In keeping with the University of Regina’s commitment to Indigenization, I would like to begin this report by acknowledging that the University’s campuses are located on Treaty 4 and Treaty 6 lands as well as the traditional homeland of the Métis – something which has been an important part of our history, and which will be equally significant for our future.

This report summarizes progress since the last report on six key areas of focus that the Board and I have identified for the 2016-17 academic year. These areas of focus have been specifically identified to align with the three priorities and two overarching themes of the University’s strategic plan, *peyak aski kikawinaw: Together We Are Stronger* – student success; research impact; commitment to communities; sustainability; and Indigenization. The report also includes updates on my academic research, University events and accomplishments, and other matters that may be of interest to the Board.

**Objective: Minimize disruptions to students, faculty and staff and maintain enrolments at 2015-16 levels at the College Avenue campus during renovations**

Disruption to programming at the College Avenue campus has been kept to a minimum over the past several months:

- The swing spaces for the Centre for Continuing Education (FNUuniq and Palliser Building) have now been “home” for the past six months. Staff and students have settled in the new locations and many of the initial challenges have been dealt with. Both locations have proven to be suitable for CCE’s needs on an interim basis.
- Flexible Learning and Career & Professional Development (Credit) were the least disrupted with the move from College Avenue campus, since their courses are delivered on-line, at Regional Colleges, or in partnership with other University Faculties. Both areas are on target to exceed their revenue projections for 2016-17.
- The non-credit programs were the most affected by the move from College Avenue campus, though it should be noted that the non-credit registration system was changed from CLASS to ActiveNet on July 15, 2016. The new system has been beneficial, but it has posed some challenges in its initial period of use,
particularly in calculating deferred revenues for the Conservatory of Performing Arts. For non-credit programming:

- In the November report, I noted that based on initial numbers, group lesson registrations were down slightly at the Conservatory and individual lesson registrations were up by 3.4%. A few months on, however, it is now apparent that the initial analysis was incorrect. Conservatory enrolment for private lessons is in fact down slightly, while group lessons are on par with last year.

- The pre-school is at capacity but there has been a small decline in registrations for Winter camp programs.

- The Lifelong Learning Centre (LLC) experienced a drop in registrations in both the Fall and Winter semesters. Parking has been cited as a concern by LLC students, so to help alleviate this concern, the LLC will be running some programs that are only an hour and a half in duration, allowing students to avail themselves of the free two-hour parking on the streets located near the Palliser Building.

- Career and Professional Development non-credit registrations are down in open enrolment courses due to smaller classrooms at FNUniv, but customized training programs have continued to exceed projections.

- English as a Second Language (ESL) enrolments are down slightly from last year, although this decline is more related to world events than it is to the fact that ESL has faced two physical moves in the past several months. In April 2016, instructor offices were moved from Campion College due to Campion’s construction project. ESL instructors moved to temporary offices on the third floor at College West, and subsequently were relocated to the second floor of College West this past October. These moves had less of an effect on students than they had on instructors.

- Overall, the most recent projections have the Centre for Continuing Education on pace to return a net surplus for the 2016-17 year that is above target.

**Objective: Increase the retention rate of undergraduate students from first year to second year from 85% to 86%**

The University continued to focus on first-to-second year enrolment during the reporting period:

- The retention rate for first-year undergraduate students from Fall 2015 to Fall 2016 has now been calculated, and stands at 83.2%. This does not meet the target of 86%, and represents a 1.8% decrease from 2014-15.

- One reason for this is a year-over-year retention rate decline in three faculties that had retention numbers in the high 80s and low 90s in the previous year. The
Faculties of Business Administration, Social Work and Nursing had larger incoming cohorts of first-year students than last year, but at the same time, their retention rates declined. More students entering these Faculties, combined with declining rates of retention, served to reduce the overall institutional retention rate.

- Conversely, three other Faculties – Education, Engineering, and Kinesiology and Health Studies – saw their retention rates, already at or above the institutional average, rise while the size of their entering cohorts was smaller than or similar to the previous year. Because their intake of entering students in total declined, their increased retention rates were not enough to boost the overall institutional percentage.

