



FIRST NATIONS
UNIVERSITY
of CANADA

2017 - 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Traditional Campus, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan

STUDENT PRESIDENTS' GREETINGS

Lucy Musqua, Regina Campus Student Association President

Greetings from the Regina Campus Students Association. This year started off busy. The Students Association participated with the First Nations University Powwow Committee to bring events for the month of April, such as the first ever Youth Symposium on Reconciliation which was held April 19, 2018. The next event was the Students Association Round Dance held on April 19, 2018. This was held right before the 40th Annual Spring Pow Wow and was received well by the community.



This year's Students Association is committed to creating a fully functional office, which will work in conjunction with Student Success Services, to provide the best services possible for all FNU students. We will also work closely with Student Success Services to bring a more interactive Welcome Week (Fall Semester). This year we have dedicated ourselves to hosting a meeting once a month specifically for staff and students so that we may address any needs, concerns or ideas. We look forward to working with everyone to bring a more unified FNU.

Kayla Ironstar, Saskatoon Campus Student Association President



Haul Amba Waste, my name is Kayla Ironstar-Murray from Ceg A Kin First Nation and President of the Saskatoon Student Association 2017-2018. Our focus for this year was to build capacity within Saskatoon, update our constitution within the student association and re-negotiate our funding partnership agreement with University of Regina Students' Union collectively with Prince Albert campus. One of the

highlights for our campus is the creation of a LGBTQ2S representative within our association, partnerships with OUTSaskatoon and the Indigenous Students' Council through the University of Saskatchewan. Among the events that went on throughout the fiscal year, Eagle Feather News highlighted our annual spring round dance held at the Saskatoon Police Station Headquarters on April 30, 2018 and featured leadership in attendance with President Dockstator and his wife Jennifer, Mayor of Green Lake and his wife and the Saskatoon City Police Chief Troy Cooper. It's been a great year and next year we plan to continue to implement the Saskatoon campus' vision. I encourage young adults to become involved within their communities, the change only happens when we step into initiatives, raise our voices and encourage the communities to become involved.

Trevor Dubois, Northern Student Association President

The students at Northern Campus had a busy year creating partnerships between various organizations and other student unions and associations, which helped in making our initiatives a reality. This includes 40 subsidized daycare positions and an Affordable Lunch Program which is the first of its type in Saskatchewan. Our Student Association, along with the help from the University of Regina Student Union, created 3 campus clubs including a Social Justice, Cultural First and Arts Club. We at Northern Campus were also able to form a Softball Team. These Clubs and the team are ways in which our students can participate in various events and activities throughout the school year.

I would personally like to thank each and every one of you who assisted in making these programs, events, services, and our team a success. We hope that these initiatives continue for many years to come.



ALUMNI MESSAGE

Greetings,

Members of the Alumni Association actively volunteer throughout Regina and the broader Saskatchewan community representing First Nations University. Acting as advocates on behalf of the institution, is a role that is not taken lightly but with great pride as we continue to promote the University as the post-secondary education institution of choice.

Alumni Board members participate on FNU Spring Celebration Powwow Committee as a way of giving back and to remain connected to the faculty, staff and students.

As we move forward with celebrating the 40th Anniversary of FNU's Spring Celebration Powwow, it is important for the Alumni Association to acknowledge the Saskatchewan Federated College (SIFC) members of SIFC's first Powwow Club which included the following students: Gerald McMaster, the late Bob Boyer, Bob Boyer Jr., Dorothy Myo, Patricia Dieter, Bryan Akiwenzie, the late Frank Asapace, the late Les Goforth and Michael Laliberte. With today's focus on reconciliation, we believe that these SIFC students were the true pioneers of reconciliation.

