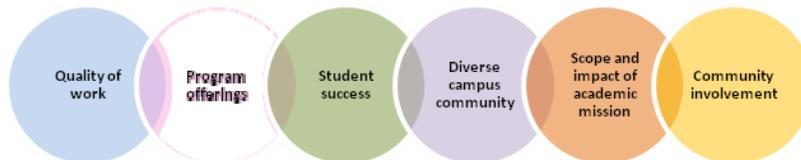


## President's Report to the Board

For the period from February 28-April 24, 2013

*Submitted to the Board of Governors*

*Submitted by Vianne Timmons, President and Vice-Chancellor*



This report summarizes my progress to date on the six key areas of priority related to the Strategic Plan which the Board and I have identified for 2012-2013. It also includes an update on my own academic research program, as well as an overview of University highlights since the beginning of this reporting period.

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### **OUR WORK: Teaching, Research and Public Service**

**Objective: make the University widely known for its quality of work by promoting and rewarding the pursuit of excellence in teaching, research, public service and administration**

Demonstrating the University's value to its stakeholders through the quality of our work and the efficiency of our operations has remained a key objective. Since my last report, a considerable amount of progress has been made in this respect:

- ✓ A proposed 2013-14 budget has been developed and included in the Board package for consideration. If approved, this will mark the University's 19th consecutive balanced budget.
- ✓ It is of note that one aspect of the proposed budget is a recommendation for additional support for teaching awards – a way to recognize and promote the work of our faculty members.
- ✓ The University of Regina is currently leading several provincial initiatives to increase collaboration and shared services between our University, the University of Saskatchewan and SIAST, including academic programming in low-enrolment areas, as well as library services.
- ✓ The Print Optimization project is still on track to deliver \$1.4 million in savings over five years. With the number of print devices on campus now reduced to 706 since the beginning of the project, we have seen an 8%

reduction in print-related electricity consumption per year and a 26% reduction in associated greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, annual print costs have been reduced by 30%, and the amount of annual printing reduced by 38%.

- ✓ The University has partnered with peerTransfer, a web-based service that enables students anywhere in the world to convert their currency to Canadian dollars and send it by wire transfer. This will simplify fee payment for international students, and reduce the amount of administrative work required on the part of the University to process these payments.
- ✓ The University recently learned that it will be receiving an award from RCE Saskatchewan for its development of alternative transportation initiatives, including carpooling and bike rental programs as well as promotion of public transit.
- ✓ For the first time in the institution's history, the University was honoured with a Regina & District Chamber of Commerce Paragon Award in the category of Environmental Excellence. The award recognized the University's ongoing commitment to energy efficiency, sustainability and environmental responsibility in all of its operations.
- ✓ The University is completing the search for leadership positions that are crucial to the development and promotion of our teaching and research programs. The search for Dean of Engineering and Applied Science, for example, successfully concluded with the appointment of Dr. Esam Hussein, formerly of the University of New Brunswick. Dr. Hussein has a strong history of faculty leadership, as well a distinguished research career as nuclear engineer.
- ✓ In addition, searches for Executive Director of Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy and the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research are on track, with announcements expected shortly. Dr. James McNinch has accepted an extension of his term as Dean of Education until June 30, 2014.



**Objective: align our array of program offerings to respond to the needs and interests of current and prospective students**

With four consecutive years of growing enrolments, it is increasingly important to ensure that our academic programs meet and when possible anticipate the needs of our students. Work in this area has continued on a number of fronts:

