

2016 - 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



STUDENT PRESIDENTS' GREETINGS

HEATHER O'WATCH, Regina Campus Student Association President

Being the Student Association President for our Regina Campus has been an amazing opportunity to grow through student leadership. As president, I've had the unique opportunity to participate in and lead engagement-based projects around our campus and our community preserving, protecting, and interpreting our Indigenous knowledge and culture. This is what I love about being a student on our campus, the ability to combine our educational path directly with our ancestral teachings. As we celebrate 40 years of Indigenous Education, I look forward to working with the Elders, professors, and fellow students to build upon this wonderful institution, strengthening my own knowledge and setting an example for future students as well. We are indeed so fortunate to have such an amazing institution through which to pursue our education.

VERNE MARTELL, Saskatoon Campus Student Association President

On behalf the First Nations University of Canada Saskatoon Campus Student Association I would like to extend a greeting to our Elders, students, staff, and administration. It is with great pride that we celebrated our 40th anniversary and it was a wonderful opportunity to come together. Once again, it was a pleasure to meet all those who attended the celebrations in Saskatoon and I hope to see you all again in the years to come. The First Nations University of Canada has been home to many of its students over the years and this still holds true today. As students,

we have all had to come together in so many ways to support each other through our educational goals. In doing so, we all become like one big family which is what I personally love most about being here. Thank you to everyone who continues to support this great institution. I acknowledge each and every one of you and wish you all the best for the future. Hi y hi y.

TREVOR DUBOIS, Northern Student Association President

It was an honour for students attending Northern Campus to be involved in celebrating the university's 40th Anniversary. This was a huge milestone that wouldn't be possible without the hard work from past and current faculty, executives, administrators, students, and Elders. This year, the Northern Campus had the opportunity to create partnerships with several local organizations. It was through these partnerships we were able to provide free swim nights, monthly lunches, various draws, presentations, and many other events throughout the year. Our student association is currently working to create an affordable lunch program that will begin next fall. On behalf of all Northern Campus Students we would like to thank each and every one of you who helped make this year such a success.

I personally would also like to thank all Northern Campus Student Association Members, Students, my counterparts on the Regina and Saskatoon campuses - SA presidents Heather O'Watch, and Vern Martell, as

STUDENTS

Each year, we celebrate the drive, determination, talent, and academic achievements of our students. This year, numerous scholarships were handed out, many recognizing the efforts our students put into regaining and promoting Language and Culture through their own academic careers.

Recipients of the Drs. Lewis and Elizabeth Brandt Scholarship including Robin Goforth, Regina; Deirdre Herman, LaLoche; Farris Lemaigre, Clearwater River; and Cheryl Mercredi from Prince Albert were honoured at a First Nations University of Canada (FNUniv) scholarship luncheon, where students gathered to celebrate achievements and recognize such accomplishments.

The scholarship is aimed specifically at Indigenous language instructors and BEd Indigenous Education students enrolled in at least six credit hours of Indigenous language courses. The University is proud to offer programs that include, but are not limited to, the Cree, Sauteaux, Dene, and Nakota languages.

Scholarships like the Drs. Lewis and Elizabeth Brandt Scholarship, provide unique opportunities for students to learn their own, as well as other, Indigenous languages.

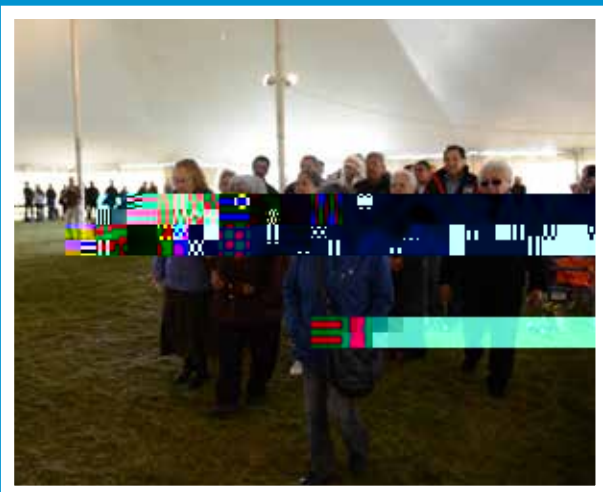
OUR ELDERS:

The 40th Anniversary Celebrations marked our inaugural Elder's Conference: *pimâtisiwin: Our Teachings, Our Future*. Our Elders and Elder's helpers gathered in Regina to share their traditional knowledge and teachings with students, staff, and the general public. Each Elder shared their knowledge on a variety of topics including water, protocol, treaties, and traditional roles of men and women.