- Finally, three Faculties whose retention rates have typically been lower than the institutional average – Arts, Science, and Media, Art and Performance – saw a combined growth in the size of their incoming cohorts. As a result, a higher proportion of students than the previous year were in these Faculties whose retention rates were below last year’s 85% average. This did not serve to raise the overall institutional retention rate, but it is significant that retention in Science remained essentially unchanged, and it increased in Arts and in Media, Art and Performance. This is an indication that the retention initiatives being implemented over the past few years are beginning to have positive results.

- It is of note that student retention is closely related to the Undergraduate Degree Completion measure that is included in the University’s Performance Measurement Framework. This measure reports the percentage of undergraduate students who complete their undergraduate degree within seven years of first registering. This statistic is also reported in Maclean’s magazine’s annual ranking issue. The most recent result for this measure is 58.1%, which is the percentage of the fall 2007 entry cohort who graduated by 2014. The result compares favourably to the previous year’s figure of 56.6% and the current year’s target of 57%.

- At the end of the day, retention results from 2015-16 to 2016-17 are a mixed success. The retention rate rose in five out of nine faculties, and was virtually unchanged in one other. In absolute numbers the University retained more students this year than last. Both of these factors have helped contribute to the enrolment increases the University continued to see for Fall 2016 and Winter 2017. The University is retaining and educating more students than ever before, but individual circumstances in Faculties can change from year to year and have an impact on the overall retention rate. Going forward, the Faculties will continue to assess the factors affecting their individual retention rates, and do whatever is possible to mitigate them.
Objective: Identify and publicly profile innovative, high-impact research projects that address issues affecting Aboriginal communities

Work continued throughout the reporting period to facilitate and highlight research of particular importance to Aboriginal communities:

- Research that examines culturally responsive mental health services for First Nations youth was featured on the University’s website. The feature article profiled the work of University of Regina faculty members Dr. Angela Snowshoe and Dr. JoLee Sasakamoose as well as graduate students Amanda Scandrett and Rhonda Stevenson. Guided by Elder Noel Starblanket, a knowledge keeper at the University, they are working to redesign a conventional western counselling space into a culturally responsive setting for Indigenous people. The research is funded by the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation.

- In late February, Dr. Michelle Stewart of the Department of Justice Studies hosted a national symposium on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s Calls to Action. The story was featured on the University website, and received considerable media attention.

- The next edition of Discourse, the University’s research magazine, is in production and when published this spring will again feature Indigenous research projects.

- The University of Regina Press’s The Education of Augie Merasty: A Residential School Memoir has been selected by the Saskatchewan Library Association for its “One Book One Province” initiative in which as many people as possible in the province are encouraged to read the same book in the month of March.

- In addition, the Press received 17 nominations for the upcoming Saskatchewan Book Awards, including nominations for the following Indigenous-themed works: 100 Days of Cree; Firewater: How Alcohol Is Killing My People (And Yours); Holy War: Cowboys, Indians, and 9/11’s; The Knowledge Seeker: Embracing Indigenous Spirituality; and Beginning Cree.

- It is also of note that Firewater: How Alcohol Is Killing My People (And Yours) was also nominated for the Governor General’s Award for Non-Fiction, and that James Daschuk’s Clearing the Plains: Disease, Politics of Starvation and the Loss of Aboriginal Life has been named the best-selling Canadian academic book so far this century. These are the latest accolades for the Press, which is quickly developing a reputation as Canada’s foremost university publisher of Indigenous research.

- University of Regina researchers are submitting topics in response to a call for papers for the Consortium for North American Higher Education for Collaboration (CONAHEC) conference, which will be held at First Nations University of Canada in June 2017. The international conference, entitled Connecting Indigenous Peoples in North America: Crafting a Community of
Shared Knowledge, is designed to create an inclusive community of interest and to explore how Indigenous knowledge can be shared most productively.