- ✓ The draft 2013-14 budget presented for the Board's consideration proposes additional teaching and student-support resources to areas of high demand.
- ✓ A new fully online Master's degree in Health Administration (MHA) is set to launch this fall in the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy.
- ✓ Substantial revisions being proposed for the Master of Business Administration include a new collaborative stream with the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science.
- ✓ A new Master of Nursing program for nurse practitioners (MN-NP) in collaboration with SIAST has been approved by Executive of Council. Pending Senate approval, it will launch in Fall 2014.
- ✓ Substantial progress has been made toward developing a new Master's degree in journalism (MJ) to replace an undergraduate stream.
- ✓ The Strategic Plan on Teaching and Learning was approved at Executive of Council.
- ✓ The President's Task Force on the Institut français, chaired by Dr. Judith Woodsworth and comprised of University of Regina officials as well as key francophone community representatives, has provided preliminary recommendations. They are currently being assessed and will be responded to in late May.
- ✓ The fact that current enrolments as well as preliminary admissions for the next academic year are up indicate that we are moving in the right direction. For example:
  - Winter 2013 enrolments were up 2.8% overall compared to last year;
  - The number of credit hours taught in Winter 2013 was up 4% compared to last year;
  - Spring/Summer 2013 international enrolments are up 5%, and online and televised enrolments are up 8%; and
  - Undergraduate applications for Fall 2013 are up 19% overall, and admissions are up 75% compared to the same time last year. These are preliminary numbers and in part reflect admission process enhancements that have taken place, but they are nonetheless encouraging.

## **OUR PEOPLE: Engagement, Diversity, Success, Esteem**



**Objective: expand early-awareness and transitional programming for new students to help ensure their success**

Enhancing transitional programming and academic support for students remained a key objective for this reporting period. Progress has included:

- ✓ The construction of the new residence and day care facility on campus was announced on April 11. This facility will meet several key needs for our students: providing much-needed affordable housing; providing additional child care spaces for students; and allowing more students than ever before to live on campus, which is important in terms of their transition to university, engagement with their studies, and retention in their academic programs.
- ✓ The Registrar's Office continued its work on the Timetable Renewal project, which will enhance the way in which the University's master timetable is created, improve access to required courses, and allow both entering and existing students to better plan their programs of study. The project is at the stage where a simulated Fall 2013 timetable will be created for faculties to review, compare to the actual timetable, and provide feedback that will inform the development of the Fall 2014 timetable.



**Objective: continue to develop a diverse campus community**

Increasing and supporting diversity amongst our faculty, staff and students remained a focus, with a number of items to report:

- ✓ April 4 was the grand opening of the expanded Aboriginal Student Centre space. Close to 200 people were present for the opening – a strong indication of the role the centre plays on campus for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students alike.
- ✓ The “Honouring Our Future” bursary for Aboriginal students was created – an annual entrance award of \$1,000 for one student from each of Saskatchewan's 74 First Nations.

- ✓ The number of self-declared Aboriginal undergraduate students on campus has grown by 15.3% over the past year. Aboriginal students now represent 10.9% of the undergraduate total.
- ✓ International students now represent 11.7% of the overall student population.
- ✓ Planning continues for the May 23-24 Dr. Lloyd Barber Summit on Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education. Keynote speakers include Chief Sean Atleo, Chief Perry Bellegarde and Dr. Lloyd Axworthy. This Summit will be an important means of planning for ways of increasing Aboriginal post-secondary participation rates in the years to come.
- ✓ It is of note that since January 2013, the percentage of Aboriginal employees at the University has risen from 2.8% to 2.9%. In addition, 55.3% of employees are women, 2.1% are persons with a disability, and 7.3% are members of a visible minority group.

## **OUR COMMUNITIES: Presence and Partnerships**



**Objective: increase the scope and impact of the University's teaching, research and service to community**

Increasing the scope and impact of our work within the province and beyond has remained a key focus through this reporting period, with a number of successes:

- ✓ Two of the University of Regina's Canada Research Chairs were renewed:
  - Dr. Christine Chan in Energy and Environmental Informatics, for seven years; and
  - Dr. Christopher Yost in Microbes, the Environment and Food Safety, for five years.
- ✓ Dean Gregory of the Faculty of Nursing, with a team of colleagues from Manitoba, secured a major CIHR grant of \$2.5 million for research into health issues, with a particular focus on Aboriginal health.
- ✓ Dr. David Malloy, Associate Vice-President (Research) was a driving force behind the Humanities and Social Sciences Summit hosted by the University of Regina's Humanities Research Institute on April 17. Eleven universities were represented at the Summit, which featured Dr. Chad Gaffield, the President of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Because of the success of this year's event, participants have asked the University of Regina to host a follow-up event next year.

