

News

Hamilton remains at OC helm

Morning Star Staff

A Vernon resident will continue to play a leadership role in post-secondary education.

Okanagan College's board of governors has extended Jim Hamilton's position as president for five years.

"It gives me great pleasure to make the announcement," said Janet Shaw, board chairwoman.

"Over the past five years Jim has done an exceptional job of leading Okanagan College to a remarkable series of accomplishments during a period of immense change and growth. Our students and the communities we serve are the beneficiaries of his leadership."

Hamilton was recently chosen as chairman of the B.C. College Consortium, made up of the province's 11 colleges.

He is the former chairman 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 the Vernon School District.

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

For a period before the July 1, 2005 transition date, Hamilton was the only official 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.

"I'm grateful for the vote of confidence from

the board, and welcome many people at the college who believe so strongly in post-secondary edu-

cation and meeting the needs of our communities," said Hamilton.