

# Newsletter

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“Education is not filling a pail but the lighting of a fire.” ~William Butler Yeats

“Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.” ~John Dewey

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” ~Nelson Mandela

## New Beginnings

It looks to be another great year for Okanagan College and its students. There are a number of new initiatives that we are looking forward to.

You don't have to look very far to see a number of new buildings on many of our campuses. One of the most highly anticipated is the new Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Building Technologies and Renewable Energy Conservation in Penticton which is to be one of the nation's most environmentally responsible and sustainable facilities. Scheduled completion is set for March 2011.

Okanagan College has put the final touches on the Aboriginal Gathering Place in Salmon Arm. The floor of the gathering place now displays permanent etchings of local First Nations pictographs.

These images predate European contact and were used historically to depict dreams, stories, legends, and visions. The Métis symbol is also included with the five pictographs, which surround the symbol of the First Nations' Medicine Wheel. These symbols recognize and honour the local First Nations Bands and Métis people who live within the Shuswap region.

On the programming front, Okanagan College now offers a second year Indigenous Studies course in addition to our first year Aboriginal Studies 100 course. The second year course, Indigenous Studies 204, provides an overview of significant Indigenous concepts and social institutions and their application in traditional and contemporary Indigenous community life.

This year will be the first full year that we will be working



Salmon Arm Aboriginal Gathering Place Floor Etchings

under an affiliation agreement that we have signed with the En'owkin Centre. The purpose of this Memorandum of Affiliation is to provide a mechanism whereby Okanagan College and the En'owkin Centre may collaborate in efforts to accomplish their common goals: the provision of a high standard of education and teaching for Aboriginal learners.

We are looking forward to this year and hope that you are too!

## New But Familiar Aboriginal Mentor for KLO Campus

Aboriginal Access and Services is pleased to announce that we have a new Aboriginal Mentor for the KLO Campus. The great news is that this new person may be familiar to many.

Marilyn Alexis was the successful candidate for the KLO Aboriginal Mentor position. Some of you may know her from the

Vernon Campus where she currently works as an Academic Advisor and Aboriginal Mentor.

Just in case your wondering what an Aboriginal Mentor does, here is a little reminder. The Aboriginal Mentors assist in providing educational support to Aboriginal students and act as a primary resource for Abo-

iginal students at Okanagan College.

Marilyn will be working out of the KLO Campus Aboriginal Student Centre on Mondays and Thursdays from 8am to 4pm. To get in touch with Marilyn, please refer to her contact information on the last page of this newsletter.





**Lower Similkameen  
Grass Dancer**

## 2nd Annual Okanagan College Youth Exhibition Pow Wow

Last year we hosted the 1st Annual Okanagan College Youth Exhibition Pow Wow with great success.

The event was well attended by dancers, community members and students alike. The host drum group was the Spotted Lake Singers.

It was a beautiful day and the response was so good that we've decided to make it an annual event.

We are proud to announce

that we will be hosting the 2nd Annual Okanagan College Youth Exhibition Pow Wow. The host drum will once again be the Spotted Lake Singers supported by Iron Mountain Drum Group.

We are inviting anyone who is interested to stop by the KLO Campus in Kelowna on Thursday, September 23, 2010 between 10am and 2pm to check out the event or to take part.

Please note, that this is an exhibition pow wow and not a

competition pow wow. We are providing all of the dancers with a free lunch for their participation.

Please contact Marcella Trotter, Aboriginal Recruiting and Events Assistant, if you or any of your family members are interested in registering to take part in the dance exhibition. She can be reached at 250.492.4305 local 3264.

***“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 Fall 2010

September 6: Labor Day (no classes)

September 7: Orientation Day

September 8: Classes begin for all degree, associate, and two-year diploma programs

September 8: AACP classes begin- all campuses

September 17: Last day to register for a fall semester course

September 17: Last day to receive a refund of tuition fees for course drop

September 17: Last day to drop a course without a withdrawal being recorded on the students record

September 17: Last day to change course registration status from audit to credit

September 17: Last day to process student requests for waiver of medical/dental insurance

October 11: Thanksgiving, College closed

October 29: Last day to change from credit to audit

October 29: Last day to withdraw from a course without academic penalty

November 11: Remembrance Day, College closed

November 12: Study break, no classes for degree, associate degree and diploma programs

December 6: Last day of regularly scheduled classes for all baccalaureate degree, associate degree and two-year diploma programs

December 9-18: Nine Day Final Exam Period

December 23: AACP classes and exams end

December 21: Last Day to submit final grades for final exams

December 24-January 2: Christmas closures, no classes



## 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

Minerva Foundation Award

Wendy Ann Morgan Memorial Award

Vicki Hitchen Memorial O.C. Entrance 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-**

**OKANAGAN  
COLLEGE**

1000 KLO Road  
Kelowna, BC Canada  
V1Y 4X8

Phone: 250.762.5445  
Toll Free: 1.877.755.2266

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

## Upcoming Events

### **National Aboriginal Business Opportuni- ties Conference**

Osoyoos, BC  
Sep 14-15, 2010

This business conference is unique in design with a focus on networking and discussions around joint ventures. The plenary sessions will show-case successful private sector/Aboriginal business ventures as case studies and examples for others to follow.

### **16th Annual Provincial Conference on Aboriginal Education**

November 18-20, 2010  
Westin Bayshore, Vancouver

The conference offers a unique networking and learning opportunity for educators from public schools, First Nations schools and independent schools. The conference theme, Norming Excellence, reflects the importance of setting high expectations for all Aboriginal students, ourselves and our schools.

### **Dreamcatcher Shuswap 2nd Annual Con- ference: Protecting Mother Earth**

October 8-10, 2010  
Adams Lake Band, Chase, BC

### **Annual National AGA of Native Women's Association of Canada**

September 24th - 25th 2010  
Ottawa, ON  
1-800-461-4043 ext. 3017

### **12th Annual Northern Lights Casino Thanksgiving Traditional Powwow**

October 8-10  
Art Hauser Center, Prince Albert, SK  
Over \$75,000 in the prize money, Info: 306-764  
-4777

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## Contact Information

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