- ✓ The annual public Dr. Barbara Powell Memorial Lecture served as the keynote event for the Humanities Summit. Dr. Antonia Maioni, President of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, delivered the lecture.
- ✓ On March 14, author, educator and former journalist Shari Graydon was on campus to deliver a workshop and public lecture designed to help scholars share their expertise effectively with the public.
- ✓ Faculties continued to enrich and expand their community outreach via lectures and public seminars such as the Science Rendezvous, Talkin' Schools and Society and Science Pub series.



**Objective: promote community involvement in and support of the University**

It is always a priority to ensure that the campus community and the larger community remain engaged with our University and interested in its programs and operations. There are a number of items to report in this regard:

- ✓ On April 9 and 10, visits were paid with some of the deans to the northern communities of Pinehouse Lake, Cumberland House, and La Ronge. A number of productive meetings took place with community groups, educators, and students.
- ✓ Progress was made on the College Avenue campus renewal project, with donations of \$250,000 and \$50,000 received in recent weeks. Meetings were also held with several potential donors, and approximately \$16 million in proposals are currently under consideration. A campaign for increased public awareness of the campaign is in development.
- ✓ Regular meetings with government representatives continued, including the Executive team's quarterly meetings with the Ministry of Advanced Education, and the re-established Deputy Minister/University of Regina liaison committee.
- ✓ A number of the University's high-profile annual lectures took place over the last two months – the Minifie lecture with Wab Kinew, the Stapleford Lecture with Dr. Toni Samek, and the Forward Together lecture with Dr. Buffy Sainte-Marie. All were well-attended by the public.
- ✓ The University Council meeting of March 6 engaged a large number of faculty members, showing the interest in and passion they have for our campus. By the time of the Board meeting, another meeting of Council will have taken place.

- ✓ At the invitation of administrative staff, in late February I held a dialogue session about different issues at the University. This session was also very well attended.
- ✓ I continued my work on behalf of the University with IOHE, CBIE, and AUCC. As well, I participated in an AUCC panel on community-university engagement, and am preparing a keynote presentation on the same topic for a Community-University Expo in Newfoundland in June.

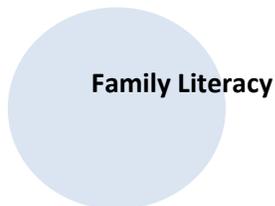
# REPORT ON THE PRESIDENT'S ACADEMIC RESEARCH



This report outlines developments in my academic research program since the last Board report.

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## FAMILY LITERACY



- ✓ Researchers at the University of New Brunswick expressed an interest in aspects of my family literacy research as they develop a program of their own. I provided them with material from my rural, Aboriginal, and English as an Additional Language family literacy projects to help them in their work.

## INCLUSIVE EDUCATION



- ✓ I completed a study of the history of the IASSIDD organization from the perspective of past presidents. This entailed designing an interview protocol, submitting a research ethics application, interviewing past presidents, and writing a paper. I will be presenting the work at a conference this summer.
- ✓ In addition, with my research team I developed and submitted a very detailed research ethics approval for “Voices of the Community,” a planned appreciative inquiry into best practices in inclusive education and employment in Saskatchewan. This project is part of the overarching SSHRC-CURA project of which I am Education Team Lead. Once ethics

approval is received, work will continue on this project throughout the summer.

## ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS



### Academic Publications

- ✓ The article I developed on the history of IASSIDD, entitled “IASSIDD: Are We Practising Knowledge Translation Effectively?”, was accepted by the *Journal of Policy and Practice in Intellectual Disabilities*. It is scheduled for publication this summer.
- ✓ Together with a colleague, I wrote the foreword to a book entitled *Health Promotion for People with Intellectual Disabilities*. The book will be in print later this year.

