In keeping with the commitment to Indigenization that is contained within the University of Regina’s strategic plan, I would like to begin this report by acknowledging that the University is located on Treaty 4 and Treaty 6 lands – something which has been an important part of our history, and which will be equally significant for our future.

This report summarizes my progress over the reporting period on the five key areas of focus that the Board and I identified for the 2015-16 academic year. These areas of focus align with the three priorities and two overarching themes of the University’s strategic plan, peyak aski kikawinaw: student success; research impact; commitment to communities; sustainability; and Indigenization. As in the past, this report also includes updates on my academic research, University events and accomplishments, and other matters that may be of interest to the Board.

**Objective: Sustain enrolment at 2014-15 levels per the performance management framework, with particular emphasis on enhancing diversity among the student population**

The University made progress throughout the fall in the area of student enrolment:

- Headcount enrolments and the number of credit hours taught continued to be ahead of target. A total of 14,360 students were enrolled University-wide by the end of the fourth week of classes, which represents an increase of 3.3% over the previous year. The number of credit hours taught was 144,024, an increase of 2.8% over the same time last year.

- Enrolment by students from certain demographic groups has helped drive this overall increase. The number of Canadian students from outside Saskatchewan has increased once again, and international enrolments have increased by 8.5% over last year, now totalling 13.7% of the student body. Aboriginal enrolment is up 5.8% over last year, and now represents 11.6% of students. In addition, there are 1,748 graduate students registered, which is up 5.3% over Fall 2014.

- The Office of Resource Planning has done additional research into the number of “first-time” students in different faculties – students who are in their first term of their first year of studies in their program. Overall, there is a 5% increase in this category of students at the University for this academic year, with notable increases of 19% in Business Administration, 9% in Arts, 6% in Science, and
13% in Fine Arts. This is a strong indication that the University is attracting new students in the liberal arts as well as professional programs.

- Preliminary overall registration numbers for Winter 2016 look promising at this time, but full enrolments will not be known until early February.

- A number of initiatives have been undertaken to build on this momentum for the future. For example, the University continued to strengthen its outreach to high school guidance counsellors through the annual UR Update event, which attracted 91 counsellors, including six from Alberta and one from BC. The University has also begun distributing councillor information “cheat sheets” that provide concise updates for councillors and their students on things like scholarships, student awards, open houses and application deadlines.

- Approximately 1,100 prospective students and their families attended the annual Fall Open House. At the event, more than 250 students were admitted “on the spot,” and more than 80 other applications were accepted.

- Planning continues for two other “on the spot” admissions sessions, one to be held in Regina and one to be held in Moose Jaw. These sessions will provide instant admission to students who have their high school transcript, and will also encourage local grade 12 students to consider the University of Regina as their university of choice months before they actually finish high school.

- Awareness of and popularity of the University is growing in Alberta thanks in part to marketing efforts there as well as the placement of a recruiter in the province.

**Objective: Identify and begin implementing specific initiatives designed to increase first-to-second-year retention rates to 80% per the University’s performance measurement framework**

Included in the Board package is an update on the Arts Transition Program as well as the Academic Recovery Program – two initiatives to support the University’s retention of first-year and in-transition students. During the reporting period, it remained a priority to examine and implement a number of other retention initiatives:

- The University continued moving ahead steadily with improvements to student advising, including the selection and implementation of degree audit software. The shortlisted vendor conducted a product demonstration to a large representation of academic advisors, faculty, and other student services staff, and feedback from the group was positive. The anticipated project start date is the first week of January. The system is expected to go live before the start of the Fall 2016 term, and will be rolled out to first- and second-year students with a gradual transition to third- and fourth-year students by Fall 2017.
The University’s Academic Advisors (URAAP) undertook a number of advising initiatives, including:

- An October 27 advising fair organized by an Event Subcommittee. This event was held primarily for undeclared and exploring students who may not otherwise have seen an academic advisor. Faculty advisors were available in one place to answer questions, provide students with program information, and help point them in the right direction. The Student Success Office and the Career Centre were also there to inform students about their support programs.

