



International Education Award builds connections between The Bahamas and Kamloops, B.C.

Kamloops, B.C./Nassau, The Bahamas (January 17, 2016): Vantage Airport Group, which operates both Lynden Pindling International Airport in Nassau and Kamloops Airport in B.C., today announced that its inaugural International Education Award has generated unprecedented interest in Kamloops and its university from the island nation of The Bahamas.

The annual \$7,500 tuition award is available to one student from The Bahamas who enters or continues their studies in an undergraduate program at Thompson Rivers University (TRU) in either business or tourism.

The launch of the award has resulted in an uptick in applications to TRU from college-bound students in The Bahamas; going from one in 2015 to seven for the fall 2016 semester, and another eight for the semester following, for a total of 15.

“Our International Education Award has generated remarkable awareness around TRU in The Bahamas,” said Rebecca Catley, Senior Director of Communications and Marketing at Vantage Airport Group. “We’re delighted to build connections between two countries in which we do business and help facilitate international education through our network of airports.”

The Bahamas has a population of 370,000, and the large majority of its students seek post-secondary education in the U.S. and Canada. Further, many of the students’ families travel with them to visit and explore their new residence. This translates into increased traffic for Kamloops Airport and economic benefits for the city and local businesses.

“Welcoming 15 new students from The Bahamas less than a year after the award was introduced is significant,” said Christopher Seguin, Vice President, Advancement at TRU. “International students make tremendous contributions to our campus and city, culturally and economically, and we’re thrilled to have a new Bahamian contingent at TRU.”

“With one itinerary, students from The Bahamas and their families travelled to Kamloops to experience our city and our leading university,” said Fred Legace, Managing Director at Kamloops Airport. “This award is another benefit of being part of Vantage’s global network and we’re thrilled to continue partnering with TRU to be a part of the educational journey for international students.”

The Vantage Airport Group International Education Award is again available for the Fall 2017 semester at TRU. Interested applicants will find details about the award’s eligibility and how to apply on TRU’s website in March 2017. For more information about studying at TRU, visit TRU.ca/truworld.

About Kamloops Airport

Kamloops Airport is a regional airport serving British Columbia's interior and an important economic engine for its community. In 2015, Kamloops Airport served more than 324,000 passengers travelling on commercial flights operated by airline partners Air Canada, Central Mountain Air and WestJet. Kamloops Airport is operated by Kamloops Airport Limited (KAL) under contract to the City of Kamloops. KAL is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Vantage Airport Group, an industry-leading investor, operator and developer of airports around the world, providing opportunity for Kamloops Airport to take part in and benefit from global airport best practices.

About Vantage Airport Group

Passionate about people, performance and place, Vantage Airport Group was one of the first companies to be involved in the global trend of airport development, investment and management. Since 1994, the company has been actively involved in making 30 airports better and in taking 20 from public to private management. It develops, implements and hones best practices at airports around the world, which results in financially stronger, more sustainable, better connected airports for the communities and businesses they serve. Vantage's current network is made up of nine airports around the globe, including LaGuardia Central Terminal B in New York.

About Thompson Rivers University

At Thompson Rivers University nearly 26,000 students study on campuses in Kamloops and Williams Lake or in distance or online courses and programs through Open Learning. From traditional academics to trades, from certificates to graduate degrees, TRU offers over 140 on-campus programs and 60 Open Learning programs to choose from. TRU's main campus in the heart of Kamloops welcomes a diverse student population that is over 10 percent Aboriginal and 10 percent international, enriching an inclusive community culturally and academically. TRU's modern combination of excellent teaching, community-inspired research, flexibility and student support create an environment where research, creation and innovation thrive—and so do its students.

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