



WHAT'S NEXT IS WHAT'S HERE

## Okanagan College Aboriginal Access and Services

# Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

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Aboriginal learners, Okanagan College strives to provide culturally relevant student services.

One of the primary services that the College offers is that of the Aboriginal Mentor. The role of the Aboriginal mentor is to assist in providing educational support to and act as a primary resource for Aboriginal students.

Daily activities may include but are not limited to assisting Aboriginal students in accessing information about OC programs, courses and support services (i.e.: Educational Advising, Financial Aid & Awards, Counseling, etc), informing Aboriginal students about processes required to navigate the post-secondary education system and functioning as an advocate for individual Aboriginal students.

Okanagan College is very lucky to have Caroline Chartier as an Aboriginal Mentor at the



Salmon Arm campus.

Caroline, a member of the Lakota Sioux Nation with Métis ancestry, was born in St. Boniface, Manitoba. She attended elementary and junior high school in Winnipeg before moving to BC and attending high school in Vancouver. Soon thereafter she got married and had a son. She continued her education through night classes and weekend courses at local

### **Aboriginal Services Profile: Caroline Chartier**

As a part of our commitment to enhancing the educational experiences of



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colleges while working full time and raising a family.

In 1997 she moved to the Okanagan where she was hired by School District #83 (Shuswap School District) as a First Nations Support Worker. In 2006, she was hired by Okanagan College as an Aboriginal Mentor for the Salmon Arm Campus.

Caroline's commitment to the enhancement of Aboriginal learners is unquestionable. She is passionate about what she does and takes pride in helping students in any way she can. She is friendly, resourceful, compassionate and dedicated and the College is lucky to have her!

Caroline currently works on Thursdays from 8:30am to 4:00pm. Her office number is 121 and she can be reached at 250.832.2126 ext. 8237 or at [chartier@okanagan.bc.ca](mailto:chartier@okanagan.bc.ca).

If you or anyone you know is interested in attending or is currently attending Okanagan College in Salmon Arm, Caroline is available to help navigate the "ins" and "outs" of college life.

So get in touch with Caroline. It's free and it may be one of the most beneficial decisions you can make!

## What is a "Mature Student"?

Okanagan College is committed to improving access to its programs no matter what stage of life you are in. If you have been out of high school for sometime and are unsure whether you can get into an Okanagan College program, perhaps you can be accepted as a mature applicant.

What is a mature applicant? The Okanagan College calendar states that:

Mature Applicants: are at least 19 years of age and have been out of full-time high school for at least one year prior to commencement in their program. Grade 12 graduation is not required (unless specified), but the applicant must satisfy all general and program specific admission requirements.

So, although as a mature student you may not have to have graduated from high school or its equivalent, you may have to meet specific course requirements. If you think you



might be interested in attending Okanagan College, most of our programs have a mature

applicant category. Visit our online calendar to determine the specific admission requirements for any given program: <http://www.okanagan.bc.ca/calendar/>.

## Grade 12 English and the Arts University Studies Program

Everyone who wants to enter the Arts University Studies programs at Okanagan College must demonstrate a command of English. As such, everyone must meet the minimum English entrance requirements.

The English entrance requirements are as follows:

A minimum grade of 60% in one of: English 12 or TPC 12 (Technical and Professional Communications), Adult Academic and Career Preparation Provincial level English, or equivalent, or, a minimum score of 24/40 (level 4) on the LPI (Language Proficiency Index Test. Note: Communications 12 is not acceptable.

If someone doesn't meet the above requirements, don't give up hope! You should still submit an application because:

**Students with a passing grade of less than 60% in English 12 or TPC 12 will be admissible to the first year of the Arts University Transfer Program, subject to the following conditions:**

1. Registration is restricted to courses for which the student satisfies the prerequisites. Registration in first year English courses is, therefore, prohibited.
2. Successful completion of the English entrance requirements within the first year of studies. This may be done in one of the following ways:
  - Successful completion of English 12 or TPC 12 or an equivalent course with a minimum grade of 60%. This may be done concurrently through the College's Adult Academic and Career Preparation Program or by completing an equivalent course through a distance education program.
  - Writing the LPI and obtaining a score of at least 24/40 (level 4).

