



OKANAGAN COLLEGE
STUDENTS' UNION

REPORT OF THE BOARD

2017-2018

**OCSU**

17-18 Board of Representatives

Position	Name	Campus
Executive Chairperson	Shantelle Bishop	Penticton
Campus Chairperson	Ankit Kothari (Fall)	Kelowna
Campus Chairperson	Mark Felhauer (Winter)	Kelowna
Campus Chairperson	Rachel Danczak	Penticton
Campus Chairperson	Beth Vinet	Salmon Arm
External Director	Ali Balloun	Salmon Arm
Internal Director	Nancy deMelo	Kelowna
Federation Representative	Jenna Brook	Salmon Arm
Board At Large	Alex Starker	Kelowna
Board At Large	Jennifer Meyer (Winter)	Kelowna
Board At Large	Abby Verigin	Penticton
External Comittee Member	Alex Starker	Kelowna
External Comittee Member	Abby Verigin	Penticton
External Comittee Member	Beth Vinet	Salmon Arm
Internal Committee Member	Jennifer Meyer	Kelowna
Internal Committee Member	Ajay Penny	Penticton
Internal Committee Member	Maia Reynard	Salmon Arm
Campus Council At Large	Kaylen Houle	Kelowna
Campus Council At Large	Carson Judd (Winter)	Kelowna
Campus Council At Large	Natasha Mangel (Winter)	Kelowna
Campus Council At Large	Kyle Safinuk	Kelowna
Campus Council At Large	Patrick Wells	Kelowna
Campus Council At Large	Mickella Biggs	Penticton
Campus Council At Large	Honor Hollman	Penticton
Campus Council At Large	Fiogar Munro	Salmon Arm

Meet the Teams

KELOWNA



Kelowna, left to right: Back row: Patrick Wells, Ankit Kothari, Mark Fellhauer & Kyle Safinuk. Front row: Jennifer Meyer, Nancy deMelo, Kaylen Houle & Alex Starker. Not Pictured: Natasha Mangel & Carson Judd

PENTICTON



Penticton, left to right: Ajay Penny, Honor Hollman, Rachel Danczak, Shantelle Bishop, Abby Verigin & Mickella Biggs

SALMON ARM



Salmon Arm, left to right: Back row: Fiogar Munro & Maia Reynard. Front row: Jenna Brook, Ali Balloun & Beth Vinet

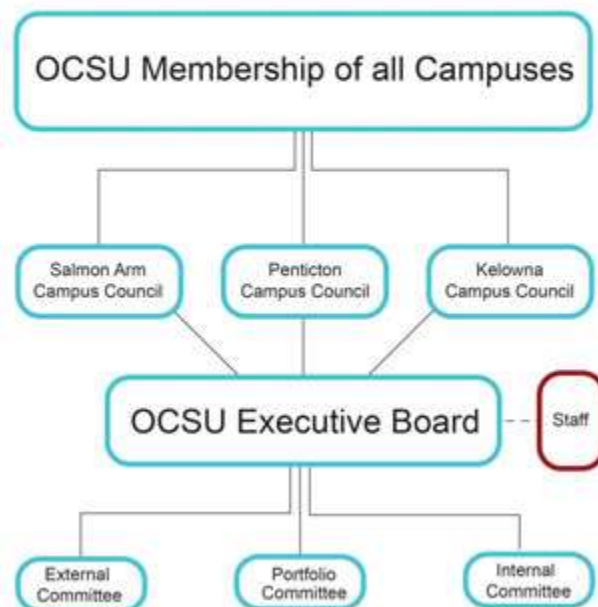
2017-18 OCSU STAFF (NOT PICTURED)

Brianne Berchowitz	Executive Director
Courtney Kindlein	Organizer-Kelowna
Cassie Phillips	Organizer-Penticton
Lindsey Loftus	Organizer-Salmon Arm
Megan Potter	Member Services
Jolene Black	Health & Dental

About Us

OCSU offers a number of programs and services to meet your needs as a student. Our services come in a variety of forms. Some are campus based and locally developed, such as free lockers in Penticton, Lunch Once a Month in Salmon Arm, and print services in Kelowna. Some services are organized for all members across our three campuses. These free services include our water bottles, pens, lanyards, and highlighters. Other services are organized through our partnership with the British Columbia Federation of Students (BCFS). Our partnership services include the free members handbook, the OCSU website, the OCSU App, and our extended Health and Dental plan.

