The Jim Pattison Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Building Technologies and Renewable Energy Conservation

Five-Year Impact Report
Awards, Milestones, Student Success, Program Development, Partnerships and Community Support
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT

The unveiling of The Jim Pattison Centre of Excellence in Penticton in December of 2011 will remain one of the most memorable and transformational moments in Okanagan College’s 50-plus year history of transforming lives and communities in the Southern Interior.

From construction through to opening and since, the Centre has set a new standard and been recognized internationally as an example of what can be achieved in sustainable building technologies, construction, and innovation. It has provided students and employees a place to learn and work that inspires as profoundly as it educates. It has helped to raise the profile of Okanagan College significantly – both in our surrounding communities and far beyond the region.

Over the past four years, our donors and community partners have joined us in celebrating many highlights, from the accomplishments of our students, to the many awards and accolades garnered by the building, to the conservation benchmarks achieved, to new programming and events we have been able to offer through this facility.

When the College received word that the building was the first of its size in B.C. to achieve LEED Platinum certification, it was a testament to the high level of sustainability the College has been able to achieve through the project, thanks to incredible support from the community.

The level of support received – $9,290,097.16 to date – has exceeded our goal and expectations. Countless new partnerships and involvement by community members have developed as a result of the College having launched this beacon for learning and sustainability in the region.

As we celebrate and reflect on what has been achieved, we felt it only appropriate to provide our donors with a comprehensive update on the accomplishments of The Jim Pattison Centre of Excellence.

On behalf of Okanagan College, thank you once again for your thoughtful investment in our students and our campus. Your support is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jim Hamilton
President, Okanagan College
MILESTONES, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AWARDS

Sustainability

Recognized for its innovative design and sustainability features, the building has achieved the following awards:

- LEED Platinum Certification
- ASTTBC’s (first-ever) TechGREEN Award
- Two FortisBC Awards of Excellence:
  - Leadership
  - Conservation
- The Centre of Excellence represented Canada at the World Sustainable Building Conference in Helsinki, Finland in 2011
- Two awards from the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America:
  - Energy Award
  - Vision Award
- Canadian Green Building Award from SAB (Sustainable Architecture Building) Magazine
- International Architecture Awards’ Green GOOD DESIGN Award
- Canadian Society of Landscape Architects Regional Merit Award

“…the best example of a well-integrated passive design solution in which the architecture was not overburdened with technology. A common sense approach to envelope design, heating, ventilation and day-lighting is supplemented by innovative water and waste treatment systems.”

- Jury comments, 2012 Canadian Green Building Awards

“The jury selected outstanding examples of Green Design from 27 nations. Among those examples were the tranquil Nature Boardwalk at Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago, the futuristic Stacking Green House in Vietnam, and the swooping glass Glasnevin Trust Museum in Dublin, and Okanagan College’s newest building, which is among the most sustainable buildings of its type in the world.”

- Kieran Conlon, Chief Operating Officer, European Centre for Architecture Art Design and Urban Studies, International Architecture Awards’ Green GOOD DESIGN Award

“Working on this project was an education for our company and tradespeople about how vision and dedication can turn a commitment to sustainability into a beautiful, leading-edge building. We are all very proud of the outcome and the recognition that the building has received. I can tell you that it has impacted our work on a whole host of other projects since.”

- Gary McEwan, Manager, Special Projects, PCL Constructors Westcoast Inc.
Community Partnerships

In addition to the benchmarks reached in sustainability, one of the greatest accomplishments of the Centre of Excellence is undeniably the way the building has been adopted as a place of learning and collaboration by students, staff, and the community.

Every week, community sports groups, non-profits, and others use The Jim Pattison Centre of Excellence. It has become a celebrated and welcome gathering place for community-building.

- Selected by Canada’s National Women’s Hockey Team for part of its summer off-ice training camp
- The Centre has received visitors from the U.S., Brazil, Columbia, India, China, Germany, Scotland, Kenya and South Korea, plus another 600 delegates who took part in the Annual Conference of the Association of Canadian Community Colleges, hosted by Okanagan College
- Hosted numerous conferences, including the first TED Talk in the region

Over the last five years, donors and community partners have worked with the College at every level to develop and enhance programming as part of the College’s efforts to elevate the educational experience.

“This is a building that students love to learn in, that staff enjoy working in, that the community loves to use, a building that continues to impress visitors. And it’s doing all that with a tiny footprint on our environment.”

- Donna Lomas, the Regional Dean for the South Okanagan-Similkameen
This three-year diploma program was launched in 2013, made possible by a $1.5 million investment by the Ministry of Advanced Education, support from the Real Estate Foundation of B.C., Great West Life Insurance, North American Construction, and other donors.

Donor support continues to drive interest and growth in the program. Currently, more than $80,000 in scholarships and bursaries has been secured. As an example, longtime College supporters Rick and Yasmin Thorpe of Penticton have provided $20,000 in student support in the form of eight $2,500 entrance scholarships to date.

April 2015 marked an important milestone for the program as the first cohort of 19 students completed the first year of the three-year program. As a testament to the popularity of the program, students remained engaged over the summer, working on a “Tiny Technology House” project that will be used to demonstrate sustainable technologies.

Having a world-class facility like The Jim Pattison Centre of Excellence was crucial for the College to be able to launch this program. A recent study conducted by the Economic Development Commission in the Central Okanagan confirmed that the occupation of construction manager, especially with sustainable construction experience, is expected to be among the fastest growing in the region.