The Arts program is more accessible than you thought. If you have any questions or concerns don't hesitate to make an appointment with an Educational Advisor. Just call your local Okanagan College campus!

## Adult Basic Education – It's Free!

It's not easy to make that decision to go back to school at any level. It can be especially difficult if you think you need to upgrade some of your high school courses in order to get into a college program. However, Okanagan College (OC) offers courses that might just meet your needs.

OC offers the Adult Basic Education (ABE) program. It's a program offered under the Adult Academic and Career Preparation Department. ABE courses are designed for adult learners with a wide range of backgrounds and needs for educational upgrading. Courses provide students with basic literacy skills, prerequisites for



admission to post-secondary programs, and requirements for the BC Adult Graduation Diploma. Support services are available for students with disabilities.

The best news of all is that it's free. Yep, that's right, free! There is no tuition for ABE courses. You may have to pay for supplemental materials and supplies, but otherwise, the course tuition is free.

You don't have to have any specific academic background although some students may be required to complete a skills assessment if they do not meet specific course prerequisites.

For more information about the admission requirements, skills assessment, course selection advice, or if you have any other questions about the program feel free to contact the OC Welcome Centre and make an appointment to see an educational advisor at 250-762-5445.

## Aboriginal Education Council – What is it?

The Aboriginal Council is a council hosted by Okanagan College and UBC Okanagan, the general aim of which is to provide Okanagan College and UBC Okanagan with advice, recommendations and guidance to enhance the participation and success of Aboriginal students at both institutions.

The council is made up of representatives from Okanagan First Nation communities, Shuswap First Nation communities, Métis Associations, Friendship Societies and Centres as well as students from Okanagan College and UBC Okanagan.

The council meetings, which occur usually four times a year, provide an opportunity to maintain an open and consistent dialogue between the institutions and Aboriginal education stakeholders for the enhancement of Aboriginal learners.

Council agendas and meeting minutes can be found posted on the Okanagan College Aboriginal Programs and Services website. Please feel free to view the agendas as well as other important information about Okanagan College Aboriginal Services at <http://www.okanagan.bc.ca/Page1157.aspx>



## Important Dates For Winter 2007

January 2-12: Late Registration Period

January 3: Classes begin for Business, CIS, Commercial Aviation, Arts/Science, Engineering Technology, and Advanced Culinary Arts Diploma

January 8: Start date for Distance Education

January 12: Last day to register in a course for the winter semester

January 12: Last day to receive a tuition rebate for withdrawal from a winter semester course

January 12: Last day to withdraw without record of course resignation entered on the student's transcript for a winter semester course

January 12: Last day to submit a waiver or an addition to the Medical and Dental Plan. Forms to be submitted to Student Association offices by 4:00pm

January 13: Winter convocation

January 26: Last day to submit grade appeals to Registrar's Office for Fall semester. Submission and fee must be received by the Registrar – deadline 4:00pm

February 19-20: Study break for Adult Academic and Career Preparation students in Revelstoke, Salmon Arm, Vernon, Kelowna and Penticton, and for Adult Special Education students in Kelowna, Vernon and Salmon Arm

February 19-24: Mid-semester study week for degree, diploma, and daytime ESL programs students

March 2: Last day to submit application for diploma, degree and certificate convocations

March 2: Last day to change from credit to audit for winter semester courses

March 2: Last day to withdraw, without penalty, from winter semester courses

March 12: Start date for Distance Education

March 20-23: Mid-semester study week for Adult Special Education students in Penticton

March 20-23: Mid-semester study week Adult Academic and Career Preparation students in Revelstoke, Vernon, Salmon Arm, Kelowna, and Penticton, and for Adult Special Education students in Kelowna, Vernon, and Salmon Arm

April 6: Good Friday: Okanagan College closed

April 9: Easter Monday: Okanagan College closed

April 17-27: Final exams and evaluation period for ESL

## Upcoming Events!!!

### Gathering Our Voices 2007: Aboriginal Youth Conference

This year's theme is **Education and Life-long Learning**. A Call for Presenters is available on-line at [www.bcaafc.com](http://www.bcaafc.com).