OCSU Structure



Executive Summary

TO OUR MEMBERS,

The Okanagan College Students' Union (OCSU) was formed to advocate for students within Okanagan College along with supplying services and events steered towards the betterment of the institution's environment.

We, as a collective, are determined to not only advocate for things such as lower tuition fees and social justice, but to empower our members as well as help create positive, exciting environments for our campus communities.

This past year has seen a lot of important improvements for students. We worked with the Okanagan College administration to create a better foundation of support for the campus community, and continued to lobby the provincial government on increased financial support towards post-secondary education.

On our local level, we have successfully left a fractured national student movement and made stronger ties with a united provincial student movement. We have established new services, enhanced the size and scope of our team of elected student representatives and we have supported students more than ever before through our student initiatives program and our student bursaries.

Thank you for a great year, I look forward to serving you all in 2018-19!

Shantelle Bishop



Okanagan College Students' Union 2017-18 Executive Chairperson



Executive Chairperson Shantelle Bishop

Campus Highlights

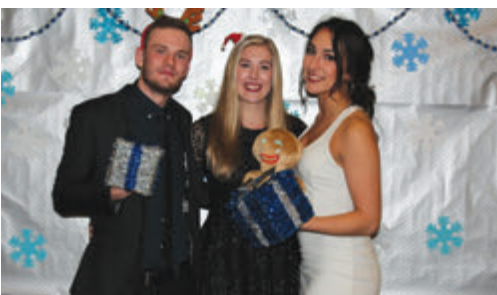
OCSU is on three campuses in the beautiful Okanagan Valley: Kelowna, Penticton, and Salmon Arm. We work hard to bring equal amounts of events and services to all of our members, though each campus does things a little differently and has their own special events and traditions.

KELOWNA

The 2017-2018 year in Kelowna was one of our busiest ever! Throughout the year, the campus council hosted regular coffee events and visited the off campus aviation and animation programs. There were also campaign focused events, such as Sustainability Day and a new Safe Driving campaign event, where students were able to wear “drunk goggles” and do an obstacle course. Our most popular events continued to be International Women’s Day and Sexual Health Awareness Day.



Nancy speaks to members at Kelowna's International Women's Day Celebration.



Members attending Kelowna's Winter Formal Event.

The addition of the Winter Formal was a huge hit on campus. It was a winter themed holiday party, where students got the opportunity to dress up, have some cocktails and dance the night away. The event sold out, with 260 attendees. Because of this success, we hosted a similar evening event in April, called the Spring Fling. This event was 80's themed and we sold 200 tickets. We continued our partnership with the Kelowna Rockets WHL team, hosting one student night each semester as a fun off-campus student social.

We also continued to participate in a of variety campus wide events, which allow us to successfully serve over 800 students each time. The large scale events this year included the Orientation events, Hallowe'en Howler, Tis the Season, Welcome Back January Lunch and frequent Stressbuster events.

Campus Highlights

PENTICTON

The Penticton campus had a record-breaking number of student attendance at events this past year with our most popular being the Holiday Lunch, Year End Taco in a Bag Event and Pasta Party!

Our Mental Wellness Event drew partners from across the Valley including the Canadian Mental Health Association, South Okanagan Victim Assistance Society, South Okanagan Women in Need Society and partners at the College including Accessibility Services, Counseling, Aboriginal Services and the Okanagan College Women's Resource Centre to help students de-stress,



Shantelle at Penticton's Taco in a Bag Event.

seek out information and be more aware of their own mental health and what they can do to make improvements.

Penticton held two Holiday events; the first was our Holiday Spirit Event where students could decorate their own holiday cookie and ornament. The second was the ever-popular Holiday Lunch Event where students received a delicious turkey dinner with all the fixings and a photo with Santa!



Megan, Honor, & Shantelle at the Penticton Summer BBQ.

Sexual Health Day and International Women's Day remain among the most popular campaigns that we offer on the Penticton Campus. Students

look forward to these activities each year. We provide free cookies, cupcakes, t-shirts, trivia and more!

The team finished the year at the annual celebratory Year End Taco in a Bag Event where over 280 students were served a delicious meat/vegan taco in a bag with great games and prizes!

Campus Highlights

SALMON ARM

The 2017-2018 year in Salmon Arm was filled with a wide range of events, student support and community engagement!



Salmon Arm CFS petition event.

