



news

Culinary Arts launches OC Serves up to help feed students in need



With the support of RBC and the Okanagan College Students' Union, Okanagan College's Culinary and Pastry Arts students are launching an innovative new program designed to hone their skills while providing nutritious meals for fellow students who are struggling financially.

OC Serves Up presented by RBC will launch on July 8, as Culinary and Pastry Arts students step back into the kitchens for physically distanced training. The goal is for students to prepare 50 nutritious meals per day. Meals will be available daily to students in both online and in-person classes, and accessed via a voucher system managed by the OCSU Student Pantry. Any excess meals will be provided to community organizations in need such as homeless shelters and community food programs.

How students sign up/collect their meals:

- Students can apply to request a meal by emailing: ocservesup@ocsu.ca.
- For now students can apply daily, however as/if demand picks up significantly, Culinary Arts may have to limit the number of meals granted in a week per student.
- OCSU will review and approve the student request, adding their name to the list and responding with an email that they are now eligible to pick up the meal between 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Monday to Friday from the Infusions patio on the Kelowna campus. Note: students will not be required to demonstrate their financial need; the review is to ensure that the program can reach and serve the most students possible.
- When the student comes to pick up their meal, their name will be checked off the list, at which time they are eligible to apply again for a meal another day.

Stay tuned for the full story on www.okanagan.bc.ca/news and in the next edition of Inside Okanagan College.

OC Education Assistant grads ready to support learners in new and ever-changing world of education

The phrase "going back to school" is exciting on many levels for Okanagan College graduate Toby Griffin.

When she took the leap of returning to College at age 48 to pursue her dream of becoming a certified education assistant, Griffin never could have imagined she'd finish off her studies during a pandemic – nor could she have anticipated how much this experience would inspire her and her fellow students to support learners in new and innovative ways.

Education Assistants (EAs) are trained to help students be successful in meeting their educational goals. Griffin is one of a class of 27 new OC EA graduates who took time recently to show their appreciation to their instructor for helping them meet theirs.

On Friday June 19, grads from the EA program at the College's Vernon campus came together – in a physically distant way – to mark the completion of their program.

They held an informal graduation send-off at an acreage in the Vernon area belonging to the family of student Karissa Goodrum. Griffin gave the student address.

"I'm a proud mother of five children and I've always been passionate about supporting young learners," explains Griffin. "I've been a Montessori pre-school teacher, a basketball coach and held others' roles in the community. It felt like it was my time to be able to go back to school to do this, to continue putting my love for education and supporting learners to work, and, hopefully, to inspire others around me to pursue their dreams."

Griffin notes that while the pandemic presented challenges – such as the rapid shift to online learning in March – it brought students together and offered up lessons that will be invaluable for them going forward.

Read the full story [here](#).



OC Salmon Arm showcases expanded opportunities for students this fall



One silver lining for students during the pandemic might be greater choice of College courses this fall.

Okanagan College hosted a virtual info session earlier today, to inform students and parents about the greater array of courses available to students attending the College in Salmon Arm and Revelstoke. The session served as one of several ongoing virtual info sessions for prospective students throughout the summer.

"The shift to online learning for many courses this fall has opened up the array of offerings that students can tap into," explains Joan Ragsdale, Regional Dean for the Shuswap-Revelstoke. "That's going to be a huge benefit for recent high school grads and mature students alike in the Shuswap-Revelstoke area. They can stay local, learn from home and access courses which normally they would have to travel to Vernon, Kelowna or Penticton to pursue."

"It's particularly exciting for students in Revelstoke, as they're going to be able to enjoy a wider range of academic courses," adds Ragsdale.

One program of note coming up in Salmon Arm this September is the College's Human Service Work diploma, which is offered annually in Kelowna and on a rotating basis in Salmon Arm and Vernon.

"It's very timely that we're able to offer this program this year, as we know there is huge demand for Human Service Work graduates locally," says Ragsdale. "It's a health care career that you can train for in Salmon Arm and find work in Salmon Arm, so it's a great opportunity for students looking to step into the health care field now."

Read the full release [here](#).

people

Finalists announced for the 9th Annual 2020 Employee Excellence Awards

The finalists of the ninth annual Employee Excellence Awards have been announced. College employees were nominated in seven categories. Two judging committees, comprised of representatives from all employees groups evaluated the nomination packages.

Recipients from each of the categories have been chosen by the judging committees and will be announced at the special recognition event, the date for which is yet to be determined.

