

College officer got her first taste of the job as a United Way volunteer

By The Okanagan Sunday

As the development officer in advancement for the Okanagan College Foundation, one of Anne Kirkpatrick's many duties is helping to fundraise the \$5 million toward the new, \$28-million Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Building Technologies and renewable Energy Conservation being constructed in Penticton.

Kirkpatrick has been working with Donna Lomas, regional dean for the South Okanagan-Similkameen and a group of local volunteers to inform the public about the new facility and its importance to the region.

"I think it's really important to know

why the building is going up and the whole people element of it and educating a whole generation of new students."

Kirkpatrick also looks after several activities at the four OK College campuses in Penticton, Kelowna, Vernon and Salmon Arm. These include a planned-giving portfolio for the college, which works with individuals on their estate planning to leave funds for the college or not-for-profit organizations.

"We have a wide variety and, in Penticton, we have a number of student awards and bursaries that make it easier for them to complete their education."

Kirkpatrick got her first taste of fundraising while volunteering for the United Way when she was living in

Calgary. From there, she began fundraising and development for the University of Alberta and the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology.

Since moving to the Okanagan and her new position about a year ago, she continues to help others, spending time with not-for-profit groups and holding educational workshops relating to them.

As for having to approach people and ask them about making a donation, Kirkpatrick said this: "I've always maintained that if you have a passion for a cause then you can connect people with the cause. I always give that advice to people who want to go into this as a profession."



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Anne Kirkpatrick is development officer in advancement for the Okanagan College Foundation in Penticton.