

Press Release issued by: Okanagan College Faculty Association (OCFA)

Date: February 17, 2016

Title: OCFA Contest: 30 Drops Out of the Bucket

Websites: www.30drops.wordpress.com

http://www.okanagan.bc.ca/Campus_and_Community/employees/ocfa/news.html

Do You Have a Student Loan ?

You could win \$1,000

A contest to reduce student
debt in BC



30 Drops Out of the Bucket

For contest rules and
application forms go to:

<https://30drops.wordpress.com>

Apply by Feb. 26 ,2016

Okanagan College
Faculty Association

ocfa

Re: Several hundred current and former OC students enter OCFA highest student debt contest: 9 days left to apply

Since launching the “30 Drops Out of the Bucket” contest last month, several hundred current and former Okanagan College students have visited the website and applied, and it’s not too late to do so. If you or someone you know has been forced to take out one or more student loans in order to pursue your education, and if some part of that education was acquired at OC, you’re eligible. It’s a very simple application process, and if you’re one of the 30 needy students with the highest student loan debt you will receive a cheque for \$1,000. Currently, the highest application received to date is for \$63,000 of debt, but anyone with substantial debt should consider applying.

The *Okanagan College Faculty Association (OCFA)* is sponsoring this contest through union dues paid by faculty members, in collaboration with our provincial affiliate the *Federation of Post-Secondary Educators (FPSE)*. Our union wishes to bring attention to the real world effects of plummeting government support for our institution and our sector, first and foremost of which is the rising level of crippling student debt increasingly placed on our students.

Average tuition rates in this country have tripled over the past twenty years, and student debt loads have risen accordingly: it's past time to say enough is enough. We believe that the citizens of the Okanagan/Shuswap region that we serve share our belief that a properly funded public post-secondary system ought to be a priority of any forward thinking government. Through this contest, we are hoping to draw attention to this issue, and to encourage the public to join us in this campaign by taking a minute to sign up at www.openthedoors.ca.

Eligibility/ how to apply:

All current or former Okanagan College students (from any department) are eligible to enter the contest, as long as they have completed at least one course from any program at OC since Sept. 1, 2005.

All applications must be received by mail, before noon on Friday, Feb 26th, 2016.

www.30drops.wordpress.com

The 30 students with the highest level of debt will each receive a cheque for \$1000 ... thus 30 drops will be taken out of the 'bucket of student debt' that currently exists in our province.

The winners will be announced by March 1, 2016, and a spreadsheet will be published that gives a debt total for all who entered the contest (see application form for the details about the information to be published online).

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