We started with a Kickstart BBQ to get students excited for the upcoming year. There were burgers, hot dogs, salads and pop. Throughout the year we hosted regular coffee & tabling events in support of causes like: Open Textbooks Now!, Let's Get Consensual and Student Discounts. These events were well received by students. They learned about these important campaigns and signed pledges in support of them. In December we hosted the Candle Light Vigil and a Holiday Dinner. Both events were very well received with a lot of community engagement.

The Candlelight Vigil acknowledges the National Day of Remembrance and Action Against Violence Against Women. There were 70-80 people in attendance and we showed two documentaries around on the topic. We provided chilli and beverages to ward off the cold after the candle light ceremony.

The Holiday Dinner is the yummiest event running and every year it is an incredibly popular event! We held the Holiday Dinner at the Salmon Arm Curling Rink with a catered traditional holiday dinner, karaoke and prizes. We had 150 slots available and the registration was quickly booked up with eager students.

Salmon Arm continued to bring members together with our Sexual Health Awareness Day which included penis shaped cookies and tons of information on sexual health and sexual health support.

We also hosted multiple Trades Luncheon events where we brought lunch to the off-campus Trades building so that the students who are not able to attend any of our campus events get some food and OCSU swag, handbooks and frosh materials.

Wrapping up the year we had our International Women's Day event and World Water Day. These events were also well attended with lots of student engagement. We capped off the year with a BBQ!



Salmon Arm Candlelight Vigil.

Our Campaigns

Campaigning is at the core of what we do as an organization. We work hard to campaign for a variety of causes which reflects our diverse membership. These causes vary from lower tuition for our members, open textbook resources, mental health support and ending rape culture on our campuses.

LET'S GET CONSENSUAL

We continue to work hard on our Let's Get Consensual campaign. Each campus holds a Let's Get Consensual event at least once a semester. At these events, students can sign pledges and collect various materials, like buttons, magnets and bracelets.

On the Kelowna campus, we tried to host consent workshops once a month. Unfortunately, most of these workshops were cancelled due to low attendance or lack of registrations. We tried to have them as a drop in session, where the dates and times were posted and also as a pre-registered workshop, where students were asked to register prior to the workshop. We are looking into finding better ways to advertise these workshops, and how to engage students in this topic.



MENTAL HEALTH

We recognize that mental health is a rising issue for post secondary students. It affects our members in numerous ways and we have made it a mission of ours to ease our member's anxieties and worries in any way we can. Collectively we host 1-2 Stress Buster or Mental Wellness events on each campus.

We provide informative materials from the Canadian Mental Health Association as well as other community partners. We feed our members free & nutritious lunches at these events and provide a wide array of stress relieving activities like colouring pages and stress balls and relaxing prizes such as aromatherapy and tea gift bags. These events are fun and help lift the moods on our campuses for a time but we recognize that it is not enough. Some of our members need consistent access to mental health



Our Campaigns

resources and support. These resources can be difficult to come by on our campuses-particularly our Kelowna campus, which was operating with a serious lack of available counsellors at just 1.6 counsellors for nearly 5000 students. That is around 3670 students per counsellor. This created an unfair workload for the counselling staff and deplorable wait times for access to help for our members. Last year we asked the Okanagan College Board of Governors to do better for our members and provide more mental health resources such as hiring additional counsellors and other mental health supports on campuses. Lobbying and advocacy is ongoing with regards to mental health support.

OPEN EDUCATION RESOURCES

In February 2018, OCSU officially launched the British Columbia Federation of Students Open Textbooks Now! campaign on all campuses during our Action Week.

All three campuses held events helping inform students of the ever-increasing costs of textbooks and asking them to calculate how much they spent on required text in addition to other activities, and to sign the campaign pledge to support Open Educational Materials.

Campus council members and students attending the event were also encouraged to make short video testimonials. These were then compiled into one video promoting Open Education Resources.

With support generated, staff members in Kelowna helped form an Open Education Resources working group, comprised of instructors and administration interested in spreading the word about Open Education Resources and encouraging adoption and adaptation among instructors at OC.

TUITION CAMPAIGN

Every year we make a presentation to both the Board of Governors Finance Committee closed session and to the Board of Governors open session regarding the annual budgetary discussion and vote on tuition fees. This year we lobbied with 3 focuses: the mental, physical, and financial well-being of students.



Open Textbooks Now! #textbookbroke

Our Campaigns



The high cost of post-secondary education.