STRONG START AWARD

- Collette Martin
- Lindy Monahan
- Melissa Larsen

SCHOLARLY AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY AWARD

- Dr. Melissa Munn
- Monique Powell

SERVICE EXCELLENCE AWARD (Individual)

- Andrea Dodd
- Joelle Ebner
- Mark Francis
- Jewell Gillies
- Bobbie-Jo Koutsantonis
- Sheri McKinley
- Rick Montagnon
- Kimberley Noakes

SERVICE EXCELLENCE AWARD (Team)

- OC Website Redevelopment Project Team
- David Birch
- Simone Blais
- Andrea Dodd
- Liz Dunning
- Tyler Finley
- Kim Fukushima
- Natalie Horodichuk
- Ben Kende
- Katie Maryschuk
- Xavier Mendoza
- Kim Nowak
- John Weceles

LEADERSHIP AWARD

- Leonard Lerner
- Joanne Gibbons-Smyth

KEY DIRECTIONS AWARD

- Roger Wheeler

TEACHING EXCELLENCE

- Corey Bell
- Adrian Fontenla
- Roberta Massey

CAREER ACHIEVEMENT

- Dawn Douglas

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

- To be announced

Employees who have celebrated milestone achievements over the past year will also be recognized. There is still time to submit achievements for recognition. Fill out the [Milestone Recognition Form](#) and submit it to employeeawards@okanagan.bc.ca

OC grad seeks to inspire those around him

College congratulates Class of 2020 in new video

For Ajeet Paul, completing his diploma in Environmental Studies at Okanagan proved to be a journey of learning and personal growth, capped off with a whirlwind final semester as he and his classmates overcame the unexpected challenge of graduating in a pandemic.



Paul is one of more than 2,000 students who will graduate from Okanagan College this year, and although his credential is on its way to him by mail, he'll need to wait a little while longer to be able to don his cap and gown.

Earlier this spring, after surveying graduating students on their preferences for virtual or in-person ceremonies, the College made the decision to postpone its June convocation ceremonies until the time comes when the events can be held face-to-face.

"It goes without saying that Convocation is one of the most special times of year for the Okanagan College community," says Okanagan College President Jim Hamilton. "And so, while we're saddened to not be hosting ceremonies right now, we congratulate all our graduating students. We are thinking of you, and we look forward to a day in the future when we can all get together, in-person, to celebrate your accomplishments."

To honour the graduates of 2020, the College recently produced a convocation film, assembling messages of support and congratulations from all corners of the OC community, along with a message from the Honourable Melanie Mark, B.C. Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training, Mark and many other members of the OC community. Click [here](#) to watch the video.

"Over the past few months, it's been very heartening to see the way in which our students and employees have supported and encouraged one another. This video is one of many examples of that positivity and community spirit that makes Okanagan College such a special place," adds Hamilton.

A sense of community is something Paul found, and seized the opportunity to help foster, during his studies.

For Paul, who made the transition to online learning back in March, he says the pandemic reminded him of his first semester, when like many, he had to adjust to a new way of life as a first-year student.

Read more about Ajeet Paul and the graduating class of 2020 [here](#).

Splatsin Band celebrates the success of two of their students, OC graduates



The Splatsin Band and Okanagan College celebrated the success of two of their students with a special graduation event last week. Two years ago, Alicia Dominick and Tina William began upgrading their education with the Adult Academic and Career Preparation program at the College's Salmon Arm campus. They continued their educational journey with the Early Childhood Educator Certificate and Early Childhood Educator Infant Toddler Specialty training.

As they celebrate their accomplishments in the classroom, both Dominick and William will be putting their training into practice as they begin work with the daycare at Splatsin called the Splatsin Tsm7aksatln Society.

The special recognition event was attended by Gloria Morgan, Chair of the Okanagan College Board of Governors, as well as Kukupi? Wayne M. Christian, Tkwapla? Doug Thomas, Tkwapla? George William. The event was organized by Darrell Jones, the Education Director at the Splatsin Band and assistant Nerissa Joseph.

Contract funding for the certificate was provided by Aboriginal Community Based Partnership Funding, whose partners included Splatsin, Neskonlith, Little Shuswap, Adams Lake bands and the Métis. The funding for the Early Childhood Educator Infant Toddler Specialty training was provided by Community Workforce Grant, in partnership with Shuswap Children's Association.

notices

COVID-19 Recent Updates and News

Find the latest COVID-19 updates [here](#), along with links and resources for online learning, teaching and working, what to do if you are feeling ill, answers to frequently asked questions, available services and more.

[View federal and provincial news updates](#), including pertinent information to students.

Access to OC facilities and services

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Okanagan College continues to operate and provide services remotely. Physical access to facilities is restricted in order to ensure social (physical) distancing and for the health and safety of all.

If you need to access facilities at any of our campuses, or have questions about how to access any services, please contact the Regional Dean office at your campus:

- Central Okanagan (Kelowna): 250-762-5445, ext. 4789
- South Okanagan-Similkameen (Penticton): 250-492-4305, ext. 3216
- North Okanagan (Vernon): 250-545-7291
- Shuswap-Revelstoke (Salmon Arm): 250-832-2126, ext. 8239

You can also click [here](#) to find out how to access all available services, including hours and contact information.

