



COBSS

CENTRAL OKANAGAN BURSARY & SCHOLARSHIP SOCIETY

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Central Okanagan Bursary and Scholarship Society (COBSS) is a non-profit group of volunteers from the Central Okanagan area who are dedicated to providing financial assistance to our Grade 12 Graduates in order that they may further their post secondary education.



2016 COBSS AWARDS

579

Student Applications

533

Awards

\$432,270

Total Value of 2016 Awards

ONLINE APPLICATION – NOV.29/16 to JAN.16/17
www.cobss.ca

SEE YOUR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELLOR FOR DETAILS

Email: cobss@shaw.ca

#316 - 3001 Tutt Street, Kelowna, B.C.V1Y2H4

COBSS History

The Central Okanagan Bursary and Scholarship Society grew from a need to help young people pursue their education and training beyond secondary school. The expenses of post-secondary studies or trades and technical colleges, including tuition fees, reference materials, accommodation and transportation, deterred many promising students from seeking a higher education.

IN 1971, several leaders of the educational and business community in the Central Okanagan joined forces to find a solution to this problem. Among the founding members instrumental in the (then called) Bursary Society were businessman Ken Harding, former KSS Administrators Harry Dewar and Lou Dedinsky, and Rosemary King of the School Board office. Our organization was incorporated under the BC Society Act in 1984 as the Central Okanagan Bursary and Scholarship Society, able to hold funds in trust and to issue charitable tax receipts. COBSS has also been granted conduit status from the BC Gaming Branch to issue awards from organizations who receive Gaming funds from the province of BC.

Thanks to the generosity of the Central Okanagan community, the number of bursaries and awards available to students has grown from seven in 1971 to 533 in 2016. Over \$432,000 was given out through COBSS last year and in the past 13 years, \$5.6 million has gone to deserving students. Receiving a COBSS award validates students at a critical turning point in their young lives.

Eligible Schools

Students who are currently in their grade 12 graduating year at the following schools may apply for COBSS Bursaries & Scholarships. The COBSS online application process started November. 29th, 2016 and closes January 16th, 2017. Students and parents are encouraged to attend the COBSS Application Information Sessions hosted by school counsellors at each school.

Aberdeen Hall Preparatory School
Central School
Ecole de L'anse au Sable
George Elliot Secondary School
Heritage Christian School
Heritage Christian Online School
Immaculata Regional High School
Kelowna Christian School
Kelowna Secondary School
Mount Boucherie Secondary School
Okanagan Mission Secondary School
Rutland Secondary School

If you require further information, please contact your High School Counsellor.

Q & A with Alyssa Liegmann



Why all upcoming high school graduates in the Central Okanagan pursuing post-secondary education, should apply to COBSS for financial support. An interview with recent Mount Boucherie Secondary student, Alyssa Liegmann.

How did you first learn about COBSS?

Our school counsellor at Mount Boucherie, Mrs. Maier was very helpful and knowledgeable about COBSS. She prepared us ahead of time so that when the online applications opened in late November of my graduating year, I knew that I needed to dedicate the time to submit a truthful and complete application.

How much financial assistance did you receive from COBSS?

I was awarded two COBSS scholarships. One was the Bryce Essler Memorial Scholarship for \$500.00 and the other was the Canadian Federation of University Women scholarship for \$2000.00.

Which school do you attend? What are you studying?

I am in my first year at the UBCO. I am working towards my Bachelor of Science.

What did you spend the scholarship money on?

Textbooks. They are expensive!

Do you feel like the awards made a difference in your ability to pursue post-secondary education?

Yes. A worry of every student entering post-secondary education, is how will they pay for it all. It was invaluable for me to have that weight lifted off my shoulders.

Money aside, did winning an award from COBSS have an effect on your self-confidence?

For me, receiving a COBSS award was recognition of all the hard work that I had done in high school. I had pushed myself and went beyond my comfort zone. The scholarships were a confirmation of that effort. The recognition has pushed me to test my limits and dare to dream in all aspects of my life.

What do you hope to do when you graduate?

I hope to attend medical school.

When your career is underway and you feel established, would you ever consider sponsoring a COBSS award for a graduating student?

If I were financially able, I would love to sponsor a COBSS award for a graduating student. The effect that receiving an award had on me... is almost unexplainable. It would be an honor to give another student the same acknowledgement.