- The University launched its call for proposals for Community Connections programming for the forthcoming 2018 Congress. These proposed events – many of which will be related to Indigenous scholarship – are designed to generate public participation and contribute to the strategic plan’s priorities of commitment to communities, Indigenization, and sustainability.

- The University has volunteered to be the lead on Indigenous issues for ACCRU – the Alliance of Canadian Comprehensive Research Universities. In this role, the University will be well-placed to work with other universities to facilitate and promote Indigenous research in the years to come, and potentially to provide national training on Indigenous research ethics.

- In its role as ACCRU Indigenous Lead, the University has formed a working group to examine how Indigenous research ethics are incorporated within the University’s Research Ethics Board review process. As part of this review, the University is collaborating with the University of Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Polytechnic to hold a provincial workshop to be held in May. The workshop will produce a strategy for Indigenous research protocol and methods, as well as a provincial strategy for Indigenous research ethics.

- This workshop will also form the basis of a SSHRC Connections grant to be submitted in August of 2017, with the intention of holding a nationwide workshop on Indigenous research at Congress 2018.

- A call for volunteers has gone out so that planning may take place for next year’s Indigenous Research Showcase.

- In January, the University’s 2016-2021 Strategic Research Plan was launched in support of the overall institutional strategic plan. One of the six priorities is to increase partnerships and projects with First Nations and Métis people, communities and organizations. A number of supporting actions were identified to help achieve this objective.

- Searches for Canada Research Chairs (CRCs) in the areas of Indigenous Peoples and Global Social Justice and Truth and Reconciliation Education are now complete, with candidates successfully recruited. It is of note, however, that in respect of budgetary considerations, all CRC nominees must be approved by the CRC Secretariat as a condition of employment, because the Secretariat’s approval is required for federal CRC salary contributions to be allocated to the University.

- On a related point, recruitments for new Canada Research Chairs continue in other areas. The search for a Tier I CRC in Energy Policy was not successful and will be re-initiated, and three additional searches have begun for internally re-allocated Canada Research Chairs in Biopsychosocial Determinants of Mental Health (Psychology), Subsurface Flow (Petroleum Systems Engineering), and Power Systems Control and Protection (Electronic Systems Engineering).
Objective: Establish a process to ensure that the Chiefs of local First Nations are engaged with the University

Work continued to build relations with the Chiefs of local First Nations as well as Saskatchewan’s Métis communities:

- In December, I met with the File Hills Qu’Appelle Tribal Council to discuss the University’s Indigenization efforts and continuing academic program developments. The Chiefs provided me with a great deal of feedback on subjects as varied as community education programs, the University’s response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action, the implications the University’s budget has on First Nations’ ability to fund students, the need to better promote recreational services to Indigenous students, and the possibility of developing an on-campus Indigenous housing initiative.

- During our discussion, I invited the Chiefs to meet with the Board of Governors, and work is underway to organize such a meeting for the near future. In the meantime, Chief Cadmus Delorme of the Cowessess First Nation will meet with the Board in March.

- I intend also to attend the FSIN Chiefs’ Legislative Assembly and meet with other Tribal Councils, the Treaty 4 Education Alliance, and the Office of the Treaty Commissioner once that position is appointed. The Office of Indigenization continues working to co-ordinate these meetings, but scheduling has not yet permitted them to take place.

- As noted in the last report, Roz Kelsey, Chair of the University’s “Man Up Against Violence” initiative, has been working to establish a partnership with the Qu’Appelle Haven domestic violence shelter to develop and deliver an Indigenous Masculinities workshop. It is possible that details will be finalized in the coming weeks.

- Plans are underway for the next northern tour, during which I will meet with potential students, First Nations leadership, and community members. A key point of discussion will be what supports are in place – and need to be in place – both for on-line students and for those who leave their home communities to attend the University of Regina.

