

'We should all be excited' about India opportunities

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The UCFV business instructor's induction as an "innovation chair" is the second of nine planned for B.C. The chairpersons are supposed to come up with ideas to help the economy and social development. With the \$1.25 million, the chairperson now has a total of \$2.5 million to work with. Sandhu said his position is different from other academic chair positions because it appeals particularly to the business community.

He added he will now work with businesses and post-secondary institutions in Canada and India to search for ideas on how to benefit both economies.

"The idea is to create a value chain there where we have students taking different pro-

grams, developing skill sets for the global economy – and if they happen to come to our part of the world that would be nice," said Sandhu.



SANDHU

UCFV is already seeing participation with the bachelor of business administration program, which is being offered in India, he added.

They already have 29 registered students [compared to five or six last year at this time], with six to eight weeks left before the program starts.

"Our plans are ambitious," said Sandhu. "We plan to grant other programs in partnership with other post-secondary institutions in B.C. and from Canada."

Durga Dhaliwal, co-founder of the Indo-Canadian Cul-

ture Club at UCFV, said this is an important decision for Indo-Canadians.

"We needed this," he said. "This is a good opportunity for parents and their children."

While the Fraser Valley Indo-Canadian community pushed for the initiative, Sandhu says it will encompass all small to medium business owners in Canada.

"We all should be excited," said Sandhu. "It was a brainchild of the Indo-Canadian community in this area, but it is now beyond that community's domain."

With Minister of Advanced Education Murray Coell in attendance for the announcement, UCFV president Skip Bassford took the opportunity to get the regional university status ball rolling.

"This is a superb example of what a regional university can accomplish."