

Aboriginal Access & Services

Newsletter



College staff helping our students.

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Happy New Year! A Few Things to Remember

Another semester begins. Hope all you returning students had a nice break from classes and studying. Now is the time to get back into the swing of things.

It is always helpful to get reacquainted with your surroundings. That means checking in with your support network, taking part in any free workshops, making sure you are aware of any important deadlines (e.g. withdrawal

deadlines) or getting involved with any orientation activities.

Don't forget to look into any bursaries or other awards that you might be eligible for. Awards are available to students for both the fall and winter semesters.

Finally, when in doubt, don't be afraid to ask for help or guidance. It can make a world of difference!

Opting Out of the Student Union Health & Dental Plan

A majority of students at Okanagan College are covered by the Okanagan College Student Union Extended Health and Dental Plan.

This plan goes above and beyond what is offered by BC Medical Coverage. It's more like the health coverage you might receive from an employer.

You should find out if you have been enrolled in the Okanagan College Extended Health and Dental Plan. You may be eligible to opt out of the Student Union Plan if you are covered

by another plan. This is especially important if you are being sponsored by your band because they will often refuse to pay the health and dental plan fee.

To find out more about opting out of the Student Union Health and Dental Plan please check out your local Student Union Office, refer to the Okanagan College Calendar online at www.okanagan.bc.ca/calendar, or stop by any of the regional Aboriginal Student Centres.

"The first step in the acquisition of wisdom is silence, the second listening, the third memory, the fourth practice, the fifth teaching others."

Solomon Ibn Gabriel



3rd Aboriginal Student Recognition Celebration

We are now in the process of planning the 3rd Annual Celebration.

The event celebrates the success of our Aboriginal students and honours them for their hard work and determination.

It will take place at Okanagan College, 1000 KLO Road, Kelowna, in the Student Services Building Lecture Theatre (S104) on March 31, 2012 from 1:00-5:00pm.

Any Okanagan College Aboriginal student from any program or course of any length who wishes to be recognized can attend. If you came to the college to meet a specific goal and you've met your goal, you are more than welcome to take part. Current students are also welcome to attend.

Register in person at any one of our Aboriginal Student Centres register online. Please register by March 24th, 2012. There is no fee associated with this event.

In no way is this event to be considered an official convocation. We still recommend that students attend the regular graduation ceremony. Our event will have cultural elements that honor Aboriginal ancestry and will include a small reception after the ceremony.

Students can bring family and friends. All that we ask is that students let us know how many guests they plan on bringing.

We hope to see you there!



Recent Aboriginal graduates.

New Semester Checklist

The beginning of a new semester can often be a hectic time of year. The following is a list of things to consider during your first two weeks of a new semester.

- 1) Take advantage of any orientation events.
- 2) Okanagan College has free Aboriginal support services on each of its four major campuses. Make yourself aware of who you can contact and where.
- 3) Get your student ID.
- 4) Students are required to pay for parking. Student parking passes are available for purchase at each campus.
- 5) If you are being sponsored by your band, the campus bookstores should have copies of your sponsorship letters so that they can invoice your band for your books and supplies.
- 6) If eligible, opt out of the Student Union Health and Dental Plan.
- 7) Make yourself aware of relevant deadlines
- 8) Get a list of relevant bursaries and scholarships from the Okanagan College Aboriginal Student Centre in your area.



Important Dates for Winter 2012



**"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined."
Henry David Thoreau**

January 3: Classes begin for all degree, associate, two-year diploma programs and AACCP

January 13: Last day to register for a fall semester course

January 13: Last day to receive a refund of tuition fees for course drop

January 13: Last day to drop a course without a withdrawal being recorded on the students record

January 13: Last day to change course registration status from audit to credit

January 13: Last day to process student requests for waiver of medical/dental insurance

January 13: Last to submit a grade appeal to the Registrar's Office for Fall semester (Submission and fee must be received by the Registrar – deadline 4:00 pm)

February 20-24: Mid semester study break. No classes for all degree, associate degree, & two-year diploma programs except Early Childhood Education.

February 25: Saturday classes will be held

March 2: Last day to withdraw from a course without academic penalty

March 2: Last day to change registration status form credit to audit

March 2: Last day to submit application to attend convocation for diploma, degree, associate degree or certificate programs.

April 5: Last day of regularly scheduled classes for all degree, associate degree and two-year diploma programs

April 6-9: Easter weekend, College closed

April 11-21: Ten Day Final Exam Period

May 4: Final exam period for Electronic engineering Technology

May 25: Last day to submit a grade appeal to the Registrar's Office for Winter 2012 semester (Submission and fee must be received by the Registrar – deadline 4:00 pm)

Aboriginal Bursaries and Other Awards

We offer a number of financial awards for Aboriginal students (First Nations, Métis and Inuit).

There are differences between scholarships and bursaries that you may want to consider when applying.

Scholarships~ A scholarship is usually based on academic merit. In other words, a scholarship often requires a strong GPA.

Bursaries~ These awards are based primarily on financial need, affiliations and community service/volunteerism with less emphasis on academic merit.

The following is a list of some of the awards offered by Okanagan College for Aboriginal students:

Okanagan College - Okanagan Nation Students Bursary

Okanagan College - Shuswap Nation Students Bursary

Okanagan College Aboriginal Student Bursary

Interior Aboriginal Endowment Fund Award

Wendy Ann Morgan Memorial Award

Robert Allison Bursary

Vicki Hitchen Memorial O.C. Entrance Award

Ethan Baptiste Memorial Award

These awards have different deadlines so check out the Financial Aid website to make sure you don't miss your opportunity for an award.

More award information is available at www.okanagan.bc.ca/financialaid

Upcoming Events

Gathering Our Voices 2012

Nanaimo, British Columbia
Vancouver Island Conference Centre
March 20-23, 2012

"A Generation on the Move" Aboriginal Youth Conference

Aboriginal Youth aged 14-24 are invited to take part in a dynamic conference that will focus on many important issues including Health, Language, Culture, the Environment, Employment, Education, Sports and Recreation.

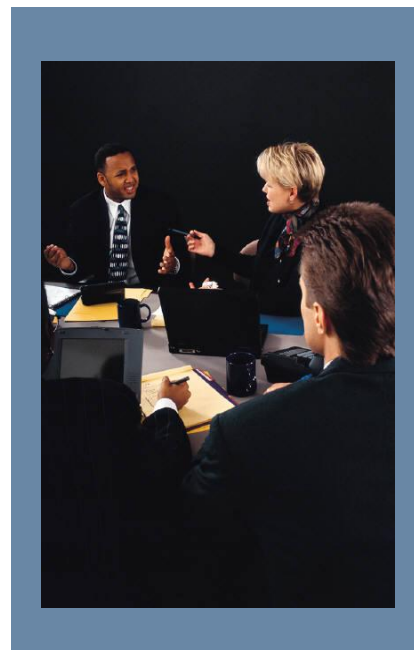
Adams Lake Indian Band Career Fair

Adams Lake Community Gymnasium
Chase, BC
February 3, 2012

Inclusion Works '12 National Aboriginal Recruitment Fair

The Westin
Edmonton, AB
April 30 - May 3, 2012.

For the fourth consecutive year we will bring up to 100 top post-secondary Aboriginal grads to our Inclusion Works '12 National Aboriginal Recruitment Fair for mentorship and job interviews with inclusive employers-of-choice from our *Leadership Circle* partnership program that want to hire them



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