and a 360-degree video camera to document their week. This video will be compiled into a final edit, capturing campers' Mini-U experience.





DRUM MAKING WORKSHOP

TUESDAY JULY 8TH

On Tuesday, youth participated in a day-long Drum Making workshop facilitated by Gordy Bear. Each camper constructed their own drum while learning about cultural significance. During the recognition ceremony, Gordy drummed alongside the campers to celebrate their creations.







**"MY FAVOURITE WORKSHOP WAS DRUM-
MAKING, BECAUSE IT WAS COOL TO SEE HOW YOU
CAN MAKE SOMETHING WITH A LONG-LASTING
EFFECT ON LOTS OF PEOPLE THROUGH
GENERATIONS."**

- MINI-U 2025 PARTICIPANT





CAREER FAIR

WEDNESDAY JULY 9TH

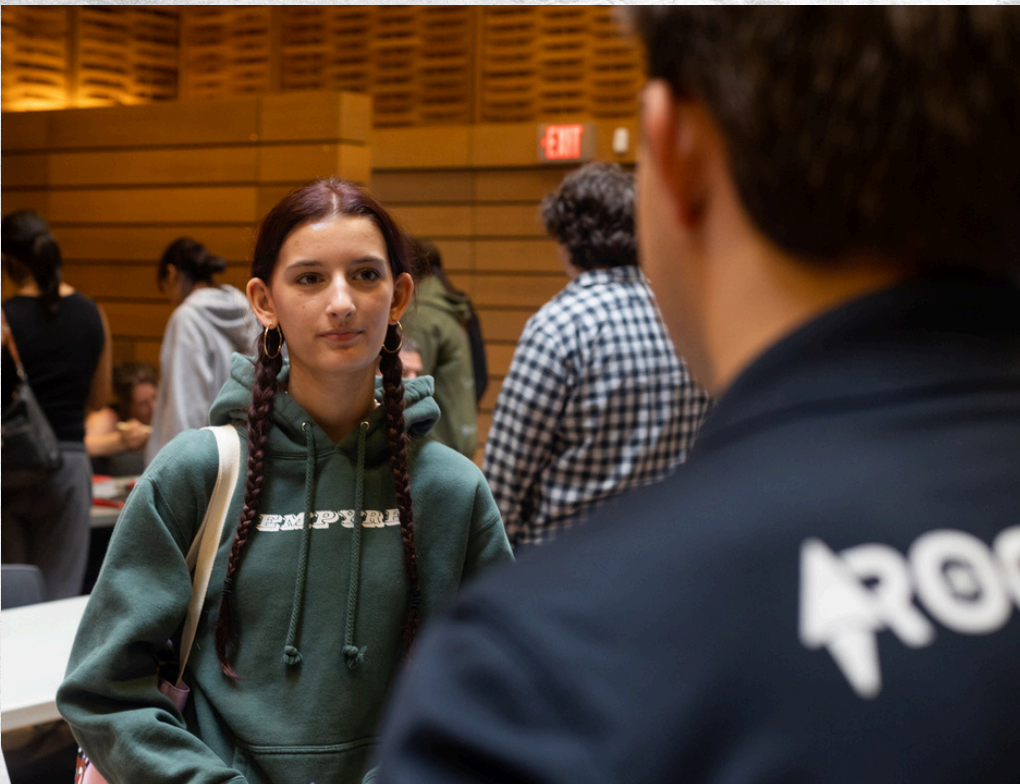
This year's career fair attendees included faculty/organizations such as the Gustavson School of Business, Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL), Education, Engineering and Computer Science, English, Geography, Health Information Science, Island Medical Program, Libraries, Sociology and Social Sciences. Each organization gathered in the Ceremonial Hall to inform students about their resources, opportunities and job prospects.





“DRUM MAKING AND THE CAREER FAIR WERE PERSONALLY MY FAVOURITE. THEY HELPED ME GET IN TOUCH WITH MY CULTURE, WHILE GAINING PERSPECTIVE ON WHICH CLASSES AND COURSES YOU CAN DO AT UVic.”

- MINI-U 2025 PARTICIPANT



GARDEN VISIT

WEDNESDAY JULY 9TH

This session was hosted by Lyndsay, a former Mini-U Chaperone and current staff member at the UVic Community Garden. Campers were invited to explore the campus community garden, where they learned about sustainable growing practices. Each participant was gifted a seedling package to take home, encouraging them to continue growing and learning beyond the workshop.





**"HANDS-ON, CREATIVE, AND PLANT-RELATED
ACTIVITIES ARE A PASSION FOR ME. THIS WAS A
REALLY SAFE AND COOL WAY FOR ME TO LEARN
TEACHINGS, PRACTICES, HISTORY, AND WHERE TO
FIND MORE COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS."**

- MINI-U 2025 PARTICIPANT

HEALTH INFORMATION SCIENCE WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY JULY 9TH

Hosted by faculty and representatives from the School of Health Information Science at UVic, this workshop introduced campers to the dynamic field of health informatics.



UBC ISLAND MEDICAL PROGRAM

THURSDAY JULY 10TH

Campers attended a session hosted by the UBC Island Medical Program. During the presentation, youth learned about medical education opportunities, including pathways to becoming a healthcare professional and the benefits of Island-based programs.



"MY FAVOURITE WORKSHOP WAS UBC ISLAND MEDICAL. IT INSPIRED ME TO CHECK OUT THE MEDICAL PATH WHILE I'M STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL."

- MINI-U 2025 PARTICIPANT

ARCADE VISIT

THURSDAY JULY 10TH

As a group, campers travelled to the arcade in Downtown Victoria. This was a fun and interactive way for students to build connections with each other while exploring virtual reality.





PLANT WALK WITH J.B. WILLIAMS

THURSDAY JULY 10TH

Led by J.B. Williams from Tsawout Nation, students went on a walk off-campus to explore local plants and their significance. J.B. finished the outing with traditional storytelling.





RECOGNITION CEREMONY

FRIDAY JULY 11TH

To conclude the event and reflect on the past week, a recognition ceremony was held in the Ceremonial Hall at the First Peoples House. It honoured the students and congratulated them for the courage, strength and knowledge they brought to the campus during the 2025 Mini-University Summer Camp.





A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR CHAPERONES



Top Row from Left to Right: Izzy, Caleb, Michael, Wyatt, Jacob
Bottom Row from Left to Right: Madeline, Lillian, Matthew, Alicia, Tiffany (Lead Chaperone), Ava




"THE CHAPERONES AND
STAFF WERE REALLY FRIENDLY
AND FUNNY. THEY MADE MY
DAY BETTER BY HOW THEY
TALK TOGETHER AND HOW
THEY SHARE HOW CARING
THEY ARE."
- MINI-U 2025 PARTICIPANT



THANK YOU MINI-U 2025!





For more information, please contact:

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