

news

College and Westbank First Nation sign new MOU, continue to deepen partnership



community, while helping both organizations learn from one another and build professional capacity.

On behalf of Westbank First Nation was Chief Christopher Derickson and Counsellors Andrea Alexander, Jordan Coble, Lortie Hogaboam and Fernanda Alexander. Representing Okanagan College was President Jim Hamilton, Interim Vice President Students Allan Coyle and Director of Student Services James Coble.

Read the full release [here](#).

College spotlights new Common First-Year Engineering and other tech programs

Future engineers and technologists take note: Okanagan College is opening up a new pathway to engineering next year, and in the meantime is opening students' eyes to other technologies careers in high demand.

The College will welcome its first intake of students to its new Common First-Year Engineering (CFYE) program in Fall of 2021.

The one-year CFYE certificate provides a comprehensive applied science foundation and sets students up to transfer into second-year university engineering studies. Students will complete courses in a variety of subjects, from chemistry to computer programming and gain the skills for success in upper level engineering courses.

On Tuesday, June 16, prospective students and parents had the opportunity to connect with Okanagan College's advising and financial aid teams during a virtual info session to learn more about the CFYE program and other technologies programs. To request a live playback recording of the session, contact Dinushi Fernando [here](#).

Read the full release [here](#).

Haircuts fundraiser caps off with a 'Pinky Blinder'



It was supposed to be a Peaky Blinders inspired haircut, but a miscommunication resulted in what may turn some heads: the Pinky Blinder.

Grant Lawrence, Valhalla Angels Kelowna President and Vancouver Co-President, and Phil Ashman, Okanagan College Regional Dean for the Central Okanagan, are sporting the infamous Peaky Blinders 'Tommy Shelby' haircut gone pink after raising more than \$5,400 from their friends and colleagues.

With salons reopening, Lawrence and Ashman helped wrap up the Haircuts for Health Care fundraiser in style, which invited people to go for a creative home haircut and fundraise from their network. All proceeds support the education of future health care professionals by contributing to the \$5-million goal for the construction of a new Health Sciences Centre at Okanagan College's Kelowna campus.

"I enjoy the Peaky Blinders series so I thought this could be a fun campaign while supporting our community and students during this time," says Lawrence. Lawrence originally suggested the two go for a Peaky Blinders haircut, but Okanagan College Foundation Executive Director Helen Jackman heard "Pinky Blinders," and a trendsetting haircut was born.

The two also waxed their chests, as part of a tiered fundraising challenge, and Ashman was also tasked with waxing his legs. Ashman's waxing services were donated by Talking Tree Spa.

To read the full release, go [here](#). To watch the Okanagan College Foundation's thank you video to donors (thumbnail above), go [here](#).

PACWEST cancels fall competition, Coyotes hopeful to begin modified training in September

The Okanagan College Coyotes women's and men's basketball teams will see no official league play this fall season.

PACWEST announced on Friday, June 19, that conference league competition for fall 2020 in men's and women's soccer, basketball, volleyball and golf has been cancelled.

PACWEST is hopeful to restart conference league competition for men's and women's basketball and volleyball in January 2021 with a modified schedule.

"We are disappointed for our student athletes," says Dino Gini, Head Coach of the men's team. "But we will be proceeding with training and workouts as jurisdictions allow, following all of the proper COVID-19 protocols, which we have in place and will continue to adjust as new updates are posted. We are looking forward to returning to competition with the other PACWEST teams starting in January."

Early this month, the Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) announced the cancellation of the four 2020 fall National Championships.

Read the full statement from [here](#).

Registration open for Connections



Registration is now open for Okanagan College's annual employee conference being held virtually this year.

Connections is organized by employees for employees. It is about connecting face-to-face with colleagues from different departments and campuses (virtually of course), and celebrating the strengths and diversity of the people who work here through interactive, social activities and fun informative workshops. You will hear from OC's President, Jim Hamilton, about what's happening in and around Okanagan College and have a chance to attend some online workshops.

Connections is on Tuesday, Aug. 25, online. Check out last year's Connections video [here](#).

Click [here](#) to register and review the list of workshop descriptions.

people

OC business students overcome tragedy, feed those in need during pandemic

When the pandemic hit, they adapted. When greater need appeared, they collaborated. When an unthinkable tragedy struck, they supported each other through it. And when the chance came to share their idea with the country, they rose to the challenge.

In a little less than two years, Enactus OC's FruitSnaps project has grown from an idea into an initiative that has provided more than 4,000 students with access to a healthy snack, engaged 33 community partners, diverted more than 8,300 kilograms (18,500 pounds) of food waste and helped to conserve an estimated 3,885,000 litres of water (a figure based on the amount of water required to grow an apple, multiplied by the number of apples spared from going to waste). The team has produced more than 35,000 servings, including 12,000 distributed internationally.

