

2025 - 2026 Annual Report

Take a look at what the Community Engagement & Research Centre accomplished this year!



University
of Regina

Faculty
of Arts



CERC Mission

The mission of the Community Engagement and Research Centre is to enable the Faculty of Arts to serve as a source for community groups, formal and informal, and to be enriched in turn by our relationships with those communities. Through this engagement, the Faculty of Arts and the University of Regina enhances their capacity to produce high quality and relevant knowledge, and in turn increases their ability to serve the wider community and province.

CERC Mandate

The Community Engagement and Research Centre will function collaboratively as a partnership between community groups and university faculty and students. Our mandate is to provide independent, participatory research support in response to needs expressed by communities with a view toward building capacity and enhancing our quality of life.

A Year in Review - Annual Report

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ACADEMIC DIRECTOR'S

MESSAGE

Dear CERC Community:

The 2025-26 academic year has been a very energizing and exciting one for us at CERC! This year, we reintroduced the popular Community-Engaged Research Grants opportunity to support community-campus partnered research, announced the new CERC Research Fellows program for Arts faculty, and continued to grow the Arts Work Experience Internship (AWEI) for undergraduate students. I would like to sincerely thank the Faculty of Arts for its ongoing support of CERC—without this support, none of the activities in this report would have been possible.

A total of 46 students completed Arts internships this year. We are grateful to all AWEI host organizations for providing engaging and meaningful learning experiences for the students! If you represent a community organization or campus-based research lab and would like to host an intern for an upcoming semester, please get in touch with CERC. Students are also encouraged to contact us for opportunities to do meaningful projects in the community while earning course credit.

CERC has now officially launched the CERC Research Fellows Program. Through this program, Faculty of Arts researchers are invited to formalize their affiliation with the Centre by becoming a Fellow. There are many benefits to participating in this program. Fellows will receive support with grant applications, relationship-building, student training, project administration, and knowledge mobilization. Fellows may also include CERC as a partner organization on their grant applications to receive dedicated in-kind support. In turn, CERC Fellows participate in the governance of our Centre and support CERC efforts. You can learn more about the program [here](#). To participate or ask questions, please contact Community.Engagement@uregina.ca.

If you are looking for seed funding to start a community-engaged research project, remember that our grants program is back! Community-Engaged Research (CER) Grants provide funding up to \$5000 to support partnered research projects involving at least one Faculty of Arts researcher and one community organization. To apply, please use [this form](#).

ACADEMIC DIRECTOR'S

MESSAGE

CERC hosted several special events this year. On November 6, 2025, we supported the annual Stapleford Lecture, which featured Professor Carmen Robertson (Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in North American Indigenous Visual and Material Culture at Carleton University) with a lecture entitled “Picturing Land: Indigenous Aesthetics on the Flatland”. On March 12, 2026, we hosted the Woodrow Lloyd lecture featuring Professor Timothy Caulfield from the University of Alberta on “The Knowledge Crisis: How Did We Get Here and What Can We Do?”. As shown in the pictures attached, both events attracted large and engaged audiences.

On May 1, 2026, CERC was proud to co-host and sponsor the Reimagining Nonprofits conference led by the Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Studies Network (NVSSN) at Luther College. CERC organized a panel entitled, “And Then What? Community-Engaged Research in Practice”, featuring two of our successful past projects. The sold-out conference brought together representatives of nonprofit organizations and their collaborators to imagine new directions for the sector. A keynote presentation by Vu Le from Nonprofit AF kept us laughing even through some challenging topics.

On May 28, 2026, CERC convened a virtual community-campus “Meet and Greet” event over the lunch hour. The meeting brought researchers and students from campus together with community organizations to discuss issues of shared interest. We look forward to supporting several new research relationships that emerged during the event.

You will see some new faces at CERC over the coming year. It has been a true pleasure to work with Emily Lints, who very capably covered the role of Community Coordinator during Michelle LeMoal’s parental leave. With Emily’s creativity and efficiency, the CERC office was in very good hands. Thank you, Emily!