- The development by a Communications Subcommittee of branding and a visual identity for academic advisors that rests on the metaphor of advising as navigation, with Advisors showing students the way through program requirements and configurations. In addition, this subcommittee is looking into developing a page on the University of Regina website that will help make academic advisors more visible and accessible to students. URAAP are also hoping to make use of the TV screens on campus as a way of raising awareness on campus of academic advising.

- A skill development series for advisors that is being developed by an Advisor Training/Professional Development Subcommittee. This series is being designed to establish a common set of best practices across the University’s campuses and faculties. Planned topics include: motivational interviewing; best practices with at-risk students, students on probation, and students in transition; supporting student diversity; and navigating difficult conversations with students.

- The At-Risk Definition Subcommittee’s increased focus on students at risk of falling below minimum standards. This subcommittee is working to define at-risk students and make suggestions regarding policy and process, thereby paving the way for the development of targeted strategies for increasing students’ success in the first semester.

- The development of a survey by a Needs and Satisfaction Survey Subcommittee in order to elicit feedback from our students on needs and values in terms of advising services on campus.

An important factor in student retention is having academic programs of quality and relevance. The University’s chief means of assuring this is the Academic Unit Review process, which this year is focusing on the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, the Department of Philosophy and Classics, and the Department of Physics.

In September, the University adopted a policy allowing undergraduate applicants to declare preferred gender and/or a preferred name. The change was made as a result of requests from students to change their gender identity and/or to use a preferred name. The requests were made at a number of different service areas, including the Registrar’s Office, IT Help Desk, Admissions and UR International.
In some cases, students expressed a real concern that their safety and comfort on campus was in jeopardy. This new approach will go some way toward addressing that concern and making the University a more welcoming environment.

- In October, the University announced its new sexual assault-and-violence policy, another initiative intended to make our campus a safe and welcoming place for all, and a place at which students wish to remain and complete their studies.

- The University’s “Official App for Students” was launched in September. By mid-November, it had been downloaded on approximately 4,600 devices, allowing thousands of students easy and instant access to grades, class schedules and other aspects of their academic work. Students have provided positive reviews and helpful feedback, and it is expected that use of the app will increase during the Fall exam period and with additional promotion early in the Winter semester.

- The Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science held its first Honour Pin Ceremony, promoting ethical behaviour among Engineering students that “reflects the high standards of the profession they have chosen.” By focusing students’ attention on ethics and the need for honorable conduct, the Faculty hopes simultaneously to reduce instances of academic misconduct, and to increase retention.

- The University’s in-residence Living-Learning Communities continued operation throughout the fall, with more than 40 students participating, and a number of new students set to join for the Winter semester. Designed to enhance student engagement and success at the University, these communities – Health and Wellness, Engineering, Global Citizen/Perspectives and Social Justice & Leadership – participated in a number of organized educational and recreational activities together and in partnership with other groups on campus. By semester’s end, they will also have all attended workshops such as effective note-taking, time management, and study skills.

- The Office of Resource Planning completed a report on student retention that includes some recommendations that will be discussed at Deans’ Council. These recommendations include ideas related to orientation and family week activities, early detection and referral of at-risk students, first-year residence requirements, mentoring and cohorts, and supplemental instruction.

- It is also of note that more than 1,700 students are now participating in the UR Guarantee program, which is the University’s flagship initiative for keeping students engaged in their academic life.
Objective: Highlight and publicly profile four research initiatives (including one related to Indigenous research) that clearly demonstrate the tangible local impact of our work

Profiling the University’s researchers remained a priority throughout the reporting period:

- The University has developed a plan to promote four specific research projects in ways that go beyond our traditional means of highlighting University research. The purpose is to demonstrate to a wide variety of audiences the local, provincial and national impact of University of Regina research. These four projects are:

  1. The work of Dr. Carrie Bourassa, Professor of Indigenous Health Studies at the First Nations University of Canada. Dr. Bourassa is conducting research funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) into the development of a model for culturally appropriate health care that meets the needs of Indigenous women infected with HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C.