But that success has not come without adversity.

In February, the team earned top project at Enactus Canada Western Regionals, which gave them a berth to compete at Nationals. Then the pandemic hit. Schools closed.

The team knew their distribution model, which had worked so perfectly for more than a year and a half, would need not only to adapt but somehow also to expand, as students from across the region who counted on these healthy snacks would need their now more than ever.

Their greatest challenge turned out to be not the pandemic, nor its ripple effects, but the loss of one of their own.

In the early hours of March 18 OC Vernon student Sheryl MacIntosh tragically passed away in a motor vehicle accident. It was a devastating blow for the FruitSnaps team and for the whole Vernon campus community.

To commemorate MacIntosh's life and her dedication to her studies, her family is working with OC to put in place a lasting tribute.

"Sheryl has left behind a trail of beautiful memories. To honour Sheryl, the family, with the support of Okanagan College, will be placing a memorial bench at the Vernon campus," said the MacIntosh family.

Her teammates also rallied together to compete in her honour.

In late May, the team, comprised of Karsten Ensz, Abigail Underwood and Marin Cantluffs, backed by their faculty advisor Andrew Knapke, presented virtually at Enactus National Exposition. Their efforts earned them multiple awards and a podium finish.

Read more in the [media release](#).

Hamilton receives Honorary Doctorate from UBC



The University of British Columbia Okanagan (UBCO) has announced they will be bestowing one of their highest honours – that of Honorary Doctorate – upon Okanagan College President Jim Hamilton.

In recognition of his long-service and many contributions to the growth of Okanagan College and to the overall post-secondary landscape in the region and beyond, Hamilton is one of seven 2020 honorary degree recipients announced by UBCO.

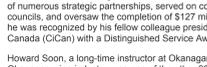
Hamilton has served as President of Okanagan College since 2004. His association with the College dates back 40 years. He began in 1980 as a college professor teaching English in what then served as the Vernon campus, the old Canadian Forces army barracks. Before becoming President, he served as the Regional Principal of the North Okanagan Region for Okanagan University College. He was the transition team leader for the College, during the transition from Okanagan University College (OUC) to the creation of UBCO Okanagan and Okanagan College in 2004.

Hamilton has also worked for School District 22 as an administrator. His other experience includes terms as a school trustee and as a member of the Board of Governors of Okanagan University College.

Under his tenure, the College enrollment increased by 70 per cent, including a four-fold increase in Indigenous student enrollment. He also led the establishment of numerous strategic partnerships, served on countless academic boards and councils, and oversaw the completion of \$127 million in capital projects. In 2016 he was recognized by his fellow colleague presidents via Colleges and Institutes Canada (CICan) with a Distinguished Service Award.

Howard Soon, a long-time instructor at Okanagan College and an icon in the Okanagan wine industry, was one of the other 2020 UBCO honorees.

Kofoed family celebrates the role of nurses



A \$60,000 gift from the Kofoed family will honour a very special nurse in their life, and a generation of new nurses entering the field.

Jack Kofoed, and his children Jacqueline, Leah, Jillian and Jeremy are giving to the Our Students, Your Health campaign to help complete construction on a new Health Sciences Centre at Okanagan College's Kelowna campus.

Jack's wife Leona was a nurse. She passed away in 2017, and this gift recognizes her life's work and the special care she received during her final days, according to her family.

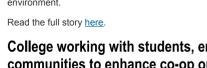
"Mom was one of the most generous people I've ever known. She would be so happy with this gift," says Jacqueline, adding that she and Jeremy attended Okanagan College, which holds a special place in their family's hearts.

"She loved knowing people are going into health-care careers so this gift recognizes her passion."

The Kofoed family's generous gift will support a Home Care Lab in the Health Sciences Centre. The Home Care Lab is a new space that wasn't previously available and will allow students in nursing, Therapist Assistant and Health Care Assistant programs the opportunity to practise supporting clients in a real home environment.

Read the full story [here](#).

College working with students, employers and communities to enhance co-op opportunities for Indigenous learners



How can Okanagan College enhance support for Indigenous students sleeping into co-op work terms with employers? And in turn, how can OC better assist employers looking to hire students and set them up for success during their time in the workforce?

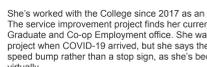
These are just two of many questions inspiring Jewell Gillies as she consults with students, employers, other post-secondary institutions and Indigenous community members in the region and beyond as part of a 15-month long research project.

"This project delves into many aspects of co-operative education or work-integrated learning, with the goal of better understanding Indigenous students' experiences, what their questions and concerns are," she explains. "These conversations with students and community are invaluable – they are helping to shape recommendations for how we can better serve Indigenous students and our employer partners."