The event will be held at the Prince George Civic Centre, Prince George, British Columbia, March 18-20, 2007.

For more information please contact Dianne Biin, Youth Conference Coordinator, BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres at [dbiin@bcaafc.com](mailto:dbiin@bcaafc.com) or 1.888.383.1342.

## Job Opportunity

The Canada Revenue Agency has posted a job opportunity for Aboriginal students.

It is open to Aboriginal students who are currently enrolled in full-time studies at an accredited post-secondary institution and who will be returning to full-time studies in the fall of 2007. Students should reside or make their permanent residence in the Thompson, Okanagan or Kootenay Districts of British Columbia.

It is an excellent opportunity for students who are looking to gain meaningful work experience in a large federal organization. Applications will only be accepted online.

Application Deadline: January 26, 2007, 8pm EST.

Please refer to the following link for more information about the Aboriginal Summer Student Employment Program and to apply online: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/apps/careers/external/english/2006-5794-PAC-1226-0071-Notice.html>

## Websites of Interest

**Okanagan College Aboriginal Programs and Services Webpage:**

<http://www.okanagan.bc.ca/Page1157.aspx>

**\*\*Aboriginal Funding Tool:**

<http://www.aboriginalcanada.gc.ca/acp/apps/fundingtool.nsf/>

**En'owkin Centre (Indigenous cultural, educational and creative arts institution located in Penticton):**

<http://enowkin.tripod.com/>

## Aboriginal Access and Services Contact Information

**James Coble**

**Aboriginal Access and Services Coordinator**

Okanagan College, Kelowna

Office: S124A

Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:30am – 4:30pm

Tel: 250.762.5445 ext. 4322

Fax: 250.862.5496

Email: [jcoble@okanagan.bc.ca](mailto:jcoble@okanagan.bc.ca)

**Barbara Bailey**

**Educational Advisor, ABE Instructor**

Okanagan College, Kelowna

Office: S124

Hours: Mondays, 11:00am – 3:00pm

Tel: 250.762.5445 ext. 4682

Fax: 250.862.5496

Email: [blbailey@okanagan.bc.ca](mailto:blbailey@okanagan.bc.ca)

**Ethan Baptiste**

**Aboriginal Mentor**

Okanagan College, Penticton

Office: A1E Sunoka Building

Hours: Thursday 10:00am-6:00pm; Friday 8:30am-4:30pm

Tel: 250.492.4305 ext. 3261

Email: [ebaptiste@okanagan.bc.ca](mailto:ebaptiste@okanagan.bc.ca)

**Marilyn Alexis**

**Educational Advisor, Aboriginal Mentor**

Okanagan College, Vernon

Office: A306 (Wed.), D220 (Tues. & Thurs.)

Hours: Tuesday to Thursday, 8:30am – 4:30pm

Tel: 250.545.7291 ext. 2209 (Wed.) ext. 2284

(Tues. & Thurs.)

Email: [malexis@okanagan.bc.ca](mailto:malexis@okanagan.bc.ca)

**Caroline Chartier**

**Aboriginal Mentor**

Okanagan College, Salmon Arm

Office: 121

Hours: Thursday 8:30am – 4:00pm

Tel: 250.832.2126 ext. 8237

Email: [cchartier@okanagan.bc.ca](mailto:cchartier@okanagan.bc.ca)