

KELOWNA

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College honours 1-800-GOT-JUNK? president

Graduate of Okanagan College named winner of distinguished award

By Okanagan Sunday Staff

The president and chief operating officer of 1-800-GOT-JUNK? has been named Okanagan College's 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award winner.

Launi Skinner graduated from Okanagan College in 1985 with a business administration diploma. Less than a decade later she began a career with



Skinner

Starbucks, climbing up the corporate ladder to become the president of Starbucks U.S.

Fortune Magazine named her one of its Four Women to Watch in 2007.

After nearly 15 years with Starbucks, Skinner took command of 1-800-GOT-JUNK? in 2008. As president and chief operating officer, she is responsible for the growth of 1-800-GOT-JUNK? in North America and Australia.

"I am deeply honoured the Alumni Association has selected me for this award," said Skinner. "I am proud of my association with Okanagan College, and credit the valuable education and great community culture I experienced there with many of the successes I've enjoyed in my career."

1-800-GOT-JUNK? is a franchised garbage and junk pickup service. Under Skinner's direction, the company has focused on more commercial business opportunities and on developing an environmental strategy. The company recently held a free electronic waste disposal day at Okanagan College.

"The Okanagan College Alumni Association is honoured to recognize Launi Skinner as a distinguished alumna of Okanagan College," said OCAA president Kara Kazimer. "Her professional achievements and personal successes have contributed greatly to the reputation of Okanagan College, its school of business and its graduates."

In addition to earning her business diploma from Okanagan College, Skinner is also a certified general accountant and sits on the board of trustees for the Northwest Hospital and Medical Center in Seattle.

She will be honoured by the alumni association alongside the 2009 Young Alumni Award winner at a dinner reception this fall.