Gillies is drawing on years of experience in supporting Indigenous learners in post-secondary.

She's worked with the College since 2017 as an Aboriginal Transitions Planner. The service improvement project finds her currently supporting the Student, Graduate and Co-op Employment office. She was in the planning stages for the project when COVID-19 arrived, but she says the pandemic has presented a speed bump rather than a stop sign, as she's been able to continue her outreach virtually.

"Remember This" film scope offers an opportunity to reflect



In early June, Alison Beaumont, Co-op Coordinator at Okanagan College, and her son Eddie jumped at the chance to take part in the "Remember This" online film workshop hosted by Reel Youth. Based out of Vancouver, Reel Youth is an organization that serves as a media empowerment project, inviting youth and adults from across Canada and the world to participate in community programming. Film-makers of all ages, ranging from eight-year-old Eddie to 64 years of age, contributed video poems highlighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

Among the 37 videos highlighted on Reel Youth's website, one includes a unique perspective from those talking with families, kids, parents, and people from different parts of the country looking through their experiences in the pandemic.

Eddie and Alison's film was primarily directed and shot by Eddie on a phone, also providing him the chance to learn more about editing and colour correction. Eddie to learn about film production, he says that "the film helped other people to know to social distance, wash their hands and stay home."

An artist herself, Alison adds that, "the film was made right in the midst of lockdown, so it was a great reflective process for both of us to think about how COVID-19 had impacted our lives and the way we connected with the land and environment around us."

To watch Eddie and Alison's film, go [here](#). To watch the workshop collection, go [here](#).

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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 here.

View federal and provincial news updates, including pertinent information to students.

- **June 24** – Join Flourish's online Wellness Workshop focusing on coping at this point in COVID-19. Free to any Okanagan College students and employers.
- **June 18** – Watch a webinar hosted by BCCampus on self-care, mental health promotion and ways to connect and build community in the post-secondary LGBQT2S+ community.
- **May 28** – Connect with Okanagan College's new online guide StayConnected, designed to help bring students together virtually and combat feelings of social isolation during physical distancing.

Content deadline Friday as OC prepares to launch new website

IT and Public Affairs thank the OC community for their patience as the website redevelopment project was dramatically impacted during COVID-19 response. The first iteration of the OC website is now complete and set up on the production environment. IT has worked tirelessly to address those "new system bugs" and to provide access to the platform. Public Affairs has previewed content with key portfolios to answer questions and released links for departmental review. We are now in the final stage of the project.

The cut-off for content changes is Friday, June 26 at 3 p.m., anything submitted after this date will be addressed after the website goes live (July 6 or later).

Questions and general feedback can be submitted to web@okanagan.bc.ca.

Flags at half-mast

The flags at all campuses have been flying at half-mast on Tuesday, June 23 in recognition of National Day of Remembrance for Victims of Terrorism. On this day, flags across Canada are flown at half-mast to honour the victims of the bombing of Air India Flight 182 off the coast of Ireland, as well as other acts of terrorist violence that have taken the lives of Canadians.

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. Workstudy 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

Part 2 – Did you know all workers in British Columbia have four basic health and safety rights?

Right No. 3 – You have the right to refuse work you believe to be dangerous to your health and safety or to another worker. This includes when the work itself is unsafe and also when training and supervision is inadequate to work safely. Section 3.12 of the Workers Compensation Act includes the process for refusing work and employer responsibilities for responding to refusals.

Right No. 4 – You have the right to no discrimination, and was not fired or disciplined for participating in Health and Safety activities.

Visit the BC Federation of Labour Health and Safety Centre [website](#) for detailed information. See the [previous issue](#) of Inside OC for Rights No. 1 and 2.

Municipal Pension Plan statements available online

By the end of June, employees should receive their Member's Benefit Statement by mail directly from the Pension Corporation. This statement is a snapshot of your account and shows an estimate of the monthly pension payments you may receive when you retire.

Employees can also view their Member's Benefit Statement online available now by signing into My Account on the pension plan website located at mop.pensionsbc.ca.

- Sign into My Account
- Click reports > Benefits Statements
- Choose the year
- View the MBS as a PDF, or print it

Go paper-free for future pension statements

Employees are now able to choose to receive their future member benefits statement (MBS) and other important pension information and notifications digitally.

- Sign into My Account
- Confirm your contact information and select "yes"

events

Public health announcement

Ongoing – Please refer to the College's [COVID-19](#) page for more information on events, updated regularly.

Online Wellness Wednesday Workshops

June 24 – The Flourish Wellness Project is offering a final Wellness Wednesday online workshop before the summer begins with a special focus on coping at this point in the COVID-19 pandemic. Sarah Lefebvre, Counsellor on the Penticton campus, will lead the one-hour drop-in online workshop starting at 11 a.m. The workshop is free for all Okanagan College students and employees on any campus.