Working on campus alone?

On behalf of Occupational Health and Safety

Reminder: any employees working on campus in isolation, located in a low traffic area, and/or outside of regular business hours, should please contact the security office for the campus by phone so they are aware of your presence. Work/study alone check-in, campus maps, security and emergency procedures are also available via the [OC Safe app](#).

Please send an email to your Regional Dean's office if you have any questions.

Your health and safety rights and responsibilities

On a worksite, everyone has varying levels of responsibility for workplace health and safety. As a worker, you play an important role in making sure you – and your fellow workers – stay healthy and safe on the job:

- Be alert to hazards. Report them immediately to your supervisor or employer.
- Follow safe work procedures and act safely in the workplace at all times.
- Refuse to perform unsafe work.
- Use the protective clothing, devices, and equipment provided. Be sure to wear them properly.
- Co-operate with [joint occupational health and safety committees](#), worker health and safety representatives, WorkSafeBC prevention officers, and anybody with health and safety duties.
- Get treatment quickly should an injury happen on the job and tell the health care provider that the injury is work-related.
- Follow the treatment advice of health-care providers.
- Return to work safely after an injury by modifying your duties and not immediately starting with your full, regular responsibilities.
- Never work under the influence of alcohol, drugs or any other substance, or if you're overly tired.

For details, visit [WorkSafeBC's website](#).

events

Planned power outage Kelowna campus

July 18-19 – Maintenance to the high voltage system will require cutting electricity to all of the Kelowna campus from 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Sat, July 18. All buildings and areas on campus will be without power during this time. Emergency power will be operational so IT Services and Life Safety will remain operational. Skaha Place will not be affected.

From 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Sun, July 19, some areas of the Trades building including spaces west of the Welding shop, Heavy Duty Mechanical, along with Stores, Student Services and the Cafeteria will be without power.

Please contact the Regional Dean's Office as soon as possible if you anticipate you will be impacted by the shutdown and have any questions or concerns.

Webinar – Hiring a co-op student, why it's good for business

July 21 – This free online webinar will provide an overview of what co-operative education is, when students are available and how you can potentially access funding for your next student position. There will be tips on how to on-board and support students in a virtual workplace as well as how Okanagan College can support you as an employer. Join Alison Beaumont, Co-op Coordinator at Okanagan College, for this free informative session. There will be opportunities to ask questions and to connect directly with co-op staff.

How to register?

Head to [this link](#) and complete your details. You will be registered in the class and provided details on how to join the webinar.

Have questions about registering?

Contact corporatetraining@okanagan.bc.ca for more details.

media

CBC News showcased Okanagan College's Enactus team, FruitSnaps, and their initiative to provide snacks to families in need.

Founded in 1927, the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire (IODE) charity will come to an end after 93 years of fundraising for the betterment of Penticton, as noted in the [Penticton Herald](#). The group handed out over \$44,000 in scholarships to Okanagan College students during its time operating. Okanagan College Foundation Development Officer Anne Kirkpatrick responded with a letter to the editor in the [Herald](#), thanking the IODE for 93 amazing years of support.

Okanagan College's 2020 graduation video was showcased by the [Penticton Western News](#), noting graduating student Ajeet Paul and his journey at the College taking Environmental Studies.

The [Kelowna Daily Courier](#) highlighted the College's ongoing efforts to provide continuing education studies despite the pandemic.

The [Keremeos Review](#), highlighted how the Penticton Indian Band celebrated their graduates with a graduation drive-in, ranging from high school students to recent Okanagan College grads. The [Review](#) and the [Kelowna Capital News](#) also showcased Indigenous students from throughout the region graduating from different levels of education.

Okanagan College serves as part of Vision North Okanagan, a collaboration between organizations supporting economic development activities throughout the North Okanagan region, as mentioned in the [Vernon Morning Star](#) and [Lake Country Calendar](#).

The [Journal of Commerce by ConstructConnect](#) mentioned Okanagan College as part of a tri-part collaboration alongside Camosun College and BCIT to support 54 women entering apprenticeship trades training.

INFONews covered the story of Toby Griffin, OC Vernon graduate and now certified education assistant. Griffin is one of 27 new EA graduates marking the completion of their program.

feedback

Do you have comments, questions or a submission for INSIDE OKANAGAN COLLEGE? Please email Public Affairs c/o Katie.Maryschuk.

To ensure the best chance for your submission to be included, please send all details at least one day in advance of the newsletter's publication.

The next edition of INSIDE OKANAGAN COLLEGE will be issued on July 21, 2020.