

Your Vernon Kalamalka Campus:

This fall you will see many things have changed around the Kalamalka Campus here in Vernon. You may have already noticed our new highway sign indicating the birth of Okanagan College. With a new mandate, and with benefit of a rich heritage of serving the region for over 42 years, we are evolving.

Kalamalka Campus is now part of a community college committed to providing increased access to the highest quality of post-secondary education and training in all four of the regions it serves – here in the North Okanagan, as well as in the Central Okanagan, the South Okanagan-Similkameen and in the Shuswap-Revelstoke region. As much as we have in the past been committed to providing the necessary support required to help our students succeed, we are even more committed now.

Our new Okanagan College slogan says, “What’s Next is What’s Here.” This is a promise to you and our students about providing for the needs of the region. Our slogan also describes how our institution sees itself: as a vital contributor to building a strong future for this region and its community members. First, we must refine our sense of what your needs are – to help us identify and develop ‘What’s Next’ right here in the North Okanagan. You can start helping us by visiting our website – www.okanagan.bc.ca - or by calling us at 545-7291 to see what we currently offer.

The creation of Okanagan College forms the largest college in B.C. on this side of the Lower Mainland. Even more growth is mandated for us here in the Okanagan Valley region, resulting in a number of new opportunities for students. Locally, we are doubling our intake of students into our Aircraft Maintenance Engineering program to meet student and employer demand. We are expanding our International Education activities to students visiting from countries like Japan, Mexico and Germany. We will also continue to investigate opportunities of increased dual credit trades training with our local School District 22.

This column is another example of what’s new this year. Through a positive partnership with The Morning Star, we will use this space every second Wednesday to bring you news, information and stories about your new community college here in the Vernon and area communities. As the North Okanagan Regional Dean for Okanagan College, I will be working closely with staff, faculty, students and the editorial staff at The Morning Star to keep you posted on events like our first September student intake, Information Sessions for prospective students, Speaker series, student activities, new programming opportunities, etc. We will share success stories with you from past graduates who started their post-secondary learning right here in Vernon. Additionally, from time to time, we will offer a community ‘Questions & Answers’ section.

We’re building on a strong history and I hope you get a chance to experience how that will come to pass over the coming months and years: visit us at the Campus, visit us online at www.okanagan.bc.ca or call us at 545-7291 for information.

- Tony Sellar