     This research was selected because it is an initiative with significant relevance to one of the worst problems facing Saskatchewan’s Aboriginal population. An extensive investigative report released by CBC last June revealed that the rate of new HIV infections on Saskatchewan First Nations is 11 times higher than the national rate. It also revealed that one First Nation in Saskatchewan had Hepatitis C infection rates 170 times the national average.

     The participation of community members is at the core of Dr. Bourassa’s project; a community-based team is overseeing approximately 330 interviews with Indigenous women, 30 of which will be used in the creation of an educational video for health care providers about the issues, challenges and stories of the women who seek their services.

     This initiative has already been specially highlighted in several ways, including via the University’s website and in the publication Research Infosource (which is distributed via The National Post, Ottawa Citizen, The Hill Times, and Progress magazine). Advertisements have also been placed in University Affairs and First Nations Drum, a publication distributed nationally to First Nations, Friendship Centres, Tribal Councils, schools, colleges and universities, as well as various Aboriginal businesses and organizations.

  2. The work of Psychology professor Dr. Gordon Asmundson and doctoral candidate Holly Parkerson. Dr. Asmundson and Ms. Parkerson are working to address the fact that Saskatchewan has the highest smoking rate among all provinces by pilot-testing an online stop-smoking intervention (www.guidetoquit.ca) that offers individualized information and a structured quit plan to support people as they quit smoking. In January, to mark National Non-Smoking Week, a comprehensive advertising plan will provide local and national profile to this initiative, using both paid and unpaid media
to create awareness of the research and seek participants for the online program.

3. The work of Education professors Dr. Wanda Lyons and Dr. Scott Thompson. Dr. Lyons and Dr. Thompson are examining how inclusive educational practices can help overcome barriers (including poverty) that are often faced by marginalized groups such as persons with an intellectual disability. To help highlight the work that the University is doing in this area, and spread the word about best practices in inclusive education, in February and March 2016 the University will use both paid and unpaid communications channels to profile Dr. Lyons and Dr. Thompson’s work.

4. A sustainability research project to correspond with Earth Day in April 2016. The University has successfully marked Earth Day in the last two years by gaining significant profile for two sustainability-related research initiatives – Geography professor Dr. David Sauchyn’s climate change project on adaptation to extreme weather in Canadian and South American rural communities, and a community partnership between professors in the Faculty of Science and Miller Comprehensive Catholic High School that focused on exploring safe and friendly alternatives to toxic pesticides. Work is being done to identify a project to profile on Earth Day 2016 that will be similarly successful in profiling our commitment to sustainability and sustainability research.

- By the end of October, a total of 90 research-related stories had been produced for the University’s web page in 2015, more than double the number of research stories produced in all of 2014.
- In recent weeks, an additional two in-depth feature stories on research were prepared for the upcoming issue of the Degrees alumni magazine:
  - A feature on the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) research of Department of Psychology faculty members Dr. Gordon Asmundson and Dr. Nick Carleton, as it relates to first responders. This research is particularly relevant, because this year, in Canada alone, 30 first responders and eight military personnel have committed suicide because of PTSD. The story also features a former Saskatchewan Police College student who suffered from PTSD for years.
  - A feature on PhD student Joanne Weber – the only Saskatchewan teacher of individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing who is also herself deaf. Weber has developed a new teaching model that is raising her students’ literacy levels through art-making and visual storytelling, and may revolutionize how students who are deaf or hard of hearing are taught.
- Two of the University’s areas of research endeavour are having a strong local impact that may be a focus of future profiles:
  - One area with particular community relevance is the Social Justice and Community Safety Cluster. A variety of sub-themes are at work with this
cluster that include interoperability among first responders, PTSD, the economics of community safety, and the introduction of comprehensive data analytics to the justice system. The University leads Canada in these fields of through our Collaborative Centre for Justice & Safety as well as provincially through our recent membership in the Community Safety Knowledge Alliance.

