

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

& RESEARCH CENTRE

JANUARY 2026

Mission

The mission of the Community Engagement and Research Centre is to enable the Faculty of Arts to serve as a resource 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 its capacity to produce high quality and relevant knowledge, and in turn increases its ability to serve the wider community and province.

Contents

- Message from our Academic Director
- Community-Engaged Research Grants are back!
- NEW Research Fellows Program
- 2025 Stapleford Lecture, *Picturing Land: Indigenous Aesthetics on the Flatland*
- AWEI Student Experiences
- Upcoming Events
 - Woodrow Lloyd Lecture
 - Reimagining Non-Profits



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& RESEARCH CENTRE



University
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Regina

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of Arts

CERC MESSAGE BOARD



Dear CERC Community:

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Community Engagement and Research Centre! The past year has been busy and exciting at CERC. In September 2025, we welcomed Emily Lints to our team as interim Community Coordinator. Emily is doing a wonderful job of leading CERC operations during Michelle LeMoal's parental leave. Emily brings extensive experience in community-campus engagement, including the development of experiential learning opportunities for students. Under her leadership of the Arts Work Experience Internship (AWEI) program, 15 undergraduate students successfully completed internships in the fall semester, and another 13 are enrolled in the current semester.

The **AWEI program** is an opportunity for students to connect with community or researcher partners and collaborate on shared projects for a full semester. There is no cost for partners to host an intern. AWEI interns receive a full course credit in exchange for 8 hours of work per week with their partner organization. Two types of internships are available:

- Community Internships: Internships with nonprofit or community-based organizations outside the University of Regina.
- Research Internships: Internships with research laboratories or research groups inside the Faculty of Arts.

AWEI community partners represent a diverse array of sectors, including publishing, museums and archives, social services, social and environmental justice, and more. If you represent a nonprofit or grassroots community group and are interested in hosting an intern, please contact us. We are also hoping to diversify the range of research internship opportunities we offer across the social sciences and humanities. If you are a researcher interested in hosting an intern on a research project, please get in touch. You do not need a physical laboratory space to participate. (cont.)

CERC MESSAGE BOARD



CERC continues to offer supports for both community organizations and community-engaged researchers in the Faculty of Arts. We frequently receive requests from community organizations wishing to partner on research projects, and we do our best to connect those organizations with researchers whose interests align. If you are a researcher seeking new community partnerships, please contact us. And, if you are a community organization with research interests or questions, we are here to help.

CERC offers grants of up to \$5000 through our **Community Engaged Research Grants** program. Grants are designed to support community-campus partnered projects. More information about the grant program can be found in this newsletter. We look forward to receiving your application!

Another exciting development is our new **CERC Research Fellows Program**—a mutually beneficial partnership designed to support community-engaged research in our Faculty. CERC Research Fellows are faculty members who become affiliates of CERC. They receive support with their grant applications, relationship-building, student training, project administration, and knowledge mobilization. CERC Research 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. To learn more, or to become a Fellow, please see the information in this newsletter.

We look forward to collaborating with all community-engaged researchers in Arts over the coming months!

Amber Fletcher
CERC Academic Director



CER Grants



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.

The **objectives** of the CER grants program are to:

- Build meaningful and reciprocal partnerships between community and campus-based researchers.
- Support ongoing community-driven research collaborations between community organizations and Faculty of Arts researchers.
- Enhance the value and uptake of social sciences and humanities research in the broader community through partnered KM outputs and activities.

**Applications
open!**

Interested in discussing a potential research project?
Contact Emily Lints at community.engagement@uregina.ca



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



Picturing Land: Indigenous Aesthetics on the Flatland

2025 STAPLEFORD LECTURE

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.



AWEI STUDENT EXPERIENCES - SUMMER 2025

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.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Regina and Area



Big Brothers
Big Sisters
OF REGINA AND AREA

- **STUDENT NAME:** Adelynn Metzler, Psychology Major
- **RESPONSIBILITIES:** During my time with Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) I had the opportunity to immerse myself in the Regina community. I am not from Regina, but this experience allowed me to connect and grow, not only with the BBBS crew, but with their many connections to others in the community. Non-profit organizations like BBBS depend on relationship with their community so they can better serve them. Throughout my internship, I was able to continue this community relationship by participating in fundraiser events like MEGABike, an event that involves community businesses to ride through downtown Regina on a 30-seater bike and raise funds and awareness for BBBS. Fundraisers like MEGABike allow BBBS to put on free week-long events like C.A.M.P, which is offered for youth between grades 5-8 and runs activities to encourage independence and confidence. I had the opportunity to partake in C.A.M.P. during my internship, and it opened my eyes to the ways in which BBBS pours into their community.
- **IMPACT:** Before my internship, I had an unclear idea as to career goals I wanted to pursue with my degree. I have now tailored my degree to focus on helping youth facing adversity and I am pursuing a Forensic Psychology Certificate alongside my degree. To any student who is unsure of their career goals, I would absolutely recommend partaking in an internship placement. Thanks to this experience, I now recognize the importance of community involvement, and I have a focused direction in both my educational and career goals moving ahead.

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



Image by University of Regina

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 Villarmin
Arts Intern at U of R Archives

Scan to learn more!



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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.

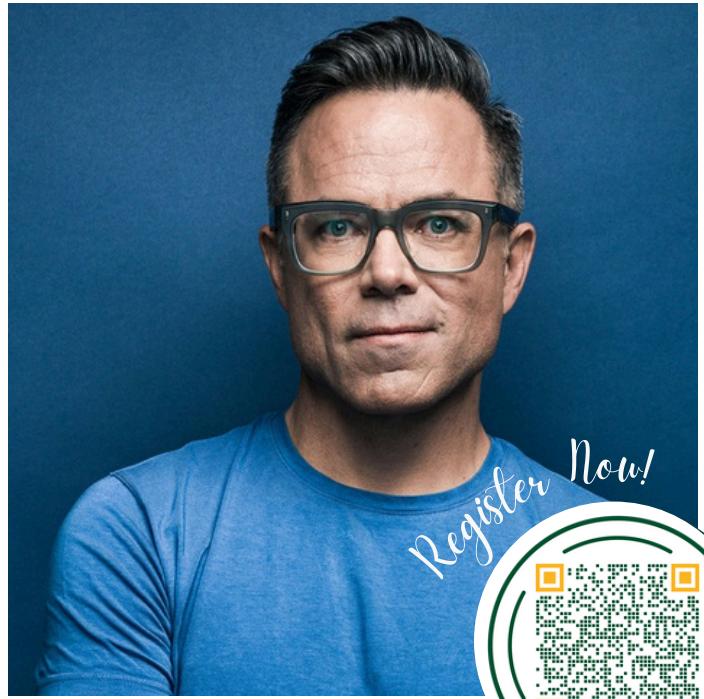
UPCOMING EVENTS

2026 Woodrow Lloyd Lecture

March 12th, 2026 7:00PM - 9:00PM
Education Auditorium, U of R Main Campus

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

The University of Regina's Faculty of Arts invites the public to attend the 2026 Woodrow Lloyd Lecture, with guest lecturer Tim 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.



Reimagining Non-Profits Conference

May 1st & 2nd, 2026
Luther College, University of Regina

One Sector, Many Voices: Cross-Sector Collaboration for Systems Change

Join us for the 3rd annual Reimagining Non-Profits Conference! This year's conference celebrates collaboration that tackles complex, cross-sector challenges and drives long-term, systems-focused impact.

CONTACT US

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Scan to learn more!

