
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Advanced Education
Office of the Premier

PROVINCE LAUNCHES \$15-MILLION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM Part of a \$32.25-Million Investment to Benefit B.C. Students

KELOWNA – The Province is investing \$15 million to create the new Irving K. Barber B.C. Scholarship Program for students transferring from a community college to a B.C. university to complete their degrees, Premier Gordon Campbell announced today.

“Ike Barber is a great British Columbian who shares our commitment to ensuring B.C. students have access to a top-notch education in B.C.’s world-class universities and colleges,” said Campbell. “Combined with the 25,000 new student spaces we’re adding across the province and the remarkable donation Ike Barber announced today for UBC Okanagan, these scholarships will help more young British Columbians pursue their dreams at B.C.’s universities.”

The new program will provide scholarships of up to \$5,000 each year to approximately 150 B.C. undergraduate students who begin their studies at a community college and then transfer to a B.C. university. More than 3,000 students transfer from B.C. colleges to universities each year. It is anticipated the scholarships will be available for students for fall 2005. Details of the program, including application guidelines and deadlines, will be released at a future date.

The program is named in honour of philanthropist and Slocan Forest Products chairman Irving K. Barber. Barber’s generosity was highlighted today, as UBC announced his \$12.25 million gift to establish the Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences at UBC Okanagan, and the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre Interface Program. UBC will top up Barber’s donation with an additional \$5 million.

“Today we’re celebrating over \$32 million of new investment in B.C. students,” said Shirley Bond, Minister of Advanced Education. “This is about access and choice for students in every region of the province, and it’s about quality education and learning opportunities close to home.”

The Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences will offer smaller classes and tutorials, experiential learning, creative methodologies, guest speakers, community involvement and distinguished visitors in residence, to provide new opportunities for students at UBC Okanagan. The new Learning Centre Interface Program will enable practices and activities from the new school to be distributed to students and educators throughout the world.

“The Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences, in combination with the Learning Interface Program and the provincial scholarships, will become a catalyst for improving the quality of undergraduate learning not just at UBC Okanagan but throughout the entire province,” UBC President Martha Piper said.

In 2002, Barber contributed \$20 million and government committed \$10 million to help establish the Learning Centre at UBC's Vancouver campus. Prior to that, Barber also provided a \$1 million endowment to fund a research chair in UBC's Faculty of Medicine.

UBC Okanagan will open in September 2005 with more than 3,000 students. It will grow to 7,500 students by 2010.

For information on AchieveBC, visit <http://www.achievebc.ca> online.

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