My own (second) term also ends on June 30. The past six years, which included the pandemic period, were a time of significant challenge and change for CERC. We have now built a strong foundation for a renewed and revived Centre. I will continue to support CERC, and I look forward to seeing where it will go next.

Amber Fletcher
CERC Academic Director

Picturing Land: Indigenous Aesthetics on the Flatland

Guest lecturer and Professor Dr. Carmen Robertson, Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in North American Indigenous Visual and Material Culture at Carleton University, presented the annual Stapleford Lecture on November 6th, 2025. Dr. Robertson spoke on the topic *Picturing Land: Indigenous Aesthetics on the Flatland*, revisiting the intertwined Indigenous art histories of Saskatchewan through a stories lens.

The Faculty of Arts annual Stapleford Lecture is funded through the generosity of the Ernest William Stapleford and Maude Bunting Stapleford Lecture Fund. This endowed trust was established by the late Elsie Stapleford, in memory of her parents.



The Knowledge Crisis: How Did We Get Here and What Can We Do?

2026 Woodrow Lloyd Lecture

Guest lecturer Timothy Caulfield, Professor in the Faculty of Law and School of Public Health and Research Director of the Health Law Institute at the University of Alberta, presented the Woodrow Lloyd Lecture on March 12th, 2026 on the topic *The Knowledge Crisis: How Did We Get Here and What Can We Do?*

Professor Caulfield explored what the most recent evidence tells us about the nature and source of the current infodemic and provided science-informed recommendations to cut through the noise and forge a constructive path forward.

The Woodrow Lloyd lecture is presented each Winter by the Faculty of Arts and funded by the generosity of the Woodrow Lloyd Trust Fund. Each lecture features a nationally or internationally recognized scholar, writer, thinker, and/or activist, who speaks on issues of direct relevance to Saskatchewan.



➤ Reimagining Non-Profits



CERC was once again proud to sponsor and sit on the Planning Committee for the Reimagining Non-Profits Conference, a capacity building conference presented by the Non-Profit & Voluntary Sector Studies Network at Luther College in partnership with Ivy and Dean Consulting and the Saskatchewan Non-Profit Partnership.

Reimagining Non-Profits is a two-day capacity building conference for non-profit professionals, volunteers, and students across Saskatchewan. The purpose of this conference is to bring folks together for collaborative training and networking opportunities that will encourage growth, change, and new perspectives in the non-profit sector. The 2026 conference theme was: One Sector, Many Voices: Cross-Sector Collaboration for Systems Change.

The keynote speaker, Vu Le (pictured top), voiced the frustrations and opportunities of the non-profit sector to create collective change through funny, yet deeply resonant insights. Vu is the creator of Nonprofit AF, the beloved blog that has celebrated the people doing the work, and inspired thousands of nonprofit and philanthropic professionals around the world.

CERC hosted a panel session (pictured bottom right) called “And Then What? Community-Engaged Research in Practice” with former CER Grant recipients: Dr. Emily Grafton, Beverly Cardinal, Nicholas Antonini, Brenda Edel, and Terri Sleeva. We had a wonderful conversation about the impact of community-engaged research and how organizations can use data and consultations to further their mission and create change in their communities.

COMMUNITY-CAMPUS MEET AND GREET

CERC hosted a virtual Community-Campus Meet and Greet event on May 28th, 2026 to bring together community members and researchers to discuss shared values and interests around themes such as arts and culture, social equity, health and wellbeing, and more. We had 11 attendees from across sectors attend to share their research focus or a need that their organization has. We hope to be able to grow these connection events to continue conversations and partnerships. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us!



COMMUNITY-ENGAGED RESEARCH GRANTS



APPLICATIONS OPEN!

More info!



The Community Engagement and Research Centre (CERC) provides **independent, participatory research support** in response to needs expressed by communities with a view toward building capacity and enhancing our quality of life. Community-Engaged Research Grants (CER grants) are funded by the Faculty of Arts Dean's office. CER grants are intended to **support small-scale and/or early-stage research projects or knowledge mobilization initiatives** undertaken by Faculty of Arts members in partnership with a non-profit organization, community group, or local government. The program is administered by CERC as part of our mandate to enhance community-campus collaborations.