We will continue to support and promote the University as the center for reconciliation!
Cherish Jean-Baptiste President, FNU Alumni Association



OUR STUDENTS: FIRST ANNUAL "HONOURING THE NEXT GENERATION" ROUND DANCE - SASKATOON

The Saskatoon Students' Association held its first annual "Honouring the Next Generation" round dance April 30, 2018. In fact, this event included a unique occurrence. This is the first Indigenous cultural event held in a police headquarters in the country. The round dance was held in the gymnasium at Saskatoon Police Headquarters. Saskatoon Police Chief, Troy Cooper, said this was a great way to involve the larger community in the building and to build a partnership with youth in our community.



"Honouring the Next Generation" round dance

<http://fnuniv.ca/scholarship-winners>

Student Enrolment numbers

As of September 2017
student enrolment increased by 6.73%.

COMMUNITY IN ACTION

"Food for Fines"

"The "Food for Fines" promotion started just before Christmas 2017 and was initiated through the University of Regina. Food is collected in lieu of fines and donations are given to the Regina Food Bank. However, Librarian Paula Daigle, after speaking with a student about their own needs and the needs of other students in our community, decided we needed our own food bank program. So, the First Nation University libraries teamed with Student Services. Students with overdue books drop off non-perishable food items and get a \$2 credit on their account. The food is then collected and distributed by Student Services to help support those in need in our community.

Library Coffee Shop

Everyone knows when students are cramming for exams and writing papers sometimes they need a little caffeine. Our library was open until 9 pm, and Hendersons Cafe located on the Regina Campus closed at 4 pm, and librarians wanted to make things a bit more comfortable for students. Librarian Paula Daigle brought in an unused coffee maker from home, a can of coffee, some sugar and cream, and the evening coffee service was born! This coffee service is provided free of charge to students, in ceramic mugs (to be environmentally friendly) after our Hendersons Cafe has closed. It has been a big hit with students, providing them with that warmth and a much-needed pick me up late into the evenings.

OUR ELDERS: FNUUNIV ELDERS (KEHTE-AYAK) COUNCIL

Our Elders are an integral part of our university and they are the trustees of our traditions, values, languages and history. They are leaders, guides and are our teachers. They encourage what is best for our institution.

It was determined through a series of meetings, from 2014 to 2015, that the FNUuniv Kehte-ayak Council be formed and named. The guiding principle behind the formation of the Kehte-ayak Council would be that the Kehte-ayak Council would provide advice and give direction.

The formation of the Kehte-ayak Council consists of two Board of Governor Elders, six university campus Elders, two cultural advisors and one Women's helper, one Elder Advisor, one representative from management and a recorder.

The official start date of the Kehte-ayak Council was January 2016.

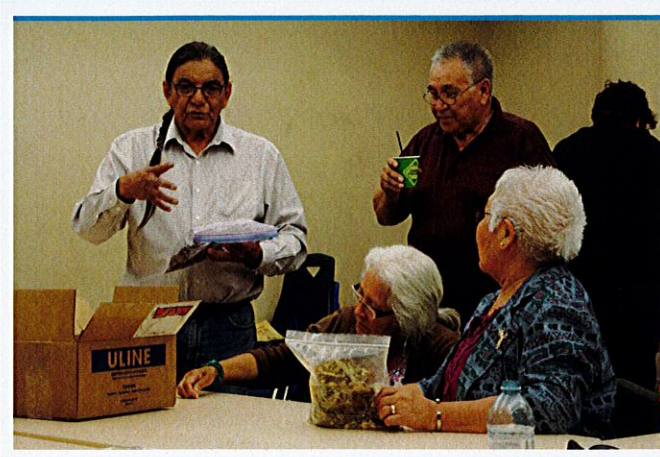
Guidance and direction is provided in cultural teachings, protocols, ceremonial practices, and how activities within programming are rolled out (example in fine arts classes when working with feathers, beads, etc. and protocols for preparation of sweat ceremonies).

