

GOLD AWARDS
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GOLD WINNERS!
CHIBACO.COM

2018 OHAE SOLUTIONS
SEE WINNERS

WE ARE HIRING!
Vernon Central 250-545-2291
Vernon North 250-549-1711
Salmon Arm 250-832-4097

Apprenticeships
Automotive: Body and Paint/Refinishing positions available in all locations

Automotive Mobile Glazier
Skilled Journeyman for all locations

Vernon

Tolko chips in for trades

Darren Handschuh - Oct 13, 2018 / 5:00 am | Story: 239042



Photo: Contributed
Several Tolko employees met with students, Okanagan College and School District 22 representatives to learn more about the Youth Trades Sampler program.

Nemo Des Mazes prefers working with her hands and building things rather than sitting in a classroom.

So when the chance came for the 16 year old to take part in the Youth Trades Explorer Sampler at Okanagan College, she eagerly signed up.

The program gives high school students an opportunity to discover trades as a career with hands-on technical training in six fields including plumbing, carpentry and electrical.

The program, a partnership between School District 22 and the college, is not only attracting students, it's also garnered the interest and support of a local employer.

Tolko Industries has donated \$11,000, plus in-kind support, toward the training at Okanagan College.

"We are passionate about youth and this fits with our long-term strategy to build our workforce and our communities," said Tanya Wick, Tolko's vice-president, people and services.

"This program is helping young people gain the skills and experience that can help set them up for success."

While this year's student cohort is only in their second week of trades training, they've already progressed from building a deck chair to picnic tables. The lumber for their projects was also donated from Tolko's Armstrong mill.

"It's always very meaningful for us at the College to see an employer in the region invest in the training of our students," says Teresa Kisilevich, Okanagan College's Associate Dean of Trades and Apprenticeship.

"Students see that local businesses want them to succeed."

Both School District 22 and Okanagan College are interested in elevating trades training as a career choice for students earlier on in their education.

Joe Rogers, superintendent of School District 22, said the program can be a game changer for students who aren't always successful in academics by empowering them to dive and explore a variety of trades at a full-time level for 10 weeks.

"This gives kids an opportunity to go towards their passion. If you put a kid where they are happy they will do good work," said Rogers.

"It's also a win-win for our community as there is a shortage of trades workers."

In addition to lumber, Tolko is exploring how else it can support the Youth Trades Sampler program, including having the students take a tour of their Armstrong mill.

The students are working in Okanagan College's new Trades Training Centre, which opened in August. The \$6.2-million, 1,250 square-metre facility can accommodate approximately 150 students per year and features a dedicated welding shop and multi-use spaces in which the College can deliver training in carpentry, electrical, and plumbing and pipefitting, along with specialized training like the Youth Trades Sampler

Wanted: Volunteers!

- Cut-out cop kidnapped**
Kelowna - 3:14 pm
 - City council wants you**
Kelowna - 3:01 pm
 - He bowled perfect game**
Kelowna - 2:39 pm
 - Child left without doctor**
Penticton - 2:06 pm
 - Plecas report under wraps**
Victoria - 1:52 pm
- [More Top Stories >](#)
[All Vernon News >](#)
[Send us your news tips >](#)

Introducing **direct flights to Los Cabos** from Kelowna with **sunwing.ca** WESTJET

Real Estate

1308 Richter St
3 bedrooms 2 baths
\$799,900
[more details](#)