CERC Research

NEW!

Fellows Program

Tenure-track and tenured faculty members in the Faculty of Arts are invited to join the new **CERC Research Fellows Program**. This new program is part of a broader initiative to reenergize our community-engagement efforts and re-envision what CERC can be!



As we consider CERC's future, we envision an active, engaged **community of researchers** who do community-based, community-driven research with an aim to **empowering community partners** to meet their goals and to develop research, analytical, and advocacy capacity within their organizations. At the same time, the resulting research will **exemplify high-quality social science and humanities research** that can contribute to the career advancement of the researchers involved.

Some of the **many benefits** of being a CERC fellow include:

- **Assistance** connecting and developing meaningful relationships with community partners for funding proposals
- **Support for students** and/or Research Assistants through a collaborative "research lab" environment with access to training opportunities, workshops, and mentorship
- **Promotion and branding** of CERC-affiliated research via our network and website
- **Engaging students** through experiential learning activities that connect to your projects
- **Collaboration and peer-review** for grant applications and research projects with other researchers in the Faculty of Arts

More info!





Arts Work Experience Internship (AWEI)

Arts Work Experience Internships (AWEI) are a unique learning/working opportunity in which undergraduate students in the Faculty of Arts are matched with organizations that fit their career aspirations and studies. Students spend up to 8 hours per week for one semester working on a specific project and earn 3 credits towards their degree. AWEI student internships can help students develop practical skills to add to their resume and a professional network for their future career.

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Arts student interns were placed at the following organizations in 2024-2025 through the AWEI program where they worked up to 8 hours per week for 13 weeks and received 3 credit-hours toward their degree:

- ARC Research Lab
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Regina and Area
- Canadian Mental Health Association
- CaSPR Lab
- Child Evidence Lab
- Child Trauma Research Centre
- Data for Good
- Dr. John Archer Library & Archives
- Health Psychology Lab
- IAPMD
- Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan
- North Central Family Centre
- PSPNET
- Regina Cat Rescue
- Regina Early Learning Centre
- Regina Flying Club
- Regina Sexual Assault Centre
- Royal Saskatchewan Museum
- RPIRG
- Saskatchewan Association of International Languages
- Saskatchewan Community Foundation
- University of Regina Press
- Youth Climate Lab

2025-2026 ARTS WORK EXPERIENCE INTERNSHIP

STUDENT AND COMMUNITY IMPACT



Number of student interns who majored in:

| | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Anthropology | 1 |
| English | 2 |
| History | 4 |
| International Studies | 2 |
| Philosophy, Politics and Economics | 2 |
| Political Science | 2 |
| Psychology | 32 |
| Sociology | 1 |

