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## Newsletter Fall 2020

### Online Education Opportunities

#### **College Programs Evolve to Meet Need**

In response to the Covid-19 health emergency, post-secondary institutions around the country have needed to adapt to new ways of delivering programming.

Within a very short time frame, arrangements were made to take courses online and to continue in this manner until advised that classroom-based instruction can resume.

While the transition has been challenging, it has offered an opportunity to evaluate how delivery methods can adapt and continue to fill student needs. For the past ten years, Campus Alberta Central (CAC) has been a champion for the use of educational technology. It has been used regionally to bridge distances and bring people together around learning. Now, more than ever, we see the benefits to our communities.



### Practical Nurse Program Available at CAC Learning Centres



#### **Fall 2021 Program Planned for Drumheller and Ponoka**

Year one of the Red Deer College (RDC) Practical Nurse (PN) program has recently been completed in the communities of Drumheller, Rocky Mountain House and Stettler. The students are transitioning to year two of the program this fall.

Applications for the 2021-2022 offering in Drumheller and Ponoka will open in October of 2020 for new intakes. Information is now

available, and interested individuals should contact their local [Learning Centres](#) for further information or email [Campus Alberta Central](#)



## Health Care Aide News

RDC's Health Care Aide (HCA) program will be offered regionally this year in the communities of Ponoka, Rocky Mountain House and Sundre.

The new curriculum offers a greater depth of material and will be the recognized standard for HCA going forward.

Registration is now open. For further details and contact information, contact Red Deer College Continuing Education at 403-356-4900 or [RDC Continuing Education](#)



## CAC Partners Continue to Provide Services

Campus Alberta Central (CAC) continues to support regional learners through partnerships with local Adult Learning Programs. Staff have been working throughout the closures via telephone and email. Thanks to all of our site leaders who have devised new ways to continue to work and meet learner needs. The transition was made easier due to their commitment to understanding and using technology to facilitate the delivery of learning.



## News from Olds College



### Olds College welcomes students back for fall term

Class is back in session at Olds College with class delivery looking a little different, but still offering an experiential learning opportunity for students. For the fall 2020 term, classes are being offered predominantly in a remote learning environment with a few exceptions. All programs offered at the college have gone through a thorough academic delivery model review to determine the most appropriate delivery method, that includes:

- Remote delivery: Classes and labs will be held virtually.
- On-Campus: Classes and labs will be in-person and on-campus, while adhering to social distancing and safety protocols.
- Remote with required/mandatory in-person, on-campus labs: Classes held virtually with mandatory on-campus, in-person labs to allow for hands-on learning.

In July, the Government Of Alberta announced that Olds College will receive more than \$21 million in capital maintenance and renewal funding to redevelop two existing buildings on campus in support of new technology programming and future growth. \$15.16 million will be used to expand the Lachlin McKinnon Building into the new Animal Health Education Centre, allowing the College to accommodate future growth and enrolment for their animal science programs and provide state of the art and specialized facilities for learning. \$6.21 million will be used to redevelop the James Murray Building into the Ag Tech Learning Hub that will house the Werklund School of Agriculture Technology. Combined with more than \$5.5 million in donation support, the facility will be home to the new Agriculture Technology programming. Renovation of both facilities will begin immediately, with the Ag Tech Learning Hub opening in fall 2022 and the Animal Health Education Centre opening in fall 2023.

The fall term welcomed the first year of students into two new Ag Tech programs offered at Olds College, the Precision Agriculture - Techgronomy Diploma and the Agriculture Technology Integration Post-Diploma Certificate. Focused on agronomy and technology, graduates will be prepared for careers that require a deep understanding of the connectedness between agronomy, agriculture machinery/purpose built network management, and data sciences.

To learn more, visit [oldscollege.ca](http://oldscollege.ca)



## News from Red Deer College

### **Optimism for future abounds as Red Deer College begins an unusual school year**

As RDC begins its 57th year serving learners and communities in central Alberta, the COVID-19 pandemic has presented some unique challenges, but the institution has evaluated and adapted its operations, including program and service delivery.

With fall courses being delivered mostly online, the hallways of RDC's main campus are quieter than usual at this time of year. But instructors and staff are prepared, and as excited as ever, to connect with students and to create a positive online learning experience. Most services for students will also continue to be provided through online interactions. However, areas such as the Library, fitness and wellness services, and some food services will be provided in-person.



Ms. Kylie Thomas  
RDC Vice President, Academic and Research

RDC's Residences also remain open, providing a safe home-away-from-home for many students.

Other updates as RDC begins its new academic year include:

- The College is estimating about 6,200 students will enrol in apprenticeship and credit programs for the entire 2020/2021 academic year.
  - This is a decline in expected enrolment, largely attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic. The largest decline in Fall 2020 registrations is from first-year credit students. Among that group, enrolment has declined by 13 per cent compared to last fall
  - Several programs, such as Early Learning and Child Care, Legal Assistant and Justice Studies have experienced increased enrolment for Fall 2020

o RDC continues to actively recruit students who can begin attending courses and programs on a part-time or full-time basis in Winter 2021 Term (starting January 2021). Explore [RDC's programs](#).

· Kylie Thomas joins RDC as its Vice President Academic and Research. She has a strong record in post-secondary leadership in BC, most recently serving as the Associate Vice-President, Students and Registrar, at Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT). This is BC's only Indigenous public post-secondary institution. Ms. Thomas is returning to central Alberta, after spending time here as a child. She is a proud graduate of David Thompson High School

- With a current Government of Alberta post-secondary system review underway, the College's university journey continues, but with no definitive date set for when it will officially be known as Red Deer University. As Red Deer University, the institution will continue to offer the same breadth of credentials and programming that it offers now, plus its own degrees. Initial degrees being proposed include: Bachelor of Biological Sciences, Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science with a major in Psychology, and a Bachelor of Business Administration

[Learn more details](#) about the start of RDC's 2020/2021 academic year.



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