President

FIRST NATIONS UNIVERSITY of CANADA
The University

First Nations University of Canada (FNUniv) is a unique Canadian post-secondary institution built on the premise of ‘Indian control of Indian education’. FNUniv provides post-secondary education for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students alike within a culturally supportive environment. Committed to generating transformative impacts through education for students, FNUniv has stood alone in its approach to bringing together accredited post-secondary studies with traditional Indigenous knowledge for 45 years.

With over 1,200 registered students, 36 faculty and approximately 100 staff representing 4 collective bargaining agreements (APT, URFA, SASM, CUPE), FNUniv provides a holistic and innovative academic environment for all. The Regina campus is situated on the atim kâ-mihkosit (Red Dog) Urban Reserve (Star Blanket Cree Nation) in Treaty 4 Territory and designed by renowned Indigenous architect Douglas Cardinal. Star Blanket Cree Nation is the first First Nation in Canada to create an urban reserve specifically dedicated to the advancement of education. FNUniv was created as an affiliated college of the University of Regina. The Regina campus alongside the campus in Saskatoon and Prince Albert are closely coordinated with the University of Regina and collaborates with other Saskatchewan institutions. FNUniv has continued to innovate over the years, integrating technology for improved distance learning capabilities to provide greater outreach to their students.

Students at FNUniv enjoy a unique experience through learning and services at the university. The University is student and community focused, and provides students with cultural connections to the land, communities, and education of the First Nations peoples of Canada while providing wraparound support to their students in the form of specialized services including childcare, financial resources, cultural spaces, and counselling.

Under the guidance of Elders and First Nations communities, FNUniv programs are shaped upon Indigenous knowledge, skills, and attitudes that contribute in meaningful ways to Canadian society. The University is a federated college of the University of Regina, and its academic programs are accredited through that institution.

FNUniv, like all Canadian universities, faced formidable challenges during the 2020 pandemic. Focusing intensely on student needs, the university completed the 2019-2020 academic year successfully, made a comprehensive transformation to online instruction (including supporting students in communities with limited Internet), and experienced a 10% increase in enrollments in Fall 2020.
Governance & Board of Governors

The First Nations University of Canada is governed by a Board of Governors appointed by a Selection Committee formed by the Federation of Sovereign Indian Nation’s Education and Training Commission.

Elders Council

The First Nations University of Canada Elders Council promotes the unity of member First Nations through the promotion and preservation of Indigenous heritage, knowledge, culture, values, and customs. The purpose of the Elders Council is to enhance the quality of life and to preserve, protect, and interpret the history, language, culture, and artistic heritage of First Nations. It assists FNUniv faculty, students, and staff in the revival and re-institution of their spiritual heritage, knowledge, culture, customs, and traditions. The Council also advises on Indigenous knowledge and cultural practices and protocols as the stabilizing influence in First Nations society.

Vision and Mission

Vision

The First Nations University of Canada is a First Nations post-secondary institution that aspires to have a transformative impact by bridging our ceremonies, traditional knowledge, knowledge keepers, languages, and traditions with the delivery of high-quality education that will lead to the pride and success of all students, First Nations communities, and Canada.

Mission

The mission of the First Nations University of Canada is to enhance the quality of life and to preserve, protect and interpret the history, language, culture and artistic heritage of First Nations.

The First Nations University of Canada will acquire and expand its base of knowledge and understanding in the best interests of First Nations and for the benefit of society by providing opportunities for quality bilingual and bi-cultural education under the mandate and control of the First Nations of Saskatchewan.

The First Nations University of Canada is a First Nations’ controlled university-college that provides educational opportunities to both First Nations and non-First Nations university students selected from a provincial, national and international base.

Additional information about FNUniv is available online at www.fnuniv.ca.
The Opportunity

Working effectively with the Board of Governors and the University's senior leadership team, the President is the chief executive officer of FNUniv, responsible for the overall leadership of its academic and administrative affairs, government and community relations, and philanthropy. The new President will be responsible for continuing to foster and develop the University's reputation, national and international positioning in Indigenous education, teaching, research, and outreach activities.

The successful candidate will be an accomplished academic and exemplary leader with a strong commitment to serving the needs of students and faculty and advancing the University's mission. A proven track record that demonstrates the ability to guide the affairs of the overall University is essential, as is a strong understanding of universities, their cultures and processes, and their role in society. The ability to work effectively within a diverse community will be accompanied by experiential knowledge of Indigenous cultures, values, and traditions. Candidates will possess outstanding judgement, management, communication, and interpersonal skills and have the capacity to build and sustain positive working relationships with students, faculty, staff, and alumni, as well as a wide variety of external groups.
Qualifications and Skills

- Knowledge, history, and experience with the Indigenous cultures, values and traditions of Saskatchewan First Nation Peoples.
- Knowledge or skills of a First Nations Language would be an asset.
- Dedication to student success; has a passion for Indigenous education and compassion for students and their individual paths to learning.
- Financial management experience.
- Ability to create and implement strategic direction for an academic institution.
- Ability to provide executive leadership to the university community in coordination with the executive team.
- Ability to make high-level decisions under pressure and in compliance with institutional policies, academic regulations, and other applicable legislative or governing frameworks, such as collective agreements.
- Ability to promote appropriate collegial governance.
- Knowledge of academic program development and approvals.
- Ability to build partnerships with other academic institutions, communities, governments and other organizations.
- Personnel management experience, including performance review and recruitment of faculty and staff.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.
- A PhD or terminal degree in a relevant area and a minimum of five (5) years of senior academic experience at a university.
- For exceptional Indigenous candidates, other combinations of academic training and professional experience will be considered.

Key Competencies

- Inclusiveness
- Strategic Planning
- Managing People
- Emotional Intelligence
- Stewardship and Managing Resources
- Problem Solving / Decision Making
- Communication
- Quality Improvement
- Leadership
- Teamwork
- Service Focus
To Apply

This is an outstanding opportunity to lead a University that is fast becoming a leader in Canadian higher education by allowing students of all nations to learn in an environment of Indigenous knowledges, cultures, and values. For more details, please contact:

**Laurie Sterritt • Partner**  
**Leaders International**  
880-609 Granville Street  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
V7Y1G5  
Telephone: 778-838-4569  
laurie@leadersinternational.com

**Mike Eagar • Consultant**  
**Leaders International**  
Suite 700 1 Rideau St.  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1N 8S7  
Telephone: 613-619-8686  
mike@leadersinternational.com

To apply, please submit a Cover Letter and Resume directly to Leaders International outlining your interest, qualifications and experience.

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply. The First Nations University of Canada relies on section 48 of The Saskatchewan Human Rights code to give preference in employment for this position; therefore, please indicate your status in the letter of introduction.

**Leaders International** specializes in the recruitment of Board of Directors, leadership succession and executive level positions. Our global network, **Penrhyn International**, is a world leader in the executive recruitment industry, with more than 47 offices in over 25 countries on 5 continents.