

College students to build day care

Carpentry and construction students to build centre at Kelowna campus

By Daily Courier Staff

A new program offered by Okanagan College this fall will provide students a chance to help build a day care on the college's Kelowna campus. Students can apply and register now for the program, which begins Sept. 2.

They'll spend the first eight weeks in classes, learning the theory and basics of carpentry and

home construction. Then, for the next five months, they will work alongside construction experts building a day-care centre on campus before returning to classes for the final two weeks of their program.

When it's complete, the centre will be operated by the Kelowna YM-YWCA and will provide spaces for 63 children in the 3,000 square-foot building.

"Students who take the residential construction program will have a chance to graduate not just with great career prospects, but also with a sense of having helped the community," said Heather Schneider, OC's dean for the Central Okanagan.

In May last year, a survey found that the Central Okanagan had about 1,900 licensed day-care spaces for children under six. That's slightly more than space for one child out of every five in that age group.

TEAM Construction will oversee the project, said Randy Werger, associate dean of trades and apprenticeship.

"It's not just our residential construction students who will be helping out with the project," he said. "We'll also be looking for opportunities to have our plumbing and electrical students assist in the construction."

To register, call 250-862-5457.