We presented on how the well being of students is greatly impacted by financial stress and physical stress. With regards to financial stress we spoke to the high costs of textbooks, which have become a serious obstacle to accessing post-secondary education. Textbooks costs have risen 82% between 2002-2012 and now typically cost more than \$200 per book. We articulated that many students and their families are already struggling to afford education and

the cost of living. This unpredictable textbook expense can be a huge burden. This is causing students to take on additional debt for their required books, thus further delaying their graduation timeline. To combat this student issue we suggested the Board show support towards Open Education Resources through supporting the adoption, adaption and creation of materials through BCcampus.

Once again we asked the Board to look into designating the sufficient amount of resources to bring a nurse back to campus. There are 11 other public post secondary institutions in BC that have nurses or doctors on campus, and most operate a clinic for students. Services on these campuses include immunizations, sexual health resources, mental wellness, food and nutrition, anxiety and sleep disorders and even physiotherapy. Some institutions even have a psychiatrist, sexual violence counsellor or psychologist on staff. In fact at Thompson Rivers University, Interior Health provides the funding to ensure a Physician is on campus for students to access. We further lobbied the Board to make steps towards creating a Health and Wellness Centre to support the needs of students.

Also housed under the umbrella of mental wellness, we discussed the status of counselling services at Okanagan College. At that time the Kelowna Counselling department consisted of 1.6 counsellors to support thousands of students, which is woefully undeserving the Kelowna student population compared to other campus ratios who have less students to serve. As our enrolment continues to grow each year, so should the services that are available to students. We advocated that significant changes to the counselling department were required in order to improve the student experience.

We implored the Board to hire an additional counsellor in Kelowna right away, and to bring the total to four (4) full-time employees by 2020 to support student needs and improve the overall student experience within the counselling department. We continued to monitor wait times for students seeking counselling appointments.

Our Services

Another core aspect of our work is providing services. These come in a wide range of methods which include funding programs, a brand new on campus food bank, practical organization tools, a health and dental plan and a large collection of curated student discounts in our region.

FOODBANK ON CAMPUS

We launched a foodbank on the Kelowna campus called 'The Pantry' in August. We did so through our lobbying of the administration for increased support towards student health and mental wellness. This created a partnership with the College administration to use room A149, a former small office, as our very own foodbank. Upon securing a location, we established a partnership with the Central Okanagan Community Foodbank (COCF). The COCF delivers non-perishable food to The Pantry every Monday to provide to our student members. This space is also the first step in providing a future health and wellness centre for student members in Kelowna. Students are able to come in and pick up whatever items they may need. We also secured gift cards to local grocery stores for students to obtain perishable items as well. This new service gained a significant amount of media coverage and received a generous outpouring of community concern. A variety of offers to provide additional shelving, fridges and freezers have led to discussions on future phases of the Pantry as the service grows.



Courtney, Natasha & Brianne, at the grand opening of The Pantry

HANDBOOK

Every year, we provide over 4000 handbooks to students absolutely free. This is achieved by partnering with the British Columbia Federation of Students (BCFS). This project allows the OCSU to deliver a high quality members' handbook dayplanner with full color, high quality, paper with unique cover art and local flavor.

The handbooks are also a testimony to the OCSU's commitment to sustainability; they are printed on 100% post consumer recycled material with vegetable based dyes. Even the binding is recyclable! Each year the External Committee works on the design and layout of the handbook as well as the cover. In the 2017/18 year the External Committee took the inspiration from the previous years

Our Services

handbook and created a cover that was visually appealing and provided a calming feeling of nature. We ordered 4400 handbooks and ran completely out in February 2018. Luckily we were able to secure handbooks from the BCFS to continue to provide this much needed service to our members.

HEALTH & DENTAL

For many years now the OCSU has provided students with access to health and dental coverage. This program is easily our biggest and most sought after service.

Each year the OCSU provides extended coverage to thousands of students and families through Green Shield.

In 2017/18, there were approximately 2275 students and multiple families enrolled in the health and dental program across the three campuses. It is also important to note that students who have coverage through other means are able to opt-out of the program. Since the 2016/17 launch of the online opt out system for the health and dental plan, a total of 786 students opted out of the plan using this method. These changes have lead to better tracking of opt outs and has reduced our carbon footprint at the OCSU.