- The University’s Indigenous research portfolio is also very active, diverse, and relevant to the local community. For example, there are currently two artist-in-residence positions created to honour the memory of Michele Sereda, who killed in a tragic car accident. Eagleclaw Thom and Joey Tremblay will use their residency to create engagements between artists, organizations and students around socially relevant issues. Daya Madhur, an artist-in-residence housed in the Faculty of Education, is focusing on the impact performance and Indigenous cultural practices can have in fostering a sense of community in middle-years students.

Objective: Ensure that the newly restructured Alumni Relations and Community Outreach unit develops a comprehensive long-term plan for its operations

Efforts continue to strengthen the University’s connection with alumni and other key community stakeholders:

- The newly formed Alumni Relations and Community Outreach unit within External Relations is enabling the University to better leverage synergies across the various community outreach events and initiatives led by External Relations. For example, a sponsorship package now links three of the University’s most important events – the Inspiring Leadership Forum, the Prairie Kitchen Party and the Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards – enabling External Relations to offer more attractive sponsorship opportunities. This is just one example of the shared coordination and co-promotion of initiatives that is happening under the new organizational structure.

- As mentioned in my last report, the University of Regina Alumni Association (URAA) offered to explore new strategic opportunities with the University. Discussions continued throughout the fall, yielding a common understanding of the need to revisit and refresh the relationship in light of the pending June 2016 expiry of the joint agreement between the URAA and the University. Discussions on how this relationship will look after the agreement expires are already underway, with the University and URAA having jointly hosted a consultation session with various chapters and branches of the URAA. The next step in this process is a joint strategic planning discussion in January 2016 between the URAA and External Relations staff.
- Staff members of the Alumni Relations and Community Outreach unit have begun the process of developing a comprehensive long-term plan. This plan will be developed over the winter months on a timeline that correlates with the negotiations and consultation with URAA noted above. This will ensure that the two plans are complementary and maximize the University’s resources for community outreach.

- Work continues on staffing the new role of Director of Alumni Relations and Community Outreach. This position will give the University more capacity to refashion its approach to connecting with alumni, its key stakeholders. Negotiation with the University of Regina Faculty Association over staffing this position continues, with no firm timeline at this point as to when hiring can commence.

Objective: Implement the key recommendations from the review of the University’s donor relations functions in order to enhance relationships with donors and build the University’s capacity for fundraising

Throughout the fall, a great deal of work has taken place on the key donor relations recommendations, with good results:

- In the past, the Donor Relations area has faced challenges because it has not had sufficient staff resources to raise additional funds that are increasingly necessary to support scholarships, research, and programming. Several steps have been taken to help address this challenge:
  - The budgeted position of Director of Development is currently in discussion with URFA, although there is not yet a set timeline for hiring the position.
  - A half-time Prospect Researcher position has now been hired, and one employee has had her duties focused exclusively on building relationships with major companies in Saskatchewan.
  - the AVP (Development) is exploring options to extend term positions or convert some priority positions into permanent roles, and I have been supporting him in making the necessary changes so the Donor Relations function can be more effective.

- My number one fundraising priority throughout the reporting period continued to be the College Avenue Campus (CAC) campaign. I hosted a September 16 donor and community event to update stakeholders on the CAC campaign and introduce the project team. I also announced a $1 million anonymous donation to Darke Hall and held a private recognition luncheon with the donor. With this donation, the University has now reached $7 million of the $10 million fundraising goal, and new plans are in place to help attract additional donors.

