



OKANAGAN

the new
**Okanagan
College**

MEDIA RELEASE | NOVEMBER 30, 2004

Contacts

Allan Coyle
OUC Public Affairs Bureau
Tel: 250.862-5413
E-mail: acoyle@ouc.bc.ca

Scott Macrae
UBC Public Affairs
Tel: 604.323-4733
E-mail: scott.macrae@ubc.ca

UBC Okanagan, new Okanagan College job offers set stage for growth

Every faculty and staff member at Okanagan University College received a job offer today from either the new Okanagan College or the University of British Columbia ensuring highly qualified workforces will be in place when the two new institutions open their doors in September 2005.

“I am extremely proud that my OUC colleagues have contributed the planning processes that will create the two new organizations,” said OUC President Peter Ricketts. “I am delighted that all continuing faculty and staff will be employed in either the new Okanagan College or UBC Okanagan when OUC ceases to operate after June 30, 2005. I am sure everyone will be relieved at this very positive outcome.”

Today’s job offers follow months of institutional and academic planning since the provincial government announced in March 2004 that OUC would evolve into a new Okanagan College and UBC Okanagan. The new institutions are designed to meet the region's need for vocational and university transfer education on the college side, as well as rapid establishment of a research-intensive university with an international reputation. The new college will be based at OUC’s campuses in South Kelowna, Penticton, Vernon and Salmon Arm, while UBC Okanagan's campus will be in North Kelowna.

Job offers were made to 777 employees who hold continuing positions at OUC. The offers were the result of a collaborative process headed by a Transition Management Committee. Chaired by OUC Public Administrator Peter Meekison, the committee includes UBC Okanagan Deputy Vice Chancellor Barry McBride and new Okanagan College President Jim Hamilton.

Offer letters have gone to 480 OUC employees on behalf of the new Okanagan College (227 faculty, 194 staff, and 59 administrators). Offer letters went to 297 employees on behalf of UBC Okanagan (181 faculty, 81 staff and 35 administrators). Review of term and auxiliary positions will follow as part of the transition process.

In September college and university programs were allocated to the new institutions. Then, operating on the principle that “people follow



OKANAGAN

the new
**Okanagan
College**

Contacts

Allan Coyle
OUC Public Affairs Bureau
Tel: 250.862-5413
E-mail: acoyle@ouc.bc.ca

Scott Macrae
UBC Public Affairs
Tel: 604.323-4733
E-mail: scott.macrae@ubc.ca

programs,” an initial allocation of positions required to support programs at each of the new institutions was formulated in October.

“I want to thank my colleagues at OUC for their hard work and dedication,” said UBC Okanagan Deputy Vice Chancellor Barry McBride. “And I want to acknowledge my profound admiration for their collaborative spirit and gracious goodwill in a time of uncertainty.”

“I want to warmly welcome the faculty and staff who will be in the vanguard of this exciting new chapter in UBC's history,” said UBC President Martha Piper. “I firmly believe that the student-centred, research-intensive university we create together will be a source of pride for the Okanagan, a model for the country, and an inspiration for the world.”

“I have the advantage and great pleasure of having worked beside many of the people who will become the first employees of the new Okanagan College,” said Hamilton, who was formerly principal of OUC's Kalamalka Campus in Vernon. “That gives me tremendous confidence in the college's rapidly successful development.”

“Coming through the allocation process without job loss has been an important goal, and it speaks to the rigour and fairness of the process,” Meekison said. “We now have a firm foundation on which to build these two institutions.

“We believe that the vast majority of OUC employees will find their job offers appropriate, as people were allocated to jobs that most closely matched their current position,” Meekison said. “If we come across situations where people have been matched inappropriately, there will be an opportunity to review those situations.”

The new Okanagan College will grow from approximately 4,400 students to 5,200 students by 2010. That will mean adding about 100 more employees as the College broadens program choices for students. It has already announced two new programs for 2005, with more changes and growth ready to be announced in the months ahead.

The two new institutions are actively recruiting students for September 2005. It is expected that faculty and staff of the new organizations will officially become employees on July 1.

UBC Okanagan will grow from 3,000 students to 7,500 (including 500 graduate students) by 2010. The university estimates that an additional 250 faculty members will be hired in this period. Last month, philanthropist Irving K. Barber donated \$12.25 million to establish the



OKANAGAN

the new
**Okanagan
College**

Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences at UBC Okanagan. Third floors will be added in 2005 to the Arts and Science buildings to accommodate 900 additional students. Planning is underway for the first of 1,000 new student residence spaces.

Contacts

Allan Coyle
OUC Public Affairs Bureau
Tel: 250.862-5413
E-mail: acoyle@ouc.bc.ca

The provincial government estimates the annual economic impact of the two new institutions at \$500 million.

Scott Macrae
UBC Public Affairs
Tel: 604.323-4733
E-mail: scott.macrae@ubc.ca