In 2017/18 we informed students of the option for direct deposits on claim reimbursements, which speeds up reimbursement time significantly. We helped inform students of the launch of the 'Greenshield on the Go' app which includes a wellness monitoring app called 'Change4Life' and the Free Legal Counselling hotline assistance plan. Both of these new services are designed to be user friendly and allow students to access what they need from the comfort of their own homes.



WEBSITE

To see all of our services, apply for a Student Initiative grant, review all of our campaigns, and to view some of our media coverage, go to ocsu.ca

Our Services

STUDENT INITIATIVES

Our Student Initiative Program has been one of our most popular services with over 37 applications approved last year alone! We offered funding to a variety of group and individual initiatives including the Pride Club, Vegan and Vegetarian Club, Pro Choice, Soup's On and a variety of individual applications for Enactus Regional, National and International competitions. In total, the Board of Directors approved funding to these groups and individuals totaling \$9800.00!

We hope to grow this service even more in the coming year by reaching out to our members, faculty, and staff to help spread awareness of this initiative and let students know they can apply for funding to help launch their creative ideas and reach their entrepreneurial goals!



Members of Enactus who applied for Student Initiative funding were able to attend both a regional & national competition.

STUDENT DISCOUNT CARD

We are proud to continue to offer Student Discounts across the Okanagan Valley to our members each year! This year we changed from offering the ISIC (International Student Identity Card) to students showing their Okanagan College Student ID to receive local discounts as a result of leaving the National Student Movement.

Your OCSU team worked hard soliciting local business last year to get 105 discounts from Salmon Arm to Osoyoos! Some of the most popular discounts by region are:

Kelowna:

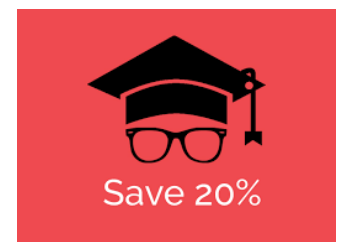
- \$5 off at Axe Monkeys
- 20% off at Lifetime Eyecare Optometry

Penticton:

- Free shoe and chalk rental at Hoodoo Adventures
- 50% off one appetizer at the Barking Parrot Bar

Salmon Arm:

- 20% off at Hartty Clothing,
- 30% off at the print center at Staples



Advocacy & Other Projects

We worked on many exciting projects last year. We increased the size of our Kelowna council, bolstered our bursary fund for our members, left the national student movement, chatted with federal government officials, stood up for our members' access to a safe study space on campus, rallied for more affordable housing for students, and asked Okanagan College to do better with their mental health services for our members.

BURSARIES

This year the Board established a new line item for Student Bursaries and provided \$9000 to the Okanagan College Foundation. This is the largest amount we have ever provided for Bursaries and the Foundation was thrilled to work with us on supporting students. The Foundation collects the funds, adjudicates applications and provides student bursaries on our behalf.



Brianne and Nancy with our \$9000 cheque to the Okanagan College Foundation for student bursaries.

CFS PETITION

In the 2016-2017 year, our Board of Directors and Campus Council members worked hard on acquiring signatures for a petition to hold a referendum to leave the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) and the Canadian Federation of Students-Services (CFS-S). BCFS locals submitted our petitions in a coordinated effort to leave the CFS, after years of hostile meetings and a major decline in campaigns and services. OCSU's petition was submitted in April 2017. At the CFS/CFS-S General Meeting in November 2017, the organization proposed a motion to expel all BC locals that submitted petitions. This motion passed and OCSU was subsequently expelled from the CFS/CFS-S.

KELOWNA CAMPUS COUNCIL GROWTH

At our Annual General Meeting in November 2017, a revision was made to the bylaws regarding the size of the Kelowna campus council elected student representatives. The amendment that passed was to move the Kelowna council from eight (8) members to ten (10) members in order to better serve the needs in Kelowna. This is second adjustment to the Kelowna campus council team in two

Advocacy & Other Projects

years, as we previously increased the team size from six (6) elected student representatives to eight (8). We feel this change has been helpful in ensuring that we have enough team members to host large scale events and participate in all the various forms of advocacy, campaigns and support for our Kelowna members. With the added voices to the council, the decision was also made to add two (2) more student representatives from Kelowna to our Board of Directors and to add an additional six (6) delegate spots for Kelowna members who attend our Annual General Meetings.



Jagmeet Singh speaks with Brianne about student issues.