- I have been meeting with the Mayor, City Manager, and some City Councillors to advocate for the City’s support of the CAC goal. Facilities Management has been
working closely with the CAC project team, and options will be presented to the Board in the coming months. The University also continued building community support for a new program called Stop-Out that will create new opportunities for mature students to finish what they started (and stopped) – their university degrees.

- I also continued working with my own donor portfolio, meeting with these prospective donors, inviting them to University events, and keeping them updated on the University’s programs and activities. I have also interacted with donors at a variety of events this fall such as the September 8 President’s Breakfast for Athletics, the October 1 Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards, the October 15 President’s Community Award ceremony, and a special recognition event for donor Jack Mollard.

- These activities are yielding positive results. Halfway through the fiscal year, the Donor Relations area has raised $4.8 million in cash and pledges, which is 120% of annual budget.
REPORT ON THE PRESIDENT’S ACADEMIC RESEARCH

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

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION RESEARCH

- With colleagues from the Faculty of Education, I continued work on our “Voice of Inclusion” appreciative inquiry into best practices in inclusive education and employment in the province. We continued drafting the literature review and final report, and further defined the outline of the book that will also be a product of the study. We made the necessary revisions to our article that has been accepted for publication in the *International Journal of Inclusive Education*, and I completed a first draft of another related article that I plan to submit for potential publication.

- In my role as President of the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IASSIDD), I continued working with the IASSIDD Executive to conduct the organization’s business and plan for the 2016 World Congress.

PROGRAM PRIORITIZATION RESEARCH

- I was asked to join a team of researchers based at Wilfrid Laurier University who are conducting a study on program prioritization initiatives at Canadian universities. I accepted the invitation and had a conference call with the other participants to begin charting out the parameters of the study and the individual researchers’ roles.

CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR MILITARY AND VETERAN HEALTH RESEARCH

- In my role as a board member of the Queen’s University-based Canadian Institute for Military and Veteran Health Research, I attended meetings in late November related to the governance of and research conducted by the Institute.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS AND OTHER ACTIVITY

- In October, I was a plenary speaker in Ecuador at the Conference of the Americas on International Education, providing a Canadian perspective on the challenges facing science, technology and innovation.

- Also in Ecuador in October, I delivered a keynote address on coaching and mentoring women leaders for EMULIES (The Space for Women Leaders from
Higher Education Institutions of the Americas). At the event, I was presented with the organization’s “Gender and Leadership in Higher Education Award.”

- In early November, I was invited by the University of Regina student ambassador leaders to speak to them about leadership.

- Also in early November, I presented a keynote address on “Parents as Career Coaches” for members of the Regina District Industry Education Council.

- I delivered another keynote address on inclusive education and employment at a workshop organized by the Saskatchewan Association for Community Living for teachers, principals and education superintendents.

- In mid-November, I was invited to participate in a university presidents’ panel that was part of the “Building Reconciliation” forum organized by the University of Saskatchewan in response to the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

- At a meeting of the Canadian Bureau for International Education, of which I am past-Chair, I was honoured with the “President’s Award for Distinguished Leadership in International Education.”

- Also this fall, two of my opinion-editorial pieces on Aboriginal education were published provincially in the Regina Leader-Post and Saskatoon StarPhoenix.
CELEBRATING OUR CAMPUS

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

FACULTY AND STAFF SUCCESS

- In September, Dr. Aram Teymurazyan was named the University’s Fedoruk Chair in Nuclear Imaging Technologies and Equipment. This Chair was made possible by a $1.475 million contribution from the Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation.

- Dr. Jo-Ann Episkewen, Director of the Indigenous Peoples’ Health Research Centre and a professor of English at First Nations University of Canada, has been named a recipient of a 2016 Indspire Award.

- Dr. Sean Lessard of the Faculty of Education was named the recipient of the Canadian Education Association’s 2015 Pat Clifford Award for Early Career Research in Education.