KEHTE-AYAK COUNCIL IN ACTION

In June 2017, the Kehte-ayak Council undertook a special project. The council set about making traditional tobacco employing methods and materials used prior to contact. These items were gathered from the land and brought to the Kehte-ayak council. As a result, a number of traditional tobacco pouches were made and distributed between all three campuses for students to use for protocol when

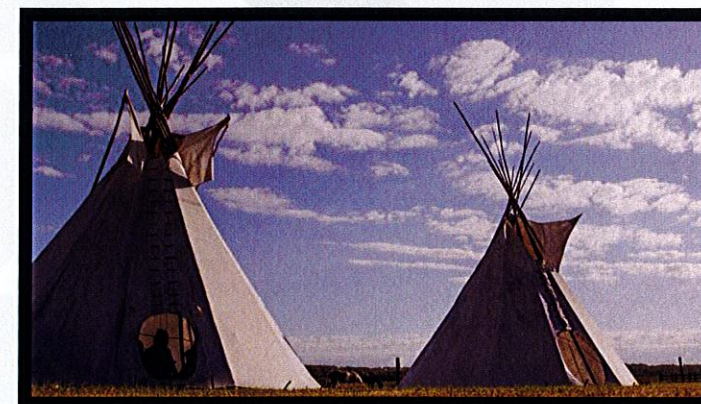


BACK ROW (left to right): Roland Kaye, Jackie Nixon, Preston Gardypie, Gilbert Kiwestep, Willie Ermine, Grace Macleod
FRONT ROW (left to right): Mary Lee, Audrey Cochrane, Rose Bird, Florence Allen, Margaret Reynolds, Sylvia Obey.



TRADITIONAL CAMPUS

Approximately 50 students took part in our first culture camp on our new traditional campus site last July. The new site is located along the south side of the picturesque South Saskatchewan River, just north of the community of St. Louis. Students spent the 10-day camp working with Elders, learning traditional teachings, and taking part in traditional activities such as picking medicines and creating traditional crafts. This site creates a space for our students and Elders. Here we can pass on our traditional teachings, reconnecting with our land, our culture and our history.



FACULTY AND STAFF LONG TERM SERVICE AWARDS

The Faculty and staff of First Nations University are dedicated to the success of our students and our institution as a whole. In return, we want to recognize their hard work and achievements. This year's long term service awards saw many milestones achieved:

YEARS OF SERVICE

FIVE YEARS:

Alberto Sagardia

10 YEARS:

Jason Albert
Jesse Archibald-Barber
Bettina Schneider
Arzu Sardarli
William Levesque

20 YEARS:

Denise Kaiswatum
Miriam McNab
Angelina Weenie

25 YEARS:

Keaneena Agecoutay
Faye Cote



Spotlight: Dr. Jason Albert

Congratulations to our own Jason Albert who successfully defended his PhD in Social Work at Memorial University. His research interests and areas of expertise include Administration, Management, and Leadership, as well as Indigenous Administration in Social Work. Jason teaches at our Saskatoon campus.