MEETING WITH JAGMEET SINGH

Leader of the Federal New Democratic Party, Jagmeet Singh, toured the Penticton campus on March 9 and met with two OCSU staff members and a number of students from a variety of programs during the visit. Singh presented on his thoughts on post-secondary education and participated in a Question and Answer session. The discussion ranged from Singh's thoughts on uncovered medical costs, the future of cannabis in Canada, the costs of post-secondary education when he was a student compared to now, and the challenges of unaffordable daycare. We asked him to speak to open education resources specifically and he indicated he was in favour of all things open, for all things in all topics, which was vague but positive.

RIGHT TO LIFE SOCIETY CAMPUS VISIT

Once a semester on our Kelowna campus the Right to Life Society pickets their views on campus. This group is notorious for bringing violent, disturbing images and a targeted agenda. This creates a lot of unrest on campus and disturbs many of our members. Last year, OCSU teamed up with members of the Faculty Association and students put on a counter protest to the images and judgmental messages this group bring to campus. We held signs and banners which read "Safe Study Spaces" and helped chalk positive and inclusive messages on the sidewalk in front of the Right To Life. Our intention is to support our members who feel disturbed or triggered by the graphic images this group brings to campus. We also hosts safe spaces during these protests, which includes tea, de-stress colouring and games for students. While we believe in free speech and differing opinions, we do not

Advocacy & Other Projects

support groups whose intentions seem to be to upset students while they are on campus. Our wish is not to stifle this group, but rather protect our members that do not wish to see these particular images while on campus.

COUNSELLING

For the past two years, we have lobbied the Okanagan College Board of Governors to increase the amount of counsellors on the Kelowna campus. For the 2017/2018 year, the ratio of counsellors to students, reached a low of 1 counsellor per 3670 students. The ideal ratio is 1 counsellor per 1500 students. After making another presentation during the budgeting cycle in January 2018, we received a number of media inquiries, including a radio interview with CBC. This year, the Board of Governors announced the addition of one full time counsellor in Kelowna. A representative from OCSU was a part of the hiring process for this counsellor. We hope to see more growth in this department in years to come.

HOUSING FOR STUDENTS

The province on British Columbia is facing a housing crisis, and we know our members are feeling the pinch on available and affordable housing. Kelowna in particular is facing some of the lowest rental vacancy in the country at just 0.2%. On our Kelowna campus we run a free housing board where landlords seeking student tenants can post an ad for our members to find. We also direct our members to local online platforms like Happi Pad, and local student housing projects like The Artium.

We were invited to speak at the ground breaking ceremony for Rise Commercial Developments' new housing project, The Shore. This building site is located close to our Kelowna campus and will include some student housing suites. We spoke to media and local shareholders about the critical lack of affordable, student based, housing in Kelowna and the Okanagan Valley in general. We also attended a housing task force meeting put on by members of the then new NDP government. These folks were gathering feedback from BC communities about how to best tackle the housing crisis.



Jennifer & Courtney at the Shore's groundbreaking ceremony

Advocacy & Other Projects



NDP Housing taskforce presentation in Kelowna.

We were able to speak on behalf of okanagan students and ensure their needs and experiences were heard.

YOUTH IN CARE

In September 2017, a provincial plan was put in place to greater expand access to post secondary education for former youth in care. This program waives tuition for BC students between 19 and 26 who are former youth in care and attending a BC public post secondary institution. These tuition fee waivers are allowing some of the province's more vulnerable and marginalized people the same access and opportunities as others.

Contact US

OKANAGAN COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION **LOCAL 1, BRITISH COLUMBIA FEDERATION OF STUDENTS**

Kelowna:

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F: 250-861-7074

Penticton:

PE C14—583 Duncan Ave, W. Penticton, BC V2A 8E1

P: 250-492-4305 ext. 3208

F: 250-490-3967

Salmon Arm:

Student Lounge—2252 10th Ave NE, Salmon Arm, BC V1E 2S4

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Website:

ocsu.ca

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Report of the Board 2017-18



OCSU Representatives at the 2018 BCFS Skills Symposium. Left to right back row: Mark Fellhauer, Kyle Safinuk, Jennifer Meyer. Left to right front row: Jenna Brook, Carson Judd, Natasha Mangel, Mickella Biggs & Kaylen Houle.

We had a great 2017-18 year and look forward to an even better 2018-19 year! We will continue to advocate for our members to help provide the best post-secondary education experience possible. We look forward to serving you.