To attend the workshop, OC students and employees can register for the Flourish Wellness Workshop Moodle [page](#).

Webinar – Business Smarts and Leading Remote Workers

June 25 – Okanagan College Distinguished Alumni Heather Stewart (Sage Transitions) and son Ian MacRae (workplace psychologist, Sage Transitions) are hosting a webinar, "Business Smarts – Leading Remote Workers" starting at 9:30 a.m.

In the one-hour webinar, Stewart and MacRae will share some of their own experiences in the areas of leadership and remote working and participants can expect to learn about managing performance, effective communication and connecting amidst the new realities of working through a global pandemic. Participants can comment, ask questions and participate in polls throughout the session.

The webinar is free for any business in the Kelowna or Okanagan Valley area. Advanced registration is required [here](#).

Partners for Life – Canadian Blood Services Drive

June 23 and ongoing – Canadian Blood Services clinics are still open and accepting blood donations at this time. Help contribute to the Okanagan College team annual pledge as part of the 2020 Partner for Life campaign and consider donating to Canada's lifeline.

Donation information:

- All donors are asked to make an appointment online prior to donating. Book individually at blood.ca or GiveBlood APP or 1-888-2DONATE. Canadian Blood Services has implemented new safety requirements for COVID-19 in all of donor centres.
- Be sure to register your donation once so the Okanagan College Team gets credit. You only need to register once and all your donations are counted (Okanagan College FARTNER ID# OKAN002612)
- Ongoing donation events can be found at blood.ca

Donation events:

- Kelowna – Donation Centre, Tue to Thu from 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- West Kelowna – Lakeview Heights Baptist Church on Mon, June 29 from 12 – 6:45 p.m.

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. to 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

The Kofoed family was featured on [Castlane](#), noting their donation of \$60,000 to benefit of their mother Leona Kofoed to the "Our Students, Your Health" campaign to support the completion of the new Health Sciences Centre on OC's Kelowna campus.

A new Memorandum of Understanding between Okanagan College and Westbank First Nation was recently signed, highlighted by the [Keremnos Review](#), [Salmon Arm Observer](#) and [AM-1150](#).

For fall 2021, the College announced the Common First-Year Engineering program which was highlighted in [Castlane](#). The one-year program provides a comprehensive applied science foundation and sets students up for transfer into second-year university engineering studies.

Okanagan College Regional Dean Phil Ashman and Valhalla Angels Kelowna president Grant Lawrence helped to wrap up the Haircuts for Healthcare campaign which was featured on [Castlane](#), contributing more than \$5,400 to the cause with "Pinky Blinders" haircuts.

AM1150 highlighted the work being done at the College to enhance support for Indigenous students in co-op work terms with employers.

The [Kelowna Capital News](#) published a Q&A style interview with Westbank First Nation (WFN) Chief Christopher Derickson, addressing issues around COVID-19. The [West Kelowna News](#) published an article titled, "Facing the realities of racism," and includes commentary and personal stories from Derickson.

The PACWEST conference has cancelled all college sports in the province throughout December, affecting the men's and women's basketball programs at the College, covered by [Castlane](#) and [Coast Mountain News](#).

The [Daily Courier](#) featured an Okanagan College webinar titled, "Kickstarting B.C.'s Tourism Industry" on June 16, with speakers including Marsha Walden, president and CEO of Destination BC, Michael J. Ballinghall, senior vice-president of Big White Ski Resort and Jennifer Horswell, director of business and destination development, Tourism Kelowna.

The [Kelowna Capital News](#) and [MyCaribooNow](#) featured Myles Mattila, current business student at the College's Kelowna campus and co-captain of the Kelowna Chiefs, a recipient of a Kootenay International Junior Hockey League bursary.

Okanagan College School of Business alumna Jillian Haller was featured in [Okanagan Edge](#) as part of the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce's 40 Under 40.

A new innovative hub is opening to downtown Vernon and was highlighted in the [Kelowna Capital News](#) and the [Keremnos Review](#), noting Okanagan College as a community partner on the project.

Revelstoke Idea Factory has partnered with the College to offer a virtual summer day camp focused on robot design to youth ages 8-14 in the region. Featured in the [Revelstoke Mountainer](#), the camp will connect campers for online class, problem solving and video collaboration.

The [Revelstoke Review](#) featured the upcoming June 24 and 30 online webinars on edible plants in partnership with the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society.

The [Revelstoke Review](#) also highlighted eight school students who got a headstart to a career in trades by taking the Youth in Trades Training program, a partnership between the College, the Industry Training Authority and School District No. 19.

feedback

Do you have comments, questions or a submission for INSIDE OKANAGAN COLLEGE? Please email Public Affairs c/o Kate.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 7, 2020.