

# Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 2

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*"The Okanagan College Students' Union Extended Health and Dental Plan is mandatory if you are enrolled in full time courses longer than 10 weeks in length. However, if you are covered by a similar plan through your status card, work or family, you may choose to opt out."*

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## New Aboriginal Mentor for Salmon Arm

Okanagan College would like to take this opportunity to welcome Lorisha Desjarlais to the Aboriginal Access and Services team. She is taking up the position of Aboriginal Mentor for the Salmon Arm campus.

Lorisha has extensive experience in education. She has worked as the Education Coordinator for her band as well as with the Camosun College Student Union in Victoria, BC. Her knowledge and great attitude

will be an asset to the students and staff of the Salmon Arm Campus.

Lorisha will be mentoring in Salmon Arm on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8am to 4pm.

Aboriginal Mentors assist in providing educational support to Aboriginal students and work out of the Aboriginal student centres on each of the four major campuses.

They act as a primary support re-

source for Aboriginal students attending Okanagan College.

If you have any questions or concerns that may be affecting your success or you know of someone who could use support, please get in touch with Lorisha. She is there to help in any way she can.

Lorisha can be contacted by telephone at 250.832.2126 or by email at [ldesjarlais@okanagan.bc.ca](mailto:ldesjarlais@okanagan.bc.ca).

## Opting Out of the Student Union Health Plan

All full-time 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.

**The Okanagan College Students' Union Extended Health and Dental Plan is mandatory if you are enrolled in full time courses longer than 10 weeks in length. However, if you are covered by a similar plan through your status card, work or family, you may choose to opt out.**

Only students with comparable extended health and dental cover-

age through an insurance carrier or other third-party group arrangement (e.g. status cards) may elect to opt out. If you do have other insurance, opting out is not mandatory – you may choose to "Coordinate your Benefits" over two plans.

Aboriginal Students whose status card covers their medical and dental expenses to the same or greater extent as the Okanagan College Student Union plan, need only list the band name and number in the appropriate fields.

Once you've entered the opt-out information, it will take some time before the college's computer systems "back out" the fee from your fee statement summary. So please be patient. If you've already mistakenly paid the fee, either before or

after opting out, the college's system will eventually reflect a credit of that amount in your fee summary. To confirm that your opt-out information has been submitted, contact the Students' Union office.

If you've entered incorrect, incomplete or invalid information, the premium may be re-instated.

**To opt out of the Student Union Health Plan, obtain an opt-out form from your Students' Union Office. The last day to opt out of the Student Union Health Plan is January 14, 2011.**



## 2nd Annual Aboriginal Student Graduation Celebration



Last year we hosted the 1st Annual Okanagan College Aboriginal Student Graduation Celebration and we are now in the process of planning the 2nd Annual Aboriginal Student Graduation Celebration.

The event is being organized again to celebrate the success of our Aboriginal students and to honour them for their hard work and determination. We believe students should be recognized for their achievements.

The event will take place at Okanagan College, 1000 KLO Road, Kelowna, BC in the Student Services Building Lecture Theatre (S104) on April 2, 2011 from 1:00-5:00pm.



Any Okanagan College Aboriginal student (First Nation, Métis or Inuit) from any program or course of any length who wishes to be recognized for completing their goals while at Okanagan College 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.

Students can either register in person at any one of our Aboriginal Student Centres or they can register online. Please register by April 1, 2011. There is no fee associated with this event. But, because there is no fee, the ceremony will be modest in nature.

We are not handing out official graduation documents and in no way is it to be considered an official convocation. We just want to recognize student achievement in a relaxed, culturally relevant manner. 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 immediate or extended family and friends. All that we ask is that students let us know how many guests they plan on bringing. This can be done when students register for the event.

***“There are deadlines for the last day that you can register in a course for each semester and deadlines for the last day that you can withdraw from a course.”***



## New Semester Checklist

The beginning of a new semester can often be a hectic time of year for new and continuing students.

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 taking place at your campus.
- 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 you can find them if you have any questions or concerns.
- 3) Get your student ID. Locations and times for getting your card made will be posted at [www.okanagan.bc.ca](http://www.okanagan.bc.ca). Your card is useful for providing identification for a number of on-campus services. Your card can also be used at photocopying machines and the cafeteria; you can add money to

your card to pay for copies and food.

4) Students and visitors are required to pay for parking at Okanagan College. Student parking passes are available for purchase at each campus.

5) All the prescribed books and supplies that you will need for your classes are available at your local campus bookstore. 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.

6) All Kelowna, Penticton and Salmon Arm students who are registered in a degree program or two year diploma program are automatically enrolled in the Students' Association Extended Health and Dental Plan. For vocational/trades programs, students must be enrolled in a program of at least 16 weeks. The fees are added to the student's assessment at the time of

registration. Arrangements to waive the fees may only be made through the Student Union office. Band sponsored students may be eligible to waive these fees. Come in and ask how you can waive the health and dental fees.