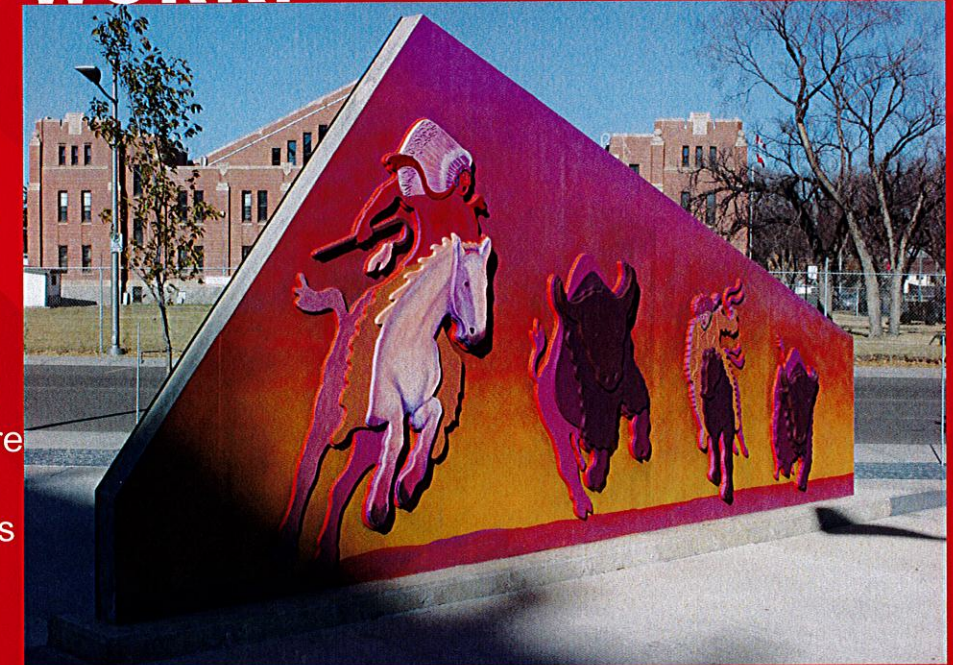


Complete List Of Faculty Achievements and Publications

<http://fnuniv.ca/faculty-achievements>

IN THE COMMUNITY SCULPTURE WORK:

Professor, Lionel Peyachew, unveiled two works this past year. On May 5, 2017, his Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women sculpture was installed in front of the new Saskatoon Police Head Quarters in Saskatoon. Then, on July 15th, 2017, his Roughrider wall relief sculpture for the City of Regina at Mosaic stadium in Regina was unveiled. Congratulations!



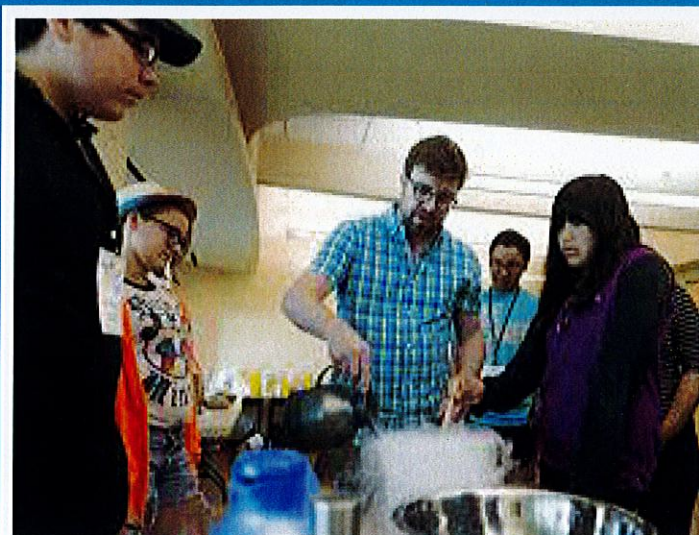
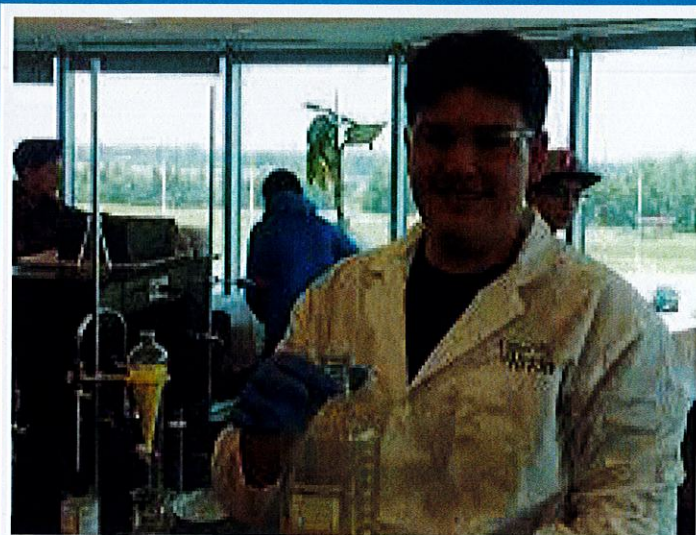
Roughrider Wall Relief Sculpture



Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

NATIONAL SCIENCE CAMP:

First Nations University hosted its first National Science Camp and welcomed 42 First Nations and Inuit students from across the country to Treaty 4 & 6 territories. The students, ages 12 to 15 years old, spent a week in Saskatchewan staying both on the Regina campus and spending a night in Saskatoon. Students took part in chemistry and cooking experiments, learned about biology and traditional plants, and were introduced to sustainable living ideas from the First Nations Power Authority. Students visited the U of S College of Agriculture, Craik Ecovillage and White Raven Healing Lodge. They also toured Wanuskewin where they learned about buffalo technology and tools and gained an understanding of traditional living in relation to contemporary science and technology. The camp provided students with a unique opportunity to see the connections between traditional Indigenous knowledge and technology, as well as Western Science both in the classroom and in some of our natural spaces.



KATIMAVIK

In March 2017, First Nations University of Canada signed a partnership with Katimavik. This allowed, eight members of Katimavik's Indigenous Youth in Transition program to spend the fall on the Regina campus. The group took Indigenous history classes, participated in ceremonies, learned traditional Indigenous beading and crafts, and developed entrepreneurial skills selling their items in a pop-up store on campus. Students also volunteered their time with local non-profit organizations that support Indigenous community members.



(NACCD) NORTH AMERICAN CENTRE FOR COLLABORATIVE DEVELOPMENT: CONAHEC – (CONSORTIUM FOR NORTH AMERICAN HIGHER EDUCATION COLLABORATION)



Chief Michael Starr brings greetings at the opening of CONAHEC

First Nations University hosted the first-ever NACCD conference on the Regina campus in June. Attendees from Canada, the U.S., Mexico, Brazil, India, New Zealand, and the Netherlands took part in the conference as part of CONAHEC last summer. Among the presenters, 13 faculty, sessionals and research assistants from First Nations University delivered presentations to attendees.

The focus of this ground-breaking event was to discuss supporting Indigenous peoples worldwide. As a result, the University has made important connections with other academic institutions across Canada and around the world.

FINANCIALS

Comprehensive audited financial statements can be found on the First Nations University website at the following link: <http://fnuniv.ca/facts>

CHAIR'S MESSAGE:

Yvette Arcand

This is my first year as Board Chair for First Nations University of Canada, and what an exciting year it has been. From celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the University Powwow to hosting so many national and international events, being part of this board is an honour. When I visit each of our three campuses I'm always struck by the connections I see between our students, Elders and staff. By integrating our ceremonies, traditions and culture into our institution we teach current generations how to learn and pass on knowledge. It is our way, and it leads to so many good things.

As a result of those teachings, our Elders, students and staff are inspired to work with others and help support the next generation. This year, we hosted the National Science Camp, passing on our teachings to 42 First Nations and Inuit students from across the country. We also hosted a group of Inuit Katimavik youth, helping them to increase their knowledge and entrepreneurial skills. This is the kind of work we do in our communities and for our people. This is the kind of work that has always been done at this institution. We are so fortunate to have had this modeled for us from the very beginning.

As we head in to a new strategic planning cycle, I look forward to my next year as your chair, thoroughly inspired by you all.



BACK ROW (left to right): Dr. Thomas Dignan, Edward H. Mirasty, Dr. Ken Coates, Ruby Sinclair
FRONT ROW (left to right): Bernadine Walkingbear, Loretta J Pete Lambert, Yvette Arcand, Lori-Ann Daniels
MISSING: Dr. Alike Lafontaine

The First Nations University of Canada is fortunate to have a strong board of 9 voting members, who devote their time and expertise, to help guide the university.

The Board also has two non-voting Elder observers, plus a student and faculty observer, who provide council and support for the Board.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With our continued growth and reputation for excellence in Indigenous education, First Nations University has become the premier destination for Indigenous led post-secondary education in Canada. With our many innovative programs, courses, events and academic initiatives, such as the National Centre for Collaboration in Indigenous Education, First Nations University continues to attract more and more students each year.