- During the reporting period, work took place to enhance the University’s relationship with members of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan. I was advised that the Métis Nation is in transition and that because of challenges in its organizational capacity, the University and the Métis community would both be best served if the University worked to enhance relationships through the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI).

- As background for the Board, the GDI and the University have had a longstanding and productive relationship to this point. The agreement on SUNTEP teacher education programming has been in place since 1980, and an
Enhanced Affiliation Agreement is in place until June, 2018. The GDI library has been housed in College West for many years.

- The GDI currently hosts Faculty of Arts diploma and certificate programming in Prince Albert, with the cohort of Métis now in its first year of the program. The GDI also hosts the Faculty of Education’s Master of Education program, through which a cohort of 25 Métis students graduated in 2015. Another 22 students will complete their Master of Education degrees this year, and a third cohort will begin in September. The GDI is also a partner in delivering Bachelor of Education and Master of Education programs at North West College in Meadow Lake and Cumberland College in Nipawin.

- Following the recommendation to meet with the GDI as a next step in building relations with the Métis community, in February I met with Geordy McCaffrey, the Executive Director of the GDI. We discussed our current agreements, the services we provide for Métis students, and the possibility of working together in the future to broaden the range of post-secondary opportunities for Métis students and fulfill the University’s mandate to Indigenize its programs.

- We agreed that our institutional partnerships have proven to be effective ways of meeting diverse student needs in northern locations, and could be important in the future once the future of NORTEP/NORPAC programming in La Ronge is determined by the provincial government. We also agreed to meet bi-annually to discuss our programs and areas of mutual interest.

- It is also of note that the Office of Indigenization is planning a feast with the Métis community for the summer, to go along with ones being held with the local Cree and Saulteaux communities.

**Objective: Develop a comprehensive long-term Alumni and Community Engagement strategy**

Alumni and community engagement remained a focus during the reporting period:

- The November Board report contained a considerable amount of detail pertaining to the alumni survey undertaken in 2016. The data from this report formed the basis for a new alumni engagement strategy that has now been completed under the leadership of the Director of Alumni and Community Engagement, Peggy MacDonald, who was hired last year. The fundamental focus of the new plan is to continue the shift from being events-driven to being relationship-focused. The plan covers the period of 2017 – 2020 and has six priorities:
  1. Volunteer Leadership – finding and building alumni leaders;
  2. Communications;
  3. Age and Stage Programming – learning customized to age and life stage;
  4. Services and Affinity Programs – value-based offerings;
5. Alumni Recognition; and
6. Operational Sustainability.

- I have discussed the plan with the Director of Alumni and Community Engagement and have provided additional resources to support new initiatives that are underway in these areas. Examples of these initiatives include:
  - A pilot offering of career information sessions that was held in January to allow UR Guarantee students to engage with alumni and discuss eight career themes. All participants – both students and alumni – ranked the sessions as either a 9 or 10 out of 10;
  - A new mobile app (PERKS pass) that is being tested over the next two months to provide alumni with benefits from local and national providers. New partners and new offerings will keep the app dynamic and relevant; and
  - A series of professional development seminars for young alumni that is being piloted in conjunction with the Saskatchewan Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs (SYPE).

- In addition, the Alumni Association is looking at new governance and operating practices to allow it to be more responsive to the new relationship-based focus and to fit into the new alumni engagement strategy strategic plan. On March 18, past Alumni Association Presidents will provide advice on a new direction and model.

- I hosted two alumni events in Victoria and Vancouver in late January. The events were geared toward the local market and featured University of Regina faculty and staff. In Victoria, Dr. Andrew Cameron of the Department of Biology engaged 40 alumni and friends with his talk on antibiotic resistant bacteria. In Vancouver, Rams Head Coach Steve Bryce and “Man-Up Against Violence” founder Roz Kelsey spoke about the “Man-Up” program to 50 alumni and friends.

- Additional alumni events are being planned for late March in Calgary and Saskatoon, and for May in Ottawa. Another alumni event is also being tentatively planned for Victoria to cheer on the Cougar women’s basketball team in the USports national championships should they reach that stage of the competition.

