

NEWS

Hamilton's term as OC president is extended five years

Add another item to Okanagan College President Jim Hamilton's to-do list: Re-order business cards.

The Okanagan College Board of Governors announced today that Hamilton's contract has been extended for five years.

"Over the past five years (Hamilton) has done an exceptional job of leading Okanagan College to a remarkable series of accomplishments during a period of immense change and growth," said Janet Shaw, the Okanagan College board president.



Jim Hamilton

"Our students and the communities we serve are the beneficiaries of his leadership."

Shaw credited Hamilton for playing a key role in the transformation of Okanagan College into what she called "an institution of prominence in B.C."

"He has earned the respect and confidence of the staff of Okanagan College, of our board, and community leaders throughout the Okanagan, Similkameen and Shuswap-Revelstoke region," Shaw said.

"He has also distinguished himself provincially and nationally."

Hamilton was recently chosen as chair of the B.C. College Consortium, made up of the province's 11 colleges. He is the former chair of the B.C. Trades Training Consortium.

With 29 years experience at Okanagan College, Hamilton has seen dramatic changes.

He has served as a professor, an administrator and even as a board member, during a period when he was working for School District 22.

He was appointed interim president of the college when the B.C. government announced that Okanagan University College would become two institutions: UBC Okanagan and Okanagan College.

For a period before the July 1, 2005 transition, Hamilton was the only of-

ficial employee of the new Okanagan College.

"I'm glad our staff numbers have grown since then," he said.

Today, Okanagan

College has more than 1,000 employees, with an annual operating budget of more than \$82 million. Last year, it educated more than 19,000 students

at its campuses and centres, which stretch from Revelstoke to Oliver.

Since its inception, Okanagan College has exceeded government ex-

pectations in terms of the number of students it educates; in fact, it has grown about 48 per cent in terms of full-time equivalent students educated annually.

"I'm grateful for the vote of confidence from the board," said Hamilton, "and welcome the opportunity to continue to work with so many people at the college who believe so strongly in post-secondary education and meeting the needs of our communities."

edit@kelownacapnews.com