**You could be the change in the life of
a Central Okanagan Student.**



**Consider investing in their post-secondary
education through the Central Okanagan
Bursary and Scholarship Society**

President's Message

July, 2016

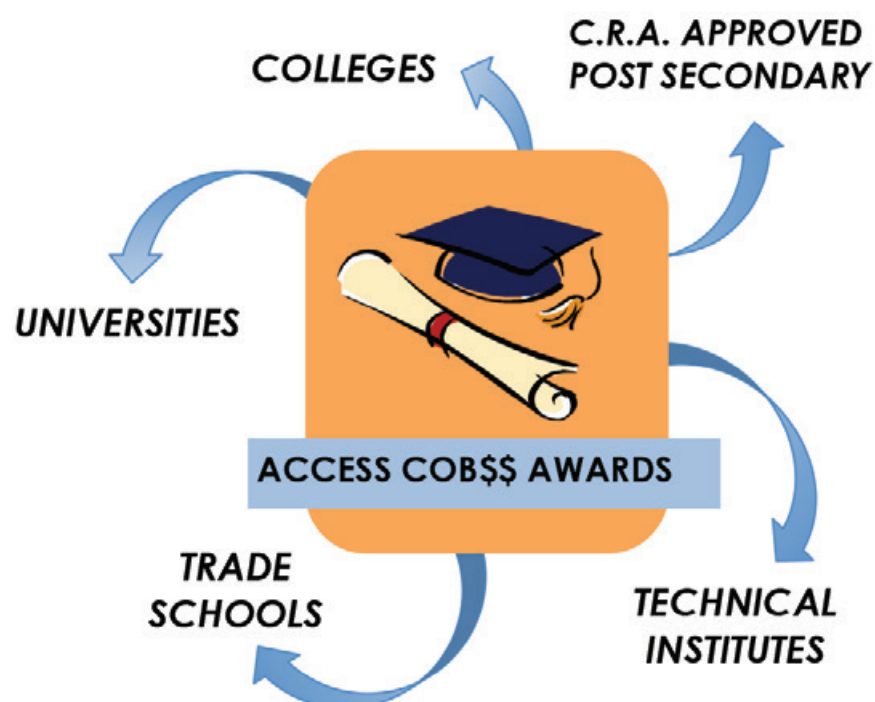
COBSS is a non-profit organization made up of community volunteers and counselors from public and private schools, and recently, online schools within the boundaries of School District #23. The mandate of COBSS is to facilitate organizations, families and individuals who desire to provide financial support to students as they embark on their post-secondary education. This organization is unique in that it serves as a vehicle wherein, by submitting only one application, a graduating student can be considered for over 500 bursaries, scholarships and awards. Bursaries are allocated primarily on the basis of financial need, scholarships are distribute to students who demonstrate outstanding achievement in an area stipulated by the donor, and awards are given based upon criteria specified by the donor. COBSS also partners with the Central Okanagan Foundation (COF) to help pick suitable recipients for its awards.

To be eligible to receive an award, scholarship or bursary through COBSS, students must be attending an accredited post-secondary educational institution, full time, in the year immediately following high school graduation. Unfortunately, the number of applicants always exceeds the number of awards available to allocate. Consequently, as an organization, we strive to increase our donor base so that we can assist as many students as possible who desire to pursue post-secondary education. As COBSS relies primarily on volunteers, we welcome any donors who may wish to fund some of our administrative costs (office expenses, insurance, postage, etc.).

Post-secondary education, while necessary for a wide array of occupations and careers, is very expensive. Tuition, student fees and text books frequently cost in excess of \$7000 per year for an undergraduate University degree. In addition, many students have living expenses and residence fees to pay. Many depend upon bursaries, scholarships or awards to enable them to pursue their education. The generosity of donors, such as you, who recognize the value of post-secondary education and are willing to assist young people on this journey is sincerely appreciated. We encourage you to spread the message about COBSS and its role in helping local students achieve their post-secondary goals. If you know others who are interested in becoming a donor, COBSS can be reached at: 250-861-4980, e-mail - cobss@shaw.ca, or visit our website at www.cobss.ca to download a donor contract or gain further information. Your personal donation is tax-deductible and goes toward helping young people of our community fulfill their dreams.

Thank you again for your support.

Jude Pipher
COBSS President



Application process to apply for scholarships and bursaries

COBSS IMPORTANT DATES

- ☐ ONLINE APPLICATION OPENS Nov. 29/16
- ☐ APPLICATION CLOSES JAN. 16/17 (midnight)
- ☐ ALLOCATION DATES APRIL 3-12, 2017
- ☐ HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION MAY/JUNE 2017
- ☐ POST SECONDARY NEW BEGINNINGS SEPT. 2017

WWW.COBSS.CA

SEE YOUR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELLOR FOR DETAILS