Program Milestones and Projects:

- **Winter 2016** – Construction of a “Greenwall” in the Center of Excellence to be used as a showcase for integrating biophilic design within a building.
- **Summer 2015** – Tiny House project completed. The tiny house will provide future students with the opportunity to perform air quality tests, air leaking tests, and other measures of the sustainable building envelope, serving as a model for student experiments and a traveling sustainability showcase in the community.
- **Summer 2015** – As an example of the global reach and potential for wide-ranging impact of the applied research being conducted in the program, Faculty member Brian Rippy spent two weeks in Ethiopia with Canadian Humanitarian. Rippy installed small-scale solar panels systems that will serve as charging stations and for lighting for the communities.
- **April 2015** – first cohort of 19 students complete the first year of the program (pictured above).
“What better way to exemplify the very concepts the students are learning about than for them to attend class in a state-of-the-art building that highlights sustainable green technologies. Innovation and sustainability are the gateways to the businesses of tomorrow. It’s important that students learn today the principles of reducing our carbon footprint.”

- Rick Thorpe, Okanagan College donor, MLA for Okanagan-Westside from 1996 to 2009

“Our goal is to empower and inspire the emerging generation of construction managers and technologists to deliver true sustainable development. The net zero-energy building itself is the classroom. It has visible geothermal heating and cooling, screens that display energy conservation, solar water heating, and more. It’s the perfect environment for students, and is definitely an important part of the learning experience.”

- Dr. Amy Vaillancourt – SCMT Program Chair/Professor, Okanagan College

“To see the way donors in the community have been inspired by this building and this program to the point that they are willing to support students training for a completely new career has really been incredible. This generosity has motivated me to do the very best I can in my program and show that their investment in me was a good one.”

- Sloane More, SCMT student, recipient of the Rick and Yasmin Thorpe & Friends Scholarship and Oline Smith Technology Award
B.C. Wine Information Society Sensory Centre

Located in the heart of Okanagan wine country, the B.C. Wine Information Society Sensory Centre in The Centre of Excellence is the region’s first educational facility of its kind.

The facility, which opened its doors in 2014, was created specifically for the sensory discovery and evaluation of wine and food and made possible by a donation of $300,000 by the B.C. Wine Information Society.

The Sensory Centre has become a popular and well-reviewed venue for countless industry events. A speaker series featuring renowned wine industry experts is currently being developed by the College’s Food, Wine, and Tourism Department. The Centre will provide a key hub for this series, furthering expanding the profile of this already highly sought after space and introducing it to wine lovers, industry professionals, and researchers from around the world. In 2015 it was used by the Wine Festivals Society for annual judging for the Fall Wine Festival.

“We are proud to have our name on this facility and to have it located in Penticton. Okanagan College is helping to educate and train the individuals the wine and tourism industries need. As was intended, this space is also proving, to be a popular venue for consumer-focused programming that highlights B.C. VQA wine, food and talent.”

- Keith Bevington, B.C. Wine Information Society President
One of the goals for the Sensory Centre was to continue to build on the reputation of the College’s Food, Wine, and Tourism programs, and that goal is being achieved thanks to the community. Student response to the facility has been overwhelmingly positive.

“This fabulous facility really enhances the wine and food education we can receive in the Okanagan. I took the very first class offered and it was excellent in all respects. The knowledgeable instructor, hands-on experience and sensory learning environment made it one of the best classes I have ever taken.“

- Carla Leinweber, Viticulture student

“Food, Wine, and Tourism is about studying and celebrating the uniqueness of the Okanagan Valley and the people who make these industries a huge success. We’re very grateful and excited that organizations in our region like the B.C. Wine Information Society continue to support and work with us as we develop and deliver our programs. It makes the student experience that much more rewarding.“

- Jonathan Rouse, Director - Food, Wine and Tourism and Associate Dean of Okanagan College’s School of Business

B.C. WINE INFORMATION SOCIETY - SENSORY CENTRE FROM MAY 1, 2014 TO MARCH 10, 2015
– A YEAR AT A GLANCE

- 389 students
- 575 hours
- 27 different courses
- 17 food and wine industry instructors
- 15 food and wine industry guest presenters
Other Developments in Educational Partnerships, Research Funding, and Campus Life

- Since the opening of The Jim Pattison Centre of Excellence, enrolment at the Penticton campus has increased over seven per cent or more than 60 FTE (Full-time Equivalent) enrolments per year.
- Partnerships with the Discovery Foundation of Vancouver and BCIT have resulted in targeted business development seminars for the tech sector, plus NSERC-funded sessions on commercialization and intellectual property.
- New Memorandum of Understanding signed with BCIT to create joint programming and research opportunities in building sciences, sustainability education, and energy management.
- Okanagan College and the Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC) have partnered to allow students to complete JIBC’s Bachelor of Law Enforcement Studies degree program at the College’s Penticton campus – helping to collaboratively train justice and public safety professionals.
- Accelerate Okanagan utilized the building as an incubator space for emerging technology startups and to promote and encourage business innovation in the valley.

(l to r) Steve McCartney, Co-ordinator LES – Justice and Public Safety Division, JIBC; Dr. Rob Huxtable, Dean of Arts and Foundational, Okanagan College; Charlotte Kushner, Vice President Students, Okanagan College; Jarjot Gill, second-year Criminal and Social Justice student, Okanagan College; Dr. Laureen Styles, Vice President Academic, JIBC; Donna Lomas, Regional Dean South Okanagan-Similkameen, Okanagan College; Shaun Machesney, Co-ordinator BLES, Justice and Safety Division, JIBC; and Mike Trump, Dean of School of Criminal Justice and Security, JIBC.

Paul Dangerfield, Vice President of Education, Research and International, BCIT, welcomed Dr. Andrew Hay, Vice President Education, Okanagan College, to the BCIT campus to formalize the MOU agreement.