- Nominations are now underway for the Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards, which will be presented this fall.

- Work also continued in the area of wider community engagement. An external consultant was engaged to interview internal and external stakeholders, examine best practices at other institutions, and produce a report outlining ways to improve the University’s community engagement.

- One of the recommendations from the report is to move from a traditional community “service” model to one where the University – through its students,
faculty and staff – seeks new ways to engage the larger community by addressing expressed needs. This will help inform the approach to next northern tour as it is planned in the coming months.

- To help move the recommendations forward, the University has hired alumnus Victor Thomas on a one-year term as a part-time advisor in engaging key communities. He will work closely with the President’s Office and External Relations in a variety of areas, including:
  - Creating a formal University Champions program to further engage community and business leaders with the University;
  - Involving honorary degree recipients more closely with the University;
  - Helping External Relations with donor prospects, lost or inactive alumni, and new partners;
  - Attracting key local and national organizations to the University. For example, he has arranged for CN to be on campus on April 23-24 to hold its board meeting; and
  - Representing the University at targeted local, regional, national, and international events.

- The third annual State of the University address was a key community engagement initiative that took place in late January. Hosted by the Regina and District Chamber of Commerce, it drew more than 300 people, and provided the opportunity to speak to a diverse audience about the University’s ongoing transformation.

- During the reporting period, planning continued for several other forthcoming initiatives designed to engage with the larger community. These included:
  - The March 8 Inspiring Leadership Forum. It is now sold out, and is being supported by more than $135,000 in sponsorship;
  - The third annual Prairie Kitchen Party fundraiser on May 6. Ticket sales have now begun, and sponsorship already totals more than $60,000.
  - The unveiling of the planned design for the College Building addition. An event will be held on March 14 for donors, alumni and friends, and a media conference will be held on March 15.
  - Congress 2018. Planning, including the call for Community Connections programming, progressed well over the past few months. Later this year, I will attend Congress 2017 at Ryerson University with some of the University of Regina Congress organizers Ryerson both to promote next year’s Congress and to learn more about what will be required of the University to host the event.
Objective: Develop and begin implementing a principles-based strategy to engage with the provincial government and other key internal and external stakeholders as the government contemplates “transformational change” and what it could mean for the post-secondary sector

In keeping with the government’s commitment to transformational change in the context of the province’s challenging fiscal situation, the University continued to explore five potential initiatives that were endorsed by the Board for further consideration and discussed in the fall with the University community. Progress was as follows:

- The proposal for the University to assume ownership of Innovation Place – Regina if a business case is feasible has been well-received thus far:
  - The Ministry of Advanced Education responded in writing that the University should continue pursuing the initiative and developing a business case, and Innovation Place/CIC has initiated dual property assessments (DeLoitte and Colliers) to determine the value of the land.
  - The University has investigated developments of “Land Trusts” in other jurisdictions to confirm the scope and requirements of a potential RFP for a consultant study to develop a business case and provide advice on governance, taxation, risk and legal issues pertaining to the development of a Land Trust. This would put the University in a strong position to negotiate should it be feasible to assume ownership of the Innovation Place properties.
  - It is anticipated that some signal on this initiative may come in the provincial budget. As such, concurrent activity is being undertaken by government, CIC, and the two Universities to better understand this how we might proceed. Further updates will be provided to the Board as additional information is available.

- The Ministries of Health and Advanced Education announced that they intend to proceed with a review of the two-provider nursing education model in the province. The Ministry of Advanced Education has not yet indicated if and when it will undertake a review of Engineering and Education.

- The Registrar’s Office has made significant steps forward in ensuring that the credit transfer process is as seamless as possible for students:
  - Registrar Jim D’arcy is co-chair of the Saskatchewan Transfer Credit and Learner Pathway Council (STCLPC), which had its inaugural meeting on December 1, 2016. In the coming months, STCLPC – which includes the Ministry of Advanced Education, the University of Saskatchewan, the Federated Colleges, Saskatchewan Polytechnic and a variety of other post-secondary institutions – will make an inventory of articulation opportunities, identify gaps in transfer credit opportunities, promote the
value of transfer credit, and formalize a Dual Credit Strategy for the province.