At First Nations University, we are fortunate to have 5 Elders and 3 Elder's helpers with which to work. Our Elders lecture in the classroom and share their knowledge through traditional activities like the beading circles. In addition, several guest Elders also work with students and staff both in the classroom setting and at other events.

The Elders are integral to every part of our university. They help support students (both Indigenous and non-Indigenous), many who are far from home, and aid them in maintaining or developing connections to culture. The Elders also help staff incorporate traditional knowledge, teachings, and concepts into their classrooms and online course development.

The Kehte-ayak Elders Council was formed in 2014. The council provides guidance and shares important Indigenous knowledge that informs all of the activities and teaching at the First Nations University of





FACULTY AND STAFF LONG TERM SERVICE AWARDS

The Faculty and staff of FNUniv 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

5 Years:

Laura Debassige
Shirley Delorme
Lynn Wells
Dalton Kingfisher
Grace McLeod
Ida Swan
Dan Vallee



10 Years:

Jody Bellegarde
Lorena Lynn Cote
Fidgi Gendron
Sharon Moberly
Brenda Green
Leanne Stricker



15 Years:

Carrie Bourassa
Edward Doolittle



30 Years:

Solomon Ratt

Spotlight: Dr. Blair Stonechild

Blair Stonechild was the first Indian Studies professor at what was then known as the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College when he joined the faculty in December, 1976. Blair earned his BA at McGill and his PhD at the University of Regina. He is a member of the Muscowpetung First Nation and is married to his wonderful wife Sylvia. The couple has three children. In his own words:

“First Nations University has a special mission because it provides a unique opportunity to grow intellectually in an environment of cultural affirmation. It is an insp Â

Complete List Of Faculty Achievements and Publications
<http://fnuniv.ca/faculty-achievements>

RECONCILIATION IN THE CLASSROOM:

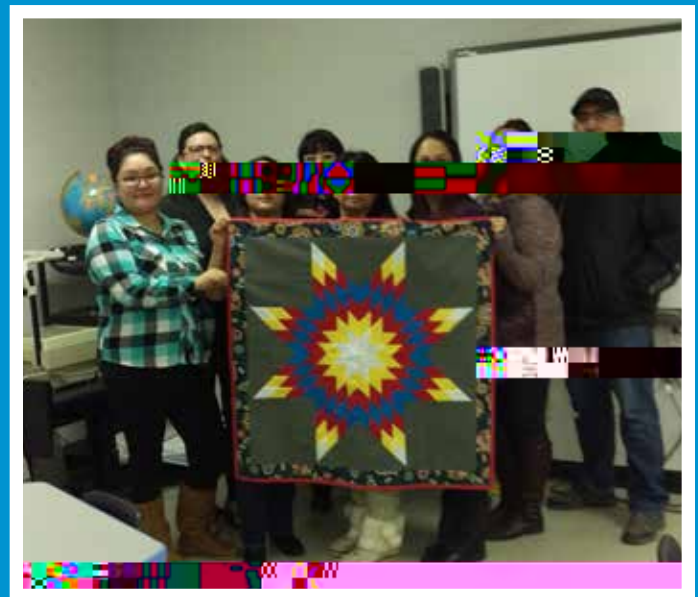
This year in the Justice Studies 351 TRC group project, the class wanted to learn how to make a star quilt as a process of reconciliation. Jolene Generoux facilitated the making and teaching of the star quilt, which was a joint venture to create traditional First Nations art that holds significant cultural meaning and diversity in educational opportunities. As instructor Ida Swan noted, "We believe that making the star quilt in educational programs will assist in the TRC Calls to Action to teach the legacy of residential schools, the true history of First Nations people, First Nations worldview and traditional teachings, bring back language and culture and to involve the parents, Elders and community."



*Justice Studies 351 December 6, 2016
Prince Albert Northern Campus*



The completed star quilt presented December 6, 2016 at the Prince Albert Northern Campus by Justice Studies 351 class.