- A team of seven researchers from the Department of Physics, led by Dr. Mauricio Barbi, were named co-winners of the Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics as part of a worldwide collaboration on research into neutrino oscillation.

- At the annual meeting of the Association for Higher Education Facilities Officers, Vice-President (Administration) Dave Button was presented with the President’s Award for his work at helping to integrate Mexico into the organization. This is the second time in three years that he has received this award in recognition of his service to the organization.

- Following the successful launch of Facilities Management’s newly purchased FAMIS Cloud software, a small team from Facilities Management was invited to present a selection and implementation case study at the vendor’s Canadian user conference. The presentation was rated by attendees as the top presentation of the conference, and as a result Facilities Management has been asked to present at an international post-secondary conference that will be attended by approximately 1,000 people in March 2016.

- The recent federal election provided an opportunity for political science professors such as Dr. Jim Farney, Dr. Tom McIntosh and Dr. Ken Rasmussen to contribute to the public’s understanding of issues through their media commentary.

- The annual Celebrate! event was held in mid-November to honour approximately 50 faculty and staff members who have recently received awards from the University or been recognized nationally over the past year for their work.
The recipients of the 2015 President’s Awards for Service Excellence were named:
- Donna Glass, Faculty of Arts – University Spirit Award;
- Shirley Plessl, Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies – Service Excellence Award;
- Custodial Services Lotus Pro Team – Team Award for Innovation;
- Admissions and Registrar's Office Document Management Team – Team Award for Innovation; and
- UR International and Enrolment Services Team – Creative Initiative Award.

The 2016-17 President’s Teaching and Learning Scholars were also named:
- Dr. Francesco Freddolini (Principal Investigator), Luther College, Prof. Sean Whalley and Prof. Leesa Streifler, Department of Visual Arts: “Bringing Studio Art and Art History Together: Exploring New Pedagogical Perspectives”;
- Dr. Fidji Gendron (Principal Investigator) and Dr. Vincent Ziffle, First Nations University of Canada: “Bringing Elders and Traditional Knowledge into the Classroom”; and
- Dr. Elise Matthews (Principal Investigator), Dr. Laurie Clune, Dr. Florence Luhanga, Faculty of Nursing, and Reny Loewan, Saskatchewan Polytechnic: “Evaluating Learning Outcomes of International Placements for Nursing Students.”

The University of Regina Library held an event in November to honour approximately 30 faculty and staff who have authored books over the past year.

Religious Studies professors Kevin Bond and Bill Arnal were featured on Global Television to speak about their extremely popular class that examines cultural phenomena such as monsters, demons, and ghosts.

University of Regina faculty and staff have contributed generously to the annual United Way campaign, bringing the funds raised so far to 90% of the $105,000 goal.

A shortlist of candidates has been announced for the position of Dean of Science, and the Search Advisory Committee for the University Librarian has had preliminary conversations with several candidates for the position as it works to develop a shortlist.

**STUDENT AND ALUMNI SUCCESS**

More than 900 people attended the President’s Breakfast for Athletics in early September, helping to raise more than $100,000 to support our student-athletes.
Also in early September, the University announced that it would provide approximately $100,000 annually to match funding raised by students to help refugees attend our institution.

The Awasis Child Care Centre held its grand opening in September. With 90 day care spaces, many of which are reserved for the children of students, the facility is an important means of supporting student success.

Convocation took place in mid-October, with the largest Fall graduating class ever – more than 700 students – receiving their degrees, diplomas and certificates. Also at Convocation, Kinesiology and Health Studies graduate Sara Illerbrun received the President’s medal, which is awarded to the student who best combines academics, leadership, and extracurricular activities.

Sophie Duranceau, a doctoral student in Psychology, has been awarded a Vanier Scholarship to study the psychological, social and occupational impacts police work has on officers. This is the third time in recent years that a student in the Psychology program has received a Vanier Scholarship, which is one of the most prestigious graduate student awards in the country.