- With an eye to removing barriers for students within the University of Regina itself, Registrar D’arcy has created an Undergraduate Transfer Credit policy document and is currently getting feedback from the Faculties, departments, and Federated Colleges.

- The concept of streamlining the academic approvals process is on the agenda of the Council Committee on Academic Mission, who will be considering it in the coming weeks and months.

- A report has been provided to the Ministry of Advanced Education outlining the progress the University has made in recent years in maximizing its facilities and programs as a 12-month campus. It is of note that Spring/Summer semester enrolments have consistently increased from year-to-year, and Nursing and Engineering are effectively working as 12-month per year programs. All Deans are considering ways in which they might extend program offerings to reflect shifts in student demand and make best use of University facilities and teaching resources during the summer months.
REPORT ON THE PRESIDENT’S ACADEMIC RESEARCH

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

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION RESEARCH

- At the end of December, I completed my four-year term as President of the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IASSIDD) and transitioned into the role of Past President. In my new role, I continued participating in Executive meetings and providing input on IASSIDD’s operations as well as its planning of future conferences.

- In January, I developed and delivered an inclusive education workshop that brought together representatives from the Ministry of Education, the Saskatchewan Association for Community Living (SACL), and provincial school divisions. The purpose of the workshop was three-fold: it helped the Ministry develop a position paper to guide inclusive education in the province; it allowed school division administrators to discuss the state of inclusion in their schools; and it helped SACL determine areas where more work needs to be done with schools.

- I completed and submitted assessments on a doctoral dissertation of a student in Australia as well as the application for promotion of a professor at an Atlantic Canadian university

- I edited several drafts of the final report for my “Voices of Inclusion” appreciative inquiry into inclusive education practices in Saskatchewan, and the manuscript is now with my co-researchers for final input. I expect to complete the report in the coming weeks.

PROGRAM PRIORITIZATION RESEARCH

- No work was required in the reporting period for the multi-university study of program prioritization at Canadian universities in which I am participating. I have completed my case study and when my colleagues have completed theirs, we will begin developing the final report.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

- Throughout the reporting period, I gave a number of presentations to different groups. These included:
- Presenting on inclusive education for staff members of the Prairie Valley School Division;
- Participating in roundtable discussions on collective bargaining and building effective leadership teams at a Universities Canada session for university presidents;
- Leading a Universities Canada panel discussion on removing barriers to inclusion;
- Providing opening remarks at a symposium on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder; and
- Participating in two panel discussions on women and leadership at a summit for women in academic medicine.

**PUBLICATIONS**

- The policy brief entitled “Post-Secondary Education in Canada: Serving Aboriginal Students” that I co-authored with President Stoicheff of the University of Saskatchewan was published by the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy.
- As noted in the previous report, I am still waiting to hear from the journal *Disability and Rehabilitation* regarding an article I submitted with colleagues related to our “Voices of Inclusion” research project.
CELEBRATING OUR CAMPUS

There have been many University of Regina highlights over the past few months that are a credit to our faculty, staff, students and alumni. Here are but a few:

FACULTY AND STAFF SUCCESS

- I would be remiss if I did not begin by acknowledging the many contributions made to the University of Regina by longtime employee Dr. Howard Leyton-Brown, who passed away in January. Dr. Leyton-Brown, a past honorary degree recipient, played an integral role in the University’s Conservatory and music programs for the past six decades.

- Dr. Jack Boan, Professor Emeritus in Economics, received the Lifelong Global Citizen Award from the Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation. The award is presented annually to someone from Saskatchewan who has made significant contributions to international development, cooperation, peace, and justice.

- Dr. Douglas Farenick, acting Dean of Science, has accepted a five-year appointment as Dean effective July 1, 2017.