Front row - (left to right) Jennifer Kasagan, Kristen Ballantyne, Bertha Ballantyne, Arlene Bird, and Giselle Mercredi. Back row - (left to right) Jolene Generoux, Loretta Young, and Jarrod Jobb.

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION:

Grace McLeod is the Director of Student Success Services and in her role oversees the Academic Advisors, Recruitment, and Retention Specialists, Writing Instructors, Tutors, and Administrative support staff on all three campuses. Grace has been instrumental in the formation of our Elders Council, has worked on the formation of the traditional campus, helped to collaborate and share resources with SIIT, and helped form a partnership with Tutor learner connection to bring about a peer mentor program in Prince Albert, Saskatoon, and Regina. Grace also oversees Elder services for all three campuses.

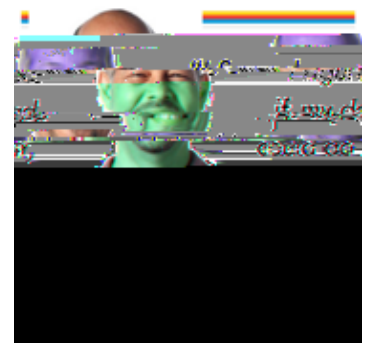
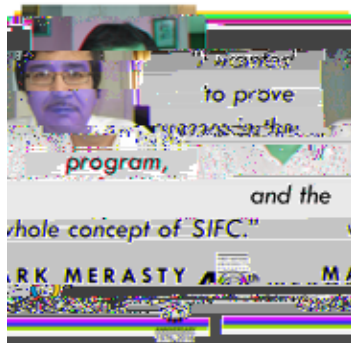
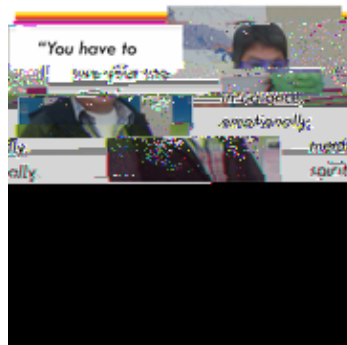
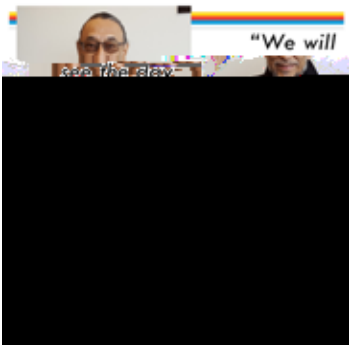


Grace and her entire team in Regina, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert are instrumental in helping our students excel in their academic work.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Greetings from former graduates poured in from every corner of the country and around the world. They sent their well wishes, shared stories of their university days, and also thanked the university for helping them find success and balance in their lives.

To read all of those stories go to: www.fnuniv40.com



FINANCIALS

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

CHAIR'S MESSAGE:

