Dean’s Message

The University of Regina and the Faculty of Business Administration are dedicated to helping aboriginal students achieve success! Here are just a few of the many success stories from our aboriginal students who have pursued the Bachelor of Business Administration degree in the Paul J. Hill School of Business at the University of Regina.

Aboriginal Success Stories

Treena Amyotte is from the Muscowpetung First Nation. She has been employed with Sask Gaming for almost eight years, and is currently the Manager of Community Giving. According to Treena, “My final co-op work term with Sask Gaming as a Marketing Coordinator landed me a full-time permanent job and helped me to realize that I really enjoyed marketing.” Treena also credits the University of Regina with introducing her to international experiences. She says, “My studies took me to China to conduct first hand research for Hypor Canada through a partnership with the U of R Faculty of Business Administration – an opportunity I likely would not have had elsewhere.” Treena serves as a volunteer member of the RCMP Heritage Centre’s National Board of Directors and is a member of the annual Stepping Stones Career Fair organizing committee. According to Treena, “My experience attending the U of R was invaluable.”

Jason Bird graduated from the Faculty of Business Administration in 2003 with a major in Marketing. According to Jason, “The degree really set me up to achieve many of the career goals I had laid down for myself.” Jason started working with University of Regina as a Recruiter in 2005, then moved into Career Services for two years, and is now an advisor in the Faculty of Arts. Jason notes that, “The business degree allowed me the flexibility to move quite seamlessly from one aspect of business to another, and to be a huge contributor wherever I went.” Jason’s education also enabled him to achieve some personal goals over the past 10 years. According to Jason, “I developed a savings plan and retirement portfolio for my future. I own a house, a new vehicle, and have built excellent credit. All of these things became realities after I used my degree to pursue employment avenues to reach the things I used to think were inaccessible.”

Aaron Boadway was born and raised in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, and is a member of the Whitecap Dakota First Nation. He didn’t know what was in store for him when he took his first university class in the Fall of 2002: “I tried a couple of courses and discovered that I could do university. In fact, I discovered I could excel at university.” Boadway soon transferred into the Faculty of Business Administration and convocated with Distinction in Fall 2008, obtaining a full-time position in the Registrar’s Office at the University of Regina. Boadway’s advice for other Aboriginal students is to “dedicate yourself to your studies and get as much as you can from your university experience. Make a lot of friends, choose courses that interest you, keep your eyes open for opportunities, and become a role model for others.”
Melanie Cote is from the Cote First Nation, and successfully completed her Bachelor of Business Administration degree with a major in Human Resource Management in 2006. Melanie participated in the Aboriginal Co-op and summer programs offered by the University of Regina, trying out a variety of job opportunities. Currently employed with SaskTel as a Human Resource Assistant, she provides training and development in several areas. Melanie is a member of the Regina Aboriginal Professionals Association, and she has recently joined the Aboriginal Government Employees Network. With a 13-year old daughter and a 9-year old son, Melanie is an active volunteer, sitting on a school parent council committee, participating in a 24 hour relay fundraiser for children with disabilities, and volunteering at National Aboriginal Day events. According to Melanie, “The U of R provided me with the educational advancement to get to where I am today.”

Amanda Amyotte is a graduate of the Business Administration program. According to Amanda, “I look back on my university career as the best 5 years of my life!” Amanda points out that, “The U of R’s Faculty of Business Administration’s small community allows the students to get to know their professors, staff, and fellow students in a manner that isn’t always possible in large universities. The mentoring relationships I formed with many of my professors had a significant hand in the successes I experienced at the U of R, and continue to experience as an Accounting professional.” Today, Amanda is a Certified Management Accountant and has just celebrated her 5-year anniversary as a Financial Accountant with Nexen Inc., a company well known as one of Canada’s Top 100 Best Employers. According to Amanda, “I am actively involved in Nexen’s Aboriginal Partnerships’ events and initiatives. My successes are a direct result of the opportunities and mentors I had as a student at the U of R.”

Aubrie Boyer will soon be graduating from the Paul J. Hill School of Business with a major in Human Resource Management. During her four years of study, she has been able to take classes at First Nations University of Canada, which has made her conscious of her distant Lakota ancestry. Aubrie has also taken advantage of study abroad programs, spending a semester at the University of Texas at San Antonio and in Australia at the University of Technology, Sydney, which has broadened her view of the world. Aubrie is applying what she has learned in her business classes to help create affordable housing in Regina’s core area, North Central, and downtown business district.