- Dr. Iryna Khovrenkov, assistant professor at the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, is part of a team that received three-year funding of $198,300 from SSHRC to develop a body of scientific knowledge about Canadian grant-making foundations.

- Approximately $900,000 in funding and in-kind support has been provided by the federal and provincial governments, the Faculty of Science and participating vendors to support two research projects. The projects are being led by biology professors Dr. Chris Yost, Dr. Andrew Cameron, Dr. Richard Manzon and Dr. Chris Somers.

- The Ministry of Health has provided $356,000 to Dr. Heather Hadjistavropoulos and her team in the Online Therapy Unit at the University of Regina to deliver web-based therapy sessions to Saskatchewan residents.

- The Department of Physics, in collaboration with the Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation, is leading a major project with the potential to revolutionize plant research. The PhytoPET, a real-time imaging detector used to study plants under different conditions, is now on campus. This project is the first of its kind in Canada and was funded by a $1.45 million contribution from Innovation Saskatchewan via the Fedoruk Centre.

- An interdisciplinary team of researchers from the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan has created a potent synthetic antibiotic that is effective against several drug-resistant pathogens such as the bacteria responsible for Staph infections and other difficult-to-treat human infections. The research
was funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), Canada Foundation for Innovation and the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation.

- Through funding from the NSERC Engage Grant, Dr. Samira Sadaoui of the Department of Computer Science has created online auction software that allows for the buying and selling of electricity.

- Dr. John Foster, an instructor in the Departments of Politics, International Studies and Justice Studies, has been recognized by the Government of Chile for his human rights advocacy that began in the 1970s. At a reception in Ottawa hosted by the Chilean Embassy, Foster was recognized for his work that “generously contributed to saving lives and protecting thousands of Chileans during the dictatorship”.

- A new book co-edited by Dr. Harry Diaz, Dr. Margot Hurlbert, and Dr. James Warren speaks to the impact of climate change on the prairies. The book is entitled *Vulnerability and Adaptation to Drought*.

- Through a program developed by Dr. Fatima Pirbhai-Illlich, associate professor in the Faculty of Education and Dr. Meredith Cherland, Professor Emeritus, Education students and other on-campus volunteers have been working with new Canadians to provide one-on-one English lessons.

- Dr. Ryan McKellar, adjunct professor in the Department of Biology and curator of invertebrate paleontology at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum, received a great deal of attention in December for an article he published in the journal *Current Biology*. His paper outlines the discovery of a dinosaur tail preserved in amber and provides insight into the evolution of prehistoric feathers.

- A book jacket designed by Duncan Campbell, art director at the University of Regina Press, was chosen as one of the top book jacket designs of 2016 by the American Association of University Presses. This is the first time a University of Regina published book has received such recognition.

- In late February, Dr. Michelle Stewart of the Department of Justice Studies organized a two-day symposium on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder that brought together researchers, policy makers and practitioners from across the country.

- The Darke Hall Five – consisting of David Malloy, Vice-President (Research), David Gregory, Dean of Nursing, David Gerhard, computer science professor, and David McLennan, editor at the University of Regina Press – made it to the final round in JACK-FM’s Battle of the Cover Bands.
STUDENT AND ALUMNI SUCCESS

- On the third annual Giving Tuesday in late November, members of the University community raised more than $30,000 toward student bursaries and other initiatives.

- In early February, students organized a Chinese New Year celebration on campus that brought together several hundred members of the University and larger communities. Later that month, the Muslim Students’ Association organized a series of events for Muslim Awareness Week.

- Ella Mikkola, a Master of Fine Arts student in the Faculty of Media, Art and Performance, had her short film entitled SAARI chosen by the Toronto International Film Festival as one of Canada’s top 10 student films. It was screened by the Festival in late January.

- Former English as a Second Language student Hany Al Moliya, a Syrian refugee who is now attending Ryerson University, is one of the thousands of students from across Canada selected to take part in RBC’s #Make150Count initiative.