David Sharpe

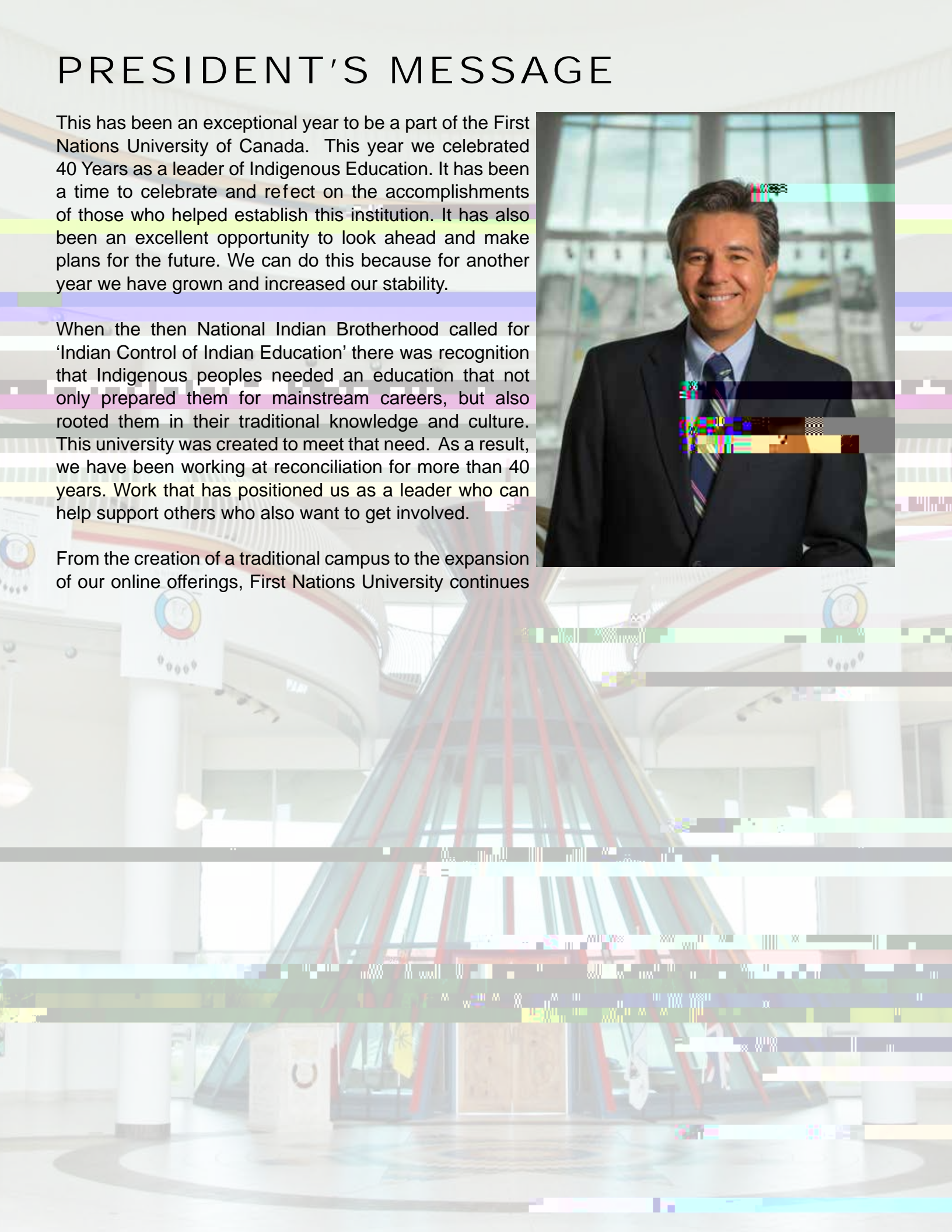
I want to start by thanking you all for the opportunity to be your chair as we marked 40 years of Indigenous Education. My time as chair has been one of growth both for the institution and myself. I have learned so much, and will continue to support and celebrate your success and continued growth. This university is, and will continue to be, a leader in Indigenous Education. This is due in large part to the commitment Elders, students, and staff have made to preserving Indigenous cultures, languages, and knowledge. The result is generations of Indigenous leaders who not only receive an excellent academic education but are grounded in their traditions and culture.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This has been an exceptional year to be a part of the First Nations University of Canada. This year we celebrated 40 Years as a leader of Indigenous Education. It has been a time to celebrate and reflect on the accomplishments of those who helped establish this institution. It has also been an excellent opportunity to look ahead and make plans for the future. We can do this because for another year we have grown and increased our stability.

When the then National Indian Brotherhood called for 'Indian Control of Indian Education' there was recognition that Indigenous peoples needed an education that not only prepared them for mainstream careers, but also rooted them in their traditional knowledge and culture. This university was created to meet that need. As a result, we have been working at reconciliation for more than 40 years. Work that has positioned us as a leader who can help support others who also want to get involved.

From the creation of a traditional campus to the expansion of our online offerings, First Nations University continues



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
Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development

Government of Saskatchewan through the
Ministry of Advanced Education

University of Regina

PRINCE ALBERT CAMPUS

1301 Central Ave.
Prince Albert, SK S6V 4W1
Tel: 306.765.3333 Ext: 7000

SASKATOON CAMPUS

#306 229 4th Avenue S
Saskatoon, SK S7K 4K3
Tel: 306.931.1800

REGINA CAMPUS

1 First Nations Way
Regina, SK S4S 7K2
Tel: 306-790-5950