

## Welcome to Guidance Counsellors

September 2015

U of R

FNUniv is founded on the teachings and traditions of our Elders whose vision and mission it was to enhance the quality of life, and to preserve, protect and interpret the history, language, culture and artistic heritage of First Nations Peoples. The connectivity to the land and the people were one and the same with our Elders who dreamed of this institution.

FNUniv provides educational opportunities to both First Nations and non-First Nations university students in an environment that supports First Nations cultures, languages, and values. FNUniv students can participate in and learn through ceremony with Elders as well as through classroom based experience.

We have many programs that can be viewed in our program catalogue which can be seen at our table out there. One area of unique programming is our Environmental Health and Science program which is a 120 credit program which leads to a Bachelor of Applied Science emphasizes FN traditions and culture while providing students with the opportunity to acquire the necessary leadership skills and knowledge needed to address the problems in the areas of environmental health and science.

A certificate in Indigenous Health Practice was developed by FNUniv in collaboration with the Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies at the U of R. designed to prepare and qualify those in the various health related programs to practice effectively in health settings with Indigenous populations.

The Bachelor of Arts in Resource and Environmental Studies is a joint program with Saskpolytechnic and FNUniv. Students must complete 60 credit hours at SIAST in the Resource and Environmental Law Diploma at SIAST before transferring over.

Our department of Indigenous languages, arts and cultures houses an Indian Communication Arts program, BA in Cree, Saulteaux, Indigenous Studies

Our newest program is the Masters in Indigenous Social Work

Most unique to FNUniv is the indigenous focus in our curriculum and programs

Another unique aspect is the smaller classes with better student faculty ratios; greater access to faculty and supports. Our lower volume of students enables us to better track those that might run into difficulties.

We are working hard at retention and one way in which this is being addressed is our Success Transition and Retention (STAR) program which truly places students first. We have an intake at fall and winter semesters. This fall, we have an intake of 60 students.

The benefits of STAR are smaller cohorts who are in a similar experience in their first year. The group is registered for at least three of the same classes. The one constant is contact with faculty and the STAR coordinator throughout the semester, which is key to identifying those students who may be struggling or not reaching their full potential.

Our Student Success Services team genuinely cares about the comfort and success of our students. We coordinate supports which range from psychologist services, writing supports staff, tutors, seminars, guidance to accessibility services and of course in collaboration with the many U of R services to which our students are privy.

We have more and more online learning, blended learning which provide more options for those that have different learning styles

We have experienced growth in enrolment and expansion of our community-based programs last year and programming continues to expand, while enrolment continues to increase. In addition, FNUniv has welcomed up to 4,000 students from our federated partner, the U of R as well as Campion and Luther College for classes.

The students, faculty and staff come from many backgrounds to support the vision of the university and that is to provide an opportunity for students of all nations to learn in an environment of First Nations cultures and values. It is our hope that you will consider our place of growth and learning.