Participating Organizations

AWEI STUDENT EXPERIENCES - Winter 2026

Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan

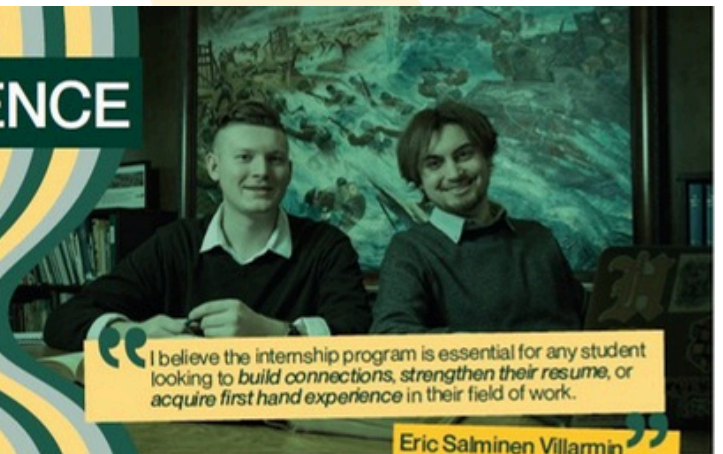


- **STUDENT NAME:** Shantelle Loke, Psychology Major
- **RESPONSIBILITIES:** During my internship at the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan I worked on the Exploring Race and Racism in Canada: Scaffolded Anti-Racism Resources manual. My primary responsibility was to collect resources which provided insight into the discrimination of Black, Indigenous, Asian, and Jewish peoples since the beginning of Canada. The final product of this manual will be distributed to workplaces to aid in the education of employees. I also shortly worked on the development of an app for companies to track their diversity, safety and, overall inclusion of employees in the workplace. Finally, I was able to attend a virtual conference on the presentation of the program We Are READI for the Rise Against Racism campaign.
- **IMPACT:** This opportunity was a valuable professional experience by being able to help a non-profit organization in their work on education of racism in Canada. Not only this but I was able to continually educate myself and obtain the ability to recognize my own privilege. I now have a newfound education and appreciation on the work that goes into a non-profit sector, as well as the opportunity to work with my community for a social justice issue I am very passionate about. Overall, this organization would be an incredible opportunity for any student to work for, and to be able to meet others who have the same passion as they do.

ARTS WORK EXPERIENCE

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

- **Work** up to 8 hours per week on a designated project for 13 weeks
- **Receive** 3 credit hours towards your degree
- **Gain** practical work experience, networking contacts, and references with which to build your resume
- Develop *practical skills* to add to your resume
- Develop your *professional network*
- Clarify your long term *career goals*



I believe the internship program is essential for any student looking to *build connections, strengthen their resume, or acquire first hand experience* in their field of work.

Eric Salminen Villamin
Arts Intern at U of R Archives

Image by University of Regina

Scan to
learn more!



Faculty
of Arts



AWEI STUDENT EXPERIENCES - FALL 2025

South Saskatchewan Community Foundation



- **STUDENT NAME:** Aobha Mac Loone, Politics, Philosophy, & Economics Major
- **RESPONSIBILITIES:** During my internship with the South Saskatchewan Community Foundation, I worked on a project that looked to analyze recent changes to costs of living and access to essential services within our community. My main responsibilities were researching and comparing data on the areas that see the greatest impacts from rising costs, such as food, transportation, childcare, and housing. Based on my findings, I then produced a report with recommendations for potential policies or programs. I also gathered testimonials from local non-profit leaders to highlight the most pressing challenges that communities are facing, and how these challenges can be better addressed.
- **IMPACT:** This internship was a valuable professional and academic experience that allowed me to apply my PPE studies to real-world issues. I now have a deeper understanding of the non-profit sector and the kinds of work that they do, as well as a greater interest in pursuing public policy and community-focused work as a potential career. I gained confidence working in a professional setting, improved my research skills, and pushed myself out of my comfort zone. Overall, my internship was both rewarding and impactful, as I learned a lot about the needs of my community while also gaining professional skills that will be valuable to me in future jobs.

Regina & Area Sexual Assault Centre (RSAC)



- **STUDENT NAME:** Lainey Speidelsbach, Psychology Major
- **RESPONSIBILITIES:** I worked with software like Canva & Google Drive, where I collaborated with the office manager, on projects for RSAC's major 50th anniversary event. Much of my work during this portion of the internship was creativity-based, as I created numerous graphics and visual materials. I also helped operate the event's 70s-themed photobooth, which was a fun and engaging experience. In addition, I researched donation patterns for their annual FundHEALING campaign and assisted with general tasks during downtime, such as watering plants and answering the door. Lastly, I participated in RSAC's Supporting Survivors of Sexualized Violence training, which provided me with the confidence and skills needed to appropriately respond to the crisis line.
- **IMPACT:** My internship with RSAC closely aligned with my academic goals in psychology and allowed me to contribute meaningfully to a community that is heavily under supported. Through completing volunteer training modules and engaging with the staff, I developed a deeper understanding of sexualized violence, crisis response, and trauma-informed care, which strengthened both my academic perspective and personal perceptions. While I was not in a clinical role, being involved in this environment reinforced my desire to pursue clinical psychology. In turn, I supported RSAC's mission by contributing creative work and day-to-day operational help that allowed staff to focus on direct service delivery. Overall, this experience shaped how I understand stigma reduction and my future role in mental health work.

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