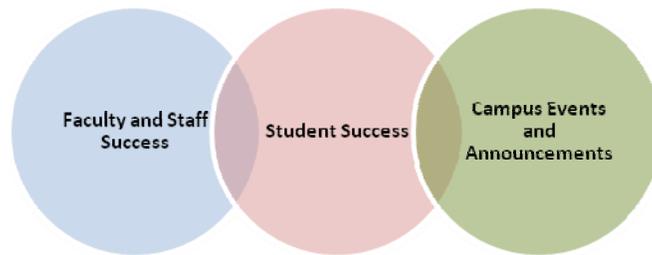
## ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS



### Academic Presentations

- ✓ Among my numerous speaking engagements over the past couple of months, I spoke to the ISM Women Leaders Group as well as those present at the Inspiring Leadership Conference, which provided an opportunity to discuss my inclusive education and family literacy research. As well, I have been invited to discuss my research career as the keynote speaker in early June at the Canadian Association of Educational Psychology’s annual conference.

## CELEBRATING OUR CAMPUS



This report highlights faculty, staff and student successes as well as some notable campus events since the last Board report.

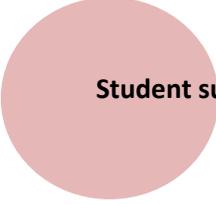
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### FACULTY AND STAFF SUCCESS



- ✓ The annual Long Service Recognition reception was held in late March to honour those who have devoted much – if not all – of their working careers to our University.
- ✓ The University of Regina women’s volleyball head coach, Melanie Sanford, has been appointed assistant technical chair for women and men’s indoor volleyball by the International University Sport Federation (FISU), which is the world’s second-largest multi-sport event next to the Olympic Games.
- ✓ I would like to thank Dr. Doyle Anderson for the work he did as President of FNUniv over the past year and a half, during which time the institution saw increased enrolments and financial stability.
- ✓ Angelique Saweczko, Director of Enrolment Services, has accepted the position of Registrar and AVP (Strategic Enrolment) at Thompson Rivers University. I would like to commend her for the work she has done over the past couple of years at the University of Regina.

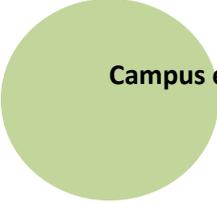
## STUDENT SUCCESS



### Student success

- ✓ The eighth annual student-organized Graduate and Undergraduate Student Research Conference took place on March 16. This event was an important way for our students to present their work to their peers and the larger community.
- ✓ Amber Fletcher – a doctoral student in the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy – received the Graduate Student Award of Merit from SWAAC (Senior Women Academic Administrators of Canada).
- ✓ The annual UR Guarantee Celebration for participating students took place on March 14, with awards given to students from the different faculties. Currently approximately 10% of undergraduates participate in the program.
- ✓ The second annual Relay for Life on our campus took place on March 22 to raise funds for the Canadian Cancer Society. This event, organized by UR Guarantee students – raised more than \$38,000.
- ✓ At the CIS Women’s Basketball Championships held here in mid-March, the Cougars took the silver medal.
- ✓ At the CIS Championships, PotashCorp announced \$150,000 in student support.
- ✓ 25 graduate students gave Shen Kuo research presentations on campus on April 8, and will be travelling to China in May to present their research there. The Chinese Ambassador to Canada, His Excellency Zhang Junsai, was present.
- ✓ At the annual University of Regina Athletic Awards on April 11, Kelly Wiebe of the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science received the President’s Award for Athletics, which is reserved for the student who best combines academic excellence, leadership, and athletics. It is also of note that in March, Wiebe was the CIS national champion in the 3000m race.

## CAMPUS EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Campus events and announcements

- ✓ The fourth annual Inspiring Leadership Conference took place on March 13, with approximately 500 participants. The Centre for Continuing Education took the lead in organizing it.
- ✓ Officials from the 26 regions competing in the 2014 North American Indigenous Games visited our campus on April 3 as part of the Games' planning process.
- ✓ The Centre for Continuing Education's annual Heritage Lecture took place on April 3, with Lyn Goldman and Jean Freeman speaking about the history of the College Avenue campus.
- ✓ The President's Teaching and Learning Scholars Showcase was held on April 3, providing the opportunity for faculty members to present their research into of advancing the practice of teaching and learning on our campus.
- ✓ His Excellency Dr. Tuncay Babali, Turkey's Ambassador to Canada, visited campus April 9 and delivered a public presentation on Turkey's economy.