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Eric Clarke, Cowichan Secondary School Grade 12 student, uses a micrometer to measure the thickness of a car's brake disk as Dean Cadieux, VIU chair of mechanical programs, stands by to answer questions during the Skills Canada automotive trades competition Thursday morning. (CHRIS BUSH/The News Bulletin)

# VIU and Nanaimo high schools host Skills Canada competitions

Central Island and Sunshine Coast high school student compete for spots on provincials and nationals

[CHRIS BUSH](#) / Feb. 27, 2020 3:51 p.m. / [LOCAL NEWS](#) / [NEWS](#)

Students from central Island region high schools and the Sunshine Coast arrived in Nanaimo on Thursday to test their talents in the the 2020 Skills Canada competition.

Students, about 500, competed for medals and for chances to move onto provincial- and national-level competitions.

Carpentry, photography, hairdressing, automotive repair, cabinet making, robotics, workplace safety, culinary arts, architectural computer-aided design and other trade and technology competition categories were hosted at Vancouver Island University and Nanaimo District, Dover Bay and John Barsby secondary schools.

Gold medal winners from Thursday's competitions will move on to compete in the provincial competitions April 15 in Abbotsford. Winners of those competitions will compete in the nationals in Vancouver on May 28-29.

Vancouver Island University also hosted Discovery Day on Thursday when hundreds of Grades 10-12 high school students from the Nanaimo region took part in activities and competitions designed to showcase the university's programs and facilities.

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Cameron Trustham, left, and James Hodson, both Frances Kelsey Secondary School students from Mill Bay, make adjustments to their machines in the Skills Canada robotics competitions held in Vancouver Island University's gym Thursday. (CHRIS BUSH/The News Bulletin)

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Silas Garside, Cowichan Secondary School Grade 12 student, prepares a recipe for green Thai curry shrimp at the Skill Canada culinary arts competition at Vancouver Island University on Thursday. (CHRIS BUSH/The News Bulletin)