7) There are deadlines for the last day that you can register in a course for each semester and deadlines for the last day that you can withdraw from a course with a full tuition rebate. Make sure you are aware of these deadlines by checking out the online calendar at [www.okanagan.bc.ca/calendar](http://www.okanagan.bc.ca/calendar).

8) Get a list of relevant bursaries and scholarships from the Okanagan College Aboriginal Student Centre in your area, the College Financial Aid Office or online.

For more information, please feel free to contact James\_Coble, Aboriginal Access & Services Coordinator, Tel: (250)762-5445 local 4322 or via email at [jcoble@okanagan.bc.ca](mailto:jcoble@okanagan.bc.ca).

## Important Dates for Winter 2011

January 4: Classes begin for all degree, associate, two-year diploma programs and AACP

January 14: Last day to register for a fall semester course

January 14: Last day to receive a refund of tuition fees for course drop

January 14: Last day to drop a course without a withdrawal being recorded on the students record

January 14: Last day to change course registration status from audit to credit

January 14: Last day to process student requests for waiver of medical/dental insurance

January 14: 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)

January 15: Winter Convocation

February 21-25: Mid semester study break. No classes for all degree, associate degree, & two-year diploma programs except Early Childhood Education.

February 26: Saturday classes will be held

March 4: Last day to withdraw from a course without academic penalty

March 4: Last day to change registration status form credit to audit

March 4: Last day to submit application to attend convocation for diploma, degree, associate degree or certificate programs.

April 8: Last day of regularly sched-

uled classes for all degree, associate degree and two-year diploma programs

April 11-21: Ten Day Final Exam Period

April 22-25: Easter weekend, College closed

April 28: Last day to submit final grades

May 6: Last day of classes for Electronic Engineering Technology

May 20: Last day of exams for Electronic Engineering Technology

May 20: Last day to submit a grade appeal to the Registrar's Office for Winter 2010 semester (Submission and fee must be received by the Registrar – deadline 4:00 pm)



## Aboriginal Bursaries and Other Awards

There are various student services provided by the College to assist you on your educational journey. We even try to help you find ways to pay for your education.

In order to help you offset the cost of going to school we offer a number of financial awards for Aboriginals (First Nations, Métis and Inuit), low-income families, single parents and a number of other eligible students.

There is some important information that you should know when it comes to awards for Aboriginal students.

Not all awards are created equal. There are differences between scholarships and bursaries that you may want to consider when applying.

Scholarships~ Although financial

need may be a consideration, a scholarship is usually based on academic merit. In other words, a scholarship often requires a strong GPA.

Bursaries~ These types of 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](http://www.okanagan.bc.ca/financialaid)



**Check out our award offerings that may help you pay for Col-**

## Upcoming Events

### I-BIZ-ED-NETWORK

Vancouver, BC  
January 14, 2011

100+ Indigenous business students from across BC gather at UBC Vancouver to focus on careers and developing professional networks. Special guests: Susan Aglukark, Inuk Singer; David Wolfman, FN Chief; Mary Beth Doucette, Membertou Band, NS.

### Inclusion Works '11

Montreal, QC  
Le Centre Sheraton  
May 3-5, 2011

Canada's Biggest Indigenous Inclusion Event and Recruitment Fair...Inclusion Works '11 is built around the theme of team play. We will help your workplace climb the Inclusion Continuum by walking your team through the "how to" of organizational transformation. One person or change agent can spark work toward inclusion, but no one person can create or maintain an inclusive workplace. Bring members of your team (management, human resources, communications, Aboriginal relations, procurement, corporate affairs) to Inclusion Works and go home armed with teachings, contacts and partnerships that accelerate Indigenous inclusion.

### AFOA National Conference 2011

Vancouver, BC  
Westin Bayshore  
February 15-17, 2011

The most significant challenge that we now face is the lack of competent, trained Aboriginal financial and management professionals – people that can form the nucleus of our government's public service – people that can take advantage of the increasing opportunities for wealth creation and private sector partnerships – people that can lead the corporations and industries that will fuel our economy. What strategies can we employ to fill this need? How can we recruit, educate and retain a professional workforce to support our government and our economy? What skills and competencies are required? How can we attract our youth into the management and finance professions? What changes need to be made? The answers to these questions and more will be the focus of AFOA's 11th National Conference.

### 4th International Meeting on Indigenous Child Health

Vancouver, BC  
March 4-6, 2011

Join with the Canadian Paediatric Society and the American Academy of Pediatrics, collaborating with the Indian Health Service, US Department of Health and Human Services, and the First Nations, Inuit and Aboriginal Health Branch, Health Canada, for the 4th International Meeting on Indigenous Child Health.

## Contact Information

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**We're on the web!**  
[www.okanagan.bc.ca](http://www.okanagan.bc.ca)