A reception was held in September to recognize 34 students who have received Tri-Agency federal funding for their research.

The RBC Foundation contributed $375,000 in September to create the RBC Woman Executive in Residence Program. Based in the Faculty of Business Administration, the Woman Executive in Residence will provide mentorship and other programming opportunities for female students, faculty and staff across campus.

In October, Scotiabank announced a $150,000 contribution to create the Scotiabank Aboriginal Entrance Award.

More than 120 employers were represented at the Fall Careers Day in late September, discussing career opportunities with thousands of students and recent graduates. All of the employer tables were sold out, demonstrating once again that University of Regina students are in great demand in the workforce.

Some recent program developments will be of benefit to students in future years:

- Thanks to the work of members of the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, especially Associate Dean Dr. David deMontigny, the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board has given permission to widen the scope of non-technical elective courses Engineering students at the University of Regina can take to include all courses in the Faculty of Arts.
- An agreement was recently signed that will allow students from the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies to transfer credits from their business diploma to First Nations University of Canada and earn a University of Regina degree in two years.

The recipients of the 2015 Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards were celebrated in early October.
- Also in early October, the Education Auditorium was filled to capacity for the School of Journalism’s annual Minifie Lecture, which featured alumnus and current CBC Middle East Bureau Chief Derek Stoffel.

- University of Regina alumnus and current Fine Arts instructor Brian Stockton has been using the University as a location to film a movie entitled *The Sabbatical*. The film, which stars University of Regina alumni James Whittingham and Laura Abramsen, will premiere at the Whistler Film Festival in December.

CAMPUS EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Several academic conferences were held on campus this fall, including the international “Performing Turtle Island” symposium, which was hosted by the University and Federated Colleges to explore how Indigenous theatre is connected to Indigenous identity and health.

- A number of distinguished speakers presented public lectures on campus during the fall, helping to attract member of the larger community to campus. These lecturers included:
  - Dr. Carolyn Harris of the University of Toronto, who spoke about *Magna Carta* on the occasion of its 800th anniversary;
  - Assembly of First Nations Chief Perry Bellegarde, who spoke about closing the education gap for Canada’s Aboriginal peoples; and
  - Dr. Scott H. Decker of Arizona State University, who delivered the Dr. Gordon Wicijowski Law Foundation of Saskatchewan Chair in Police Studies Lecture.

- In mid-September, an art exhibition entitled “Love at First Sight” opened at the MacKenzie Art Gallery. The exhibition, which is a partnership between the University and the MacKenzie, features more than 100 of the pieces of artwork donated to the University by Drs. Morris and Jacqui Shumiatcher.

- The President’s Community Award was presented in October to the Saskatchewan Division of the Canadian Red Cross, with approximately 100 members of the larger community attending.

- Man Up Against Violence Week, organized by Roz Kelsey of the Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies, provided an opportunity to engage with students to raise awareness about the issue of violence against women.

- An anonymous donor contributed $1 million to fund four research projects related to brain injury and disease.

- In early November, the University partnered with Heritage Saskatchewan to hold a Community-Based Research Showcase at Regina’s Core Ritchie Neighbourhood Centre. The event highlighted 16 research projects and their local impact.
- As I have done several times in recent years, on October 14 I held a “town hall” meeting to address any concerns that faculty and staff might have. Plans are also being made for a series of budget updates and town halls in the new year.

- Planning is also taking place for the second annual “State of the University Address” to be presented at the Regina and District Chamber of Commerce in January.

- The fall portion of the “Community Connections” tour involved visits to both Estevan and Weyburn, and meetings with civic officials, alumni and educators in both cities.

- The Fall meeting of University Council will take place on December 9.

- The University is in the final stages of a Request for Proposals focusing on a next-generation library system to replace the current one shared with several other libraries. The new system will allow the partner libraries to produce a unified library services platform, combining access to the collections of member libraries for the benefit of all users.