



# COBSS

CENTRAL OKANAGAN BURSARY & SCHOLARSHIP SOCIETY

Newsletter 2019/20

Providing financial assistance to our local Grade 12 graduates in order that they may further their post secondary education



JUNE 2019

658

Student Applications

583

Awards

Total Value of Awards

\$509,135

## Important dates:



**November 25** - deadline for new donors to create an award

**Early December** - student online applications open

**Mid January** - student online applications close

**Late March/early April** - donors select their award recipients then COBSS committee members select the remainder of award recipients

## HATS OFF TO ALL OUR DONORS...

Your generosity and thoughtfulness make a true difference in the future of our local graduates.



## Students from the following schools may apply for COBSS awards:

Aberdeen Hall Preparatory School  
Central Programs School  
Ecole de l'Anse-au-sable  
George Elliot Secondary School

Heritage Christian School  
Immaculata Regional High  
Kelowna Christian School  
Kelowna Secondary School

Mount Boucherie Secondary  
Okanagan Christian School  
Okanagan Mission Secondary  
Rutland Senior Secondary



## A Donor's Story

### Strut Footwear owner Shandi found a unique way to create several annual awards

What started out as a few cents here and there has grown into scholarships and bursaries for graduating students in the Central Okanagan. New business owner, Shandi Schwartz of Strut Footwear, had an idea to ask her customers to consider rounding up their purchases to the nearest dollar to raise funds for a Central Okanagan Bursary & Scholarship Society (COBSS) award. By June 2018, her expectations were exceeded thanks to the generosity of her customers and she raised enough money for 3 bursaries/scholarships to deserving students for their post secondary studies. This year, she is on track to raise even more. Shandi's customers feel connected to their donation and student recipients as they are displayed proudly behind her till at the store for all to see.

“This is a community effort. My customers have ownership in what we have given together. Knowing we are helping a local student - that's an amazing feeling!”

### A Message from COBSS President Lorraine Miller

Thank you to all our donors for your continued support of local graduates through your involvement with the Central Okanagan Bursary and Scholarship Society. COBSS is a 47-year old non-profit organization made up of dedicated community volunteers and school counsellors, serving students both in public and private schools from West Kelowna to Lake Country.

Due to your generous contributions, COBSS allocated 533 awards in 2018, totalling over \$446,000. The Central Okanagan Valley is growing at an unprecedented rate and our student population continues to grow along-side it. More students can and are staying local for their post-secondary schooling, attending both UBCO and OC in greater numbers. Help us support them! Post-secondary school is expensive - your award donations have a genuine impact on the students who receive them.

If you are not currently a COBSS donor, we encourage you to keep us in mind for the day when you are in a position to invest in a local student.

Thank you again for your support.

Kind Regards,

*Lorraine Miller*

COBSS President

[loumiller@me.com](mailto:loumiller@me.com)



**EDUCATION IS OUR PASSPORT TO THE FUTURE, FOR TOMORROW BELONGS TO THOSE WHO PREPARE FOR IT TODAY. - MALCOLM X**

## Why does COBSS charge an administration fee for each award?

Our slogan, “we do the work, you get the credit” is easily understood when you trace the path your award takes from initiation through disbursement:

- Your donor contract must be drafted and signed, then entered into the accounting system, the database of awards, and the student application system. All monies received must be receipted correctly following the CRA's guidelines for registered charities.
- Once your award recipient has been chosen a letter is written to the student and sent to their school. As the donor, you will also receive a confirmation letter along with a profile of the recipient.
- After the student enters post secondary, COBSS must verify that their chosen institution is acceptable under CRA rules and issue a cheque to the school for payment.
- COBSS monitors any unclaimed awards and contacts alternates if necessary.
- COBSS files a charity tax return with the CRA.
- More information can be found on our website - [cobss@sd23.bc.ca](mailto:cobss@sd23.bc.ca) - under the “donor” tab.

# The projected cost of a 4 year university program is now \$105,000

## 2018 Graduate Bella Graziotto takes her COBSS award to UBC Okanagan

I've been having so much fun at UBC Okanagan this September in the Faculty of Science program, and thanks to my COBSS scholarship my experience has been that much easier! It's such a good feeling receiving recognition for 12 years of hard work as I strive to further my educational pathway through post secondary. COBSS was a straightforward process that allowed me to apply for many different scholarships with ease. I'm thrilled to be able to put my award towards tuition in my second semester of school this year! Thanks to all the hardworking volunteers and generous donors at COBSS who make these opportunities possible.



### A Recipient's Experience

Thank you to KPMG for covering the cost of printing this newsletter.



## Help us help local students succeed

Setting up a COBSS bursary is simple and can be done as a one time only or annual donation. **The donor decides on their own criteria** (accomplishments, need, educational goals) and can be involved in picking the recipient from over 650 student applicants with the help of COBSS volunteer members.

This is the ultimate way to **pay it forward** and be part of supporting our local youth in a positive way. The cost of education rises every year and any financial support goes a long way in supporting students in our community as they embark on their educational journey after high school.

**To find out more about setting up a COBSS award please contact us today!**

[cobss.sd23.bc.ca](http://cobss.sd23.bc.ca)   [cobss@shaw.ca](mailto:cobss@shaw.ca)   250-861-4980

## RSS '16 Grad and award recipient Austin Baird heads into his 3rd year of nursing

My goal upon graduation was to attend university, earn an undergraduate degree and go on to medical school, all the while knowing my family could offer no financial assistance. I always knew I would meet my goal - yet I was still a little scared. I grew up witnessing firsthand the burden of living with debt and I knew achieving my goal and going to university would mean I too would live with that burden. Post-secondary is expensive; however, thanks to its

generous donors, COBSS has been alleviating some of the stress and burden of student loans since 1971. I was fortunate to receive three bursaries which enabled me to pay for my first semester. At Rutland Senior Secondary's graduation, the audience is told of your future plans and which COBSS scholarships you received. Although the audience is

constantly told to hold cheers and applause until the end, my family obviously missed the memo because when those bursaries were announced they lost it! To this day I can still hear my mum screaming with excitement - equivalent to if I had just won an Olympic gold medal - and to my family those bursaries might as well have been. It is my hope that through the continued generosity and help of COBSS supporters, we will be able to give more families experiences like mine.

### The COBSS Impact



**“ My goal is to graduate from medical school and be in your position - to have the ability to donate to COBSS and truly impact the life of a deserving student. ”**

## Did you know....

there are three ways you can choose to help students through COBSS?

- Bursaries are allocated to students with financial need;
- Scholarships are distributed to those with outstanding achievement;
- Awards are given based on a variety of criteria specified by the donor.

COBSS proudly partners with the Central Okanagan Foundation to find just the right students for their awards.



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CENTRAL OKANAGAN BURSARY & SCHOLARSHIP SOCIETY

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