- A team of students from the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science won a major design competition. Emma Fraser, (Environmental Engineering), Kaylee Hayko (Industrial Engineering), Tennille Kowalchuk (Environmental Engineering) and Kailey Lowe (Industrial Engineering) finished first in the junior design division at the 2017 Western Engineering Competition held in Banff. They will represent the University of Regina at the Canadian Engineering Competition at the University of Calgary in March.

- The Paul J. Hill School of Business was awarded “School of the Year” at the JDC West Case Competition held at the University of Alberta. The competition features business students from 12 universities from Western Canada, and the Hill School Team won several categories on the way to finishing first overall.

- Business Administration students Rochelle Berenyi and Seth Tyler finished second in the marketing category at the Inter-Collegiate Business Competition (ICBC) held at Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario.

- Master of Science student Shelby Bohn is the only Saskatchewan competitor in a national video contest. The contest is called “Science, Action!” and is put on by NSERC. Winners are partially determined by the number of views their one-minute videos receive on YouTube. Ms. Bohn’s video is related to her research on bats.

- UR Guarantee students Jamie Prisciak and Olivia Arnal coordinated Random Acts of Kindness Week on campus February 13-17.

- Three Cougar women’s hockey players – Kylie Gavelin, Alexis Larson and Jaycee Magwood – won the bronze medal with Team Canada at the Winter Universiade in Kazakhstan.
The University of Regina’s student-run Living Skies International Film Festival will have taken place by the time the Board meets. This year, more than 1,500 films from more than 80 countries will be represented at the festival.

Past Alumni Crowning Achievement Award winner Marty Klyne has been appointed Executive Director of the RCMP Heritage Centre.

Recent alumna Michelle Clark was profiled on the University’s website for her work as a product manager in the National Football League’s media office in Culver City, California. Clark is a former member of the Cougar women’s basketball team and holds a Master’s degree from the University of Regina.

Dr. Ross King, an alumnus and past honorary degree recipient, has been shortlisted for the RBC Taylor prize for his most recent book, Mad Enchantment: Claude Monet and the Painting of Water Lilies. This marks the fourth time he has been shortlisted for this major national award.

CAMPUS EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

In early December, Campion College kicked off its centenary celebrations by officially opening its new entranceway, elevator and stairway, all of which will improve accessibility for those attending and visiting the college.

The University of Regina took part in the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. Partnering with the YWCA Canada’s Light the Night Campaign, the University kept the sign at the University of Regina’s main entrance at Wascana Parkway and Kramer Boulevard illuminated on the evening of December 6 as part of the cross-Canada campaign of remembrance.

The University announced its sponsorship of a new Night Owl Race as part of the Queen City Marathon (QCM) taking place September 8-10, 2017. The 5K Night Owl Race will kick off the QCM weekend.

A number of provincial and federal officials have visited the University in recent weeks. These include Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, federal Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness the Honourable Ralph Goodale, federal Minister of Science the Honourable Kirsty Duncan, and the Honourable Bronwyn Eyre, provincial Minister of Advanced Education.

Approximately 1,500 students from 30 elementary and high schools in Regina attended the Day of Pink event held at the University of Regina. The annual anti-bullying rally was also live-streamed to hundreds of students in Saskatoon and Prince Albert.

It was announced that the University of Regina will host the fall 2017 meeting of the Canadian University Council of Chief Information Officers.

The “Deliberation and Debate” series, based on suggestions by members of the University community, continued with lectures on sexual assault and carbon
pricing. The intent of this series is to promote frank and respectful discussions on difficult topics.

- Murad Al-Katib, president and CEO of AGT Food and Ingredients Inc., and chair of the Kenneth Levene Graduate School of Business Advisory Board to the Dean, was awarded Canada’s EY Entrepreneur of the Year.

- The most recent reporting on our longstanding Print Optimization Program indicates that reductions continue in the volume of paper used, amount of electricity consumed, and volume of related CO₂ emissions.

- On February 28, the University’s UR Guarantee program was featured on CBC’s “The National.”