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Okanagan College appoints its first director of learning and teaching

The first dean of the Okanagan School of Business, and one of Okanagan College's longest-serving employees, is now taking on the newly created role of director of learning and teaching.

Jayne Brooks has spent the last year in an interim role developing the position, which includes providing leadership for the college's Institute for Learning and Teaching.

"Through her long association with the college, Dr. Brooks has developed a thorough understanding and appreciation of the college's objectives," said Andrew Hay, vice-president of education.

"This position further establishes the college's commitment to providing the best learning experien-

ces and highest program quality standards using the most progressive and proven techniques available today," Hay added.

"It's essential that the college have someone in this position to provide the required leadership and I'm confident Dr. Brooks will fill that role admirably."

Brooks said the new position allows her to use her wide-range of skills and experience in academia in a new way that she hopes will further the college's reputation as a place where students feel comfortable, supported, and positively challenged in their education, and where all employees feel equipped to handle the challenges and opportunities within their positions.

"Research has proven that quality instruction has a lot more to do with building relationships within the classroom and getting students engaged than it has to do with top-down, delivery or material," Brooks said.

"Learner-centred instruction is our focus and our aim is to enhance learning and teaching methods at Okanagan College to help students and employees reach their goals."

Brooks is an alumna of the college's business administration program and served on the program advisory committee after graduation.

She spent 20 years in the classroom teaching before becoming dean of the Okanagan School of

Business, a position she held for 10 years.

Brooks has an MBA from McMaster University, a doctorate in education from the University of Texas, Austin, as well as MEd in college administrative leadership from Simon Fraser University.

In addition, she is a certified management accountant.

Brooks has received numerous awards, including being the first recipient of the OUC Distinguished Alumni Award, and the YWCA's Women of Distinction Award for Career Leadership. She is also the recipient of the Kelowna and District Arts Council's Honour in the Arts Award for outstanding contributions to the advancement of the arts here.



CONTRIBUTED

JAYNE BROOKS, the first dean of Okanagan College's School of Business has been named to the new role of director of learning and teaching at the college.