Our success can be traced to the simple formula of providing excellence in education. Our innovative and cutting edge academic programming reflects unique Indigenous worldviews, values and philosophies. When combined with a comprehensive array of student success programs, our overall academic and cultural environment at the University offers a nation-leading, holistic, Indigenous-based approach to post-secondary education.

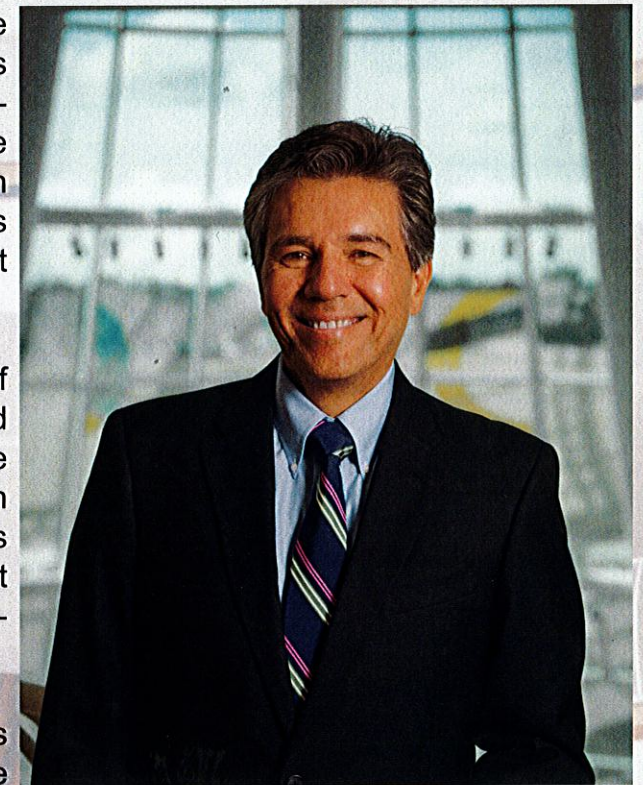
Of the many successful events and program initiatives developed this year, it is significant to note some of the impressive "firsts" achieved by our students, Elders and staff. In Saskatoon, our students' association held what is one of the first-ever traditional events in a police headquarters in Canada. The first annual 'Honouring the Next Generation' Round Dance was held in the gymnasium at the Saskatoon police headquarters. The creation of this specific partnership demonstrates how our students continue to lead the way in the march toward reconciliation in Canada.

In another first, our Elders Council (Kêhtê-ayak) became the directors of a feature film, Waniska. The film documents efforts across Canada of Elders and Traditional Knowledge Holders to revitalize our traditional ways of knowing and understanding our environment around us. The film has received rave reviews and is being used in many organizations and educational forums across Canada and internationally.

On the academic front and in an effort to encourage more Indigenous youth to pursue post-secondary education, First Nations University was awarded the honour of hosting the National Science Camp. For this event, more than 40 Indigenous youth from across the country convened at the University. With the participation of numerous faculty, staff and Elders, the national camp was a resounding success. Our hope is that, through initiatives such as these, more Indigenous youth become inspired to pursue their education and hopefully, in the near future, see them return to First Nations University for their post-secondary education.

As we conclude this academic year and move into the next, I look forward to engaging with the many communities that make up the University, this in order to receive guidance on how we can continue our path forward growing the reputation and recognition of First Nations University as the leader in Indigenous education in Canada.

Dr. Mark S. Dockstator, President, First Nations University of Canada



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**We would like to acknowledge the supporters and funders
who assist us in achieving our mission.
They include:**

The First Nations of Saskatchewan

Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations

**Government of Canada through the
Department of Indigenous Services Canada**

**Government of Saskatchewan through the
Ministry of Advanced Education**

University of Regina

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