

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, October 14, 2021

President's Installation Ceremony to Encompass First Nations Traditional and Cultural Elements

Regina, Saskatchewan – Encompassing the First Nations traditions and cultural elements into the President's Installation signifies the importance of maintaining the values of the First Nations University of Canada. On Friday, October 15, Dr. Jacqueline Ottmann, Misiaykimigookpaypomoytung, will be honoured through the Installation Ceremony amongst her family, colleagues, students, and the university community. Dr. Ottmann began her term on September 7, 2021.

Dr. Ottmann will officially be installed as the new President of the First Nations University of Canada by taking an Oath of Office from the Board of Governor Chair. Unlike other University Installation ceremonies, Dr. Ottmann will be recognized traditionally through prayer, blessings, and traditional gifts. Following the blessing in the Nakawe (Saulteaux) language from kêhtê-ayak (Elders) Judy Pelly and Gilbert Kewistep, will wrap her in a traditional shawl, followed by a beautiful star quilt from the Student Association Presidents. Included in the ceremony are greetings from the university community and Indigenous leaders.

As a gesture to the First Nations University of Canada's land, atim kê-mihkosit (Red Dog) Urban Reserve, Star Blanket Cree Nation, the invited Red Dog Drum Group and Red Dog Dancers are to sing and perform during the event. To close out the ceremony, a performance by seasoned rapper duo, Eekwol and T-Rhyme.

Dr. Jacqueline Ottmann is Anishinaabe (Saulteaux) from Fishing Lake First Nation in Saskatchewan. Prior to her academic career, Jackie was an elementary, high school teacher and principal. She remains an engaged scholar alongside her responsibilities as senior academic leader. Ottmann has been recognized as an international researcher, advocate, and change-maker whose purpose is to transform practices inclusive of Indigenous leadership, methodologies, and pedagogies. Jacqueline is driven to create schools and communities that foster a deeper sense of belonging and appreciation for Indigenous peoples - their histories, stories, ways of knowing and being. Ottmann is also the first Indigenous person to become President of the Canadian Society for the Study of Education.

FNUUniv Board of Governors, the kêhtê-ayak (Elders) Council, students, faculty, staff, invited guests and dignitaries will attend in person. The ceremony can be viewed virtually through <https://youtu.be/UgRuN6nc65U>.

About First Nations University of Canada

The First Nations University of Canada (FNUniv) was founded in 1976 and is a First Nations owned post-secondary institution that aspires to have transformative impact by bridging our ceremonies, knowledge keepers, languages, and traditions with the delivery of high-quality post-secondary education that will lead to the pride and success of all students, First Nations communities and Canada. As of Fall 2020, FNUniv has over 6,000 active students and more than 5,600 alumni. For more information about FNUniv, please visit <http://fnuniv.ca>.

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