

IEEE Comes to UBC Okanagan and Okanagan Valley

IEEE, which stands for Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, is world's largest professional society with roots in electrical engineering, computer science, and related engineering disciplines. IEEE is known for its highly cited publications, conferences, technology standards, as well as professional and educational activities. On February 13th, 2010, IEEE Member and Geographic Activities Board (MGA) approved an establishment of IEEE Okanagan Sub-Section. At the moment, here are 109 active IEEE members (including 23 student members) in areas adjacent to Okanagan Valley. Previously local IEEE members found it difficult to travel 400 km to Vancouver in order to participate IEEE activities organized by the IEEE Vancouver Section. With the presence of Okanagan Sub-Section, IEEE members can now attend events locally. The establishment of the IEEE Sub-Section will help also accelerate Okanagan Valley as a major technology centre within British Columbia, as demonstrated by the establishment of School of Engineering at UBC Okanagan, the Okanagan Research & Innovation Centre (ORIC), the Okanagan Science & Technology Council (OSTEC), and a nascent technology sector commonly referred to as the Silicon Vineyard. The mandate of IEEE Okanagan Sub-Section is to provide: (1) members with opportunities for continuing professional development and building their professional networks and (2) companies, and especially start-ups, with opportunities for public exposure and recruiting. In its first-year of operation, Dr. Julian Cheng (Chair) from UBC Okanagan and Peter Haubrich (Vice-Chair) from ORIC will volunteer and organize a series of seminars and activities for local members. Also announced recently is the establishment of UBC Okanagan IEEE Student Branch. The student branch is currently chaired by Jacqueline Nichols (a fourth-year electrical engineering student), and Dr. Jonathan Holzman is the Counsellor for the student branch. For further information regarding future IEEE activities and events please contact Julian Cheng (julian.cheng@ubc.ca).