



MEDIA RELEASE

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Valley First honours former President and CEO with Legacy Awards

Two Okanagan College students were on the receiving end of a generous donation made by Valley First and its employees on Thursday when they accepted the first ever Harley Biddlecombe Legacy Awards.

Valley First paid tribute to its former president and chief executive officer, the late Harley Biddlecombe, through the creation of a \$100,000 legacy fund. The fund was established in honour of Biddlecombe's passion for education and commitment to community and lifelong learning.

"Harley Biddlecombe was a tremendous supporter of Okanagan College," explained Paulette Rennie, Valley First president. "He was extremely passionate about the pursuit of education and had a community focus that was inspiring to many. After discussions with Harley's family, our board of directors felt a legacy scholarship in Harley's name would be a fitting tribute to acknowledge all he did in the name of learning."

Biddlecombe was a pioneer and leader in financial services. He served as president of Valley First for 31 years.

The Harley Biddlecombe Legacy Awards will create educational opportunities for Okanagan College students with a range of financial means now and into the future.

"The Okanagan College Foundation is honoured to offer a scholarship in the name of Harley Biddlecombe," said Steve Tuck, President of the Okanagan College Foundation. "Harley was a great friend to Okanagan College and his legacy will extend through the disbursement of these awards."

The \$100,000 Harley Biddlecombe Legacy Award contribution is just one of many donations made by Valley First this year. Individual employees contributed thousands of dollars to the fund, which is managed by the Okanagan College Foundation.

On Thursday two Okanagan College students received the \$1,500 legacy awards, which will be disbursed to students on an annual basis.

Valley First is a division of First West Credit Union, B.C.'s third-largest credit union, which has 37 branches and 29 insurance offices throughout the Lower Mainland, Fraser

Valley, Kitimat and Okanagan, Similkameen and Thompson valleys. First West has approximately \$5.6 billion in assets under administration, 167,000 members and more than 1,150 employees.

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