

Friday, February 25, 2022

Indigenous Youth Summit to feature entrepreneurs, artists and a virtual round dance

Registration is open for the 2022 oskaya êkiskwayihtamowin osihcikêwin Indigenous Youth Rising Conference which will be held on Wednesday, March 9.

The conference will feature exciting special guest speakers and more opportunities to explore post-secondary education, celebrate culture and connect with Indigenous role models.

Last year's virtual conference welcomed close to three thousand attendees from across Canada and the United States.

MacEwan University is proud to be part of such an important event bringing positive messages to Indigenous youth. "The Indigenous Youth Rising Conference is an exceptional display of MacEwan University's teaching greatness and truly honours our place in O'Day-min and beyond," says Dr. Annette Trimbee, president and vice-chancellor. "Creating a space like this where young people can see excellence and potential for themselves in a post-secondary setting is so important and I applaud the conference organizers for all the work they've already done. I plan to register for the conference and encourage others to do the same."

The conference is being hosted by kihêw waciston, the university's Indigenous centre which offers personal, academic, financial and cultural support to Indigenous students.

"The kihêw waciston team is very excited to be hosting the conference again this year and we encourage people to register as soon as they can," says Crystal Pennell, conference co-ordinator. "The goal is to create an experience that is engaging, inspiring, and fun for Indigenous youth."

Conference participants will hear from incredible Indigenous artists, entrepreneurs, knowledge keepers, and advocates from across Turtle Island, including

- D'Pharoah Woon-A-Tai, actor from *Reservation Dogs*,
- Spur Pourier, 2022 Native American Music Award nominated singer/songwriter
- Kairyn Potts, content creator, and many more.

Registration is free, but limited. The conference website can be accessed directly at <https://events.bizzabo.com/IndigenousYouthConference> where the schedule, guest speakers and registration details for individuals or classroom/group registration. The registration website can also be accessed through kihêw waciston's webpage at MacEwan.ca/kw.

The conference will wrap up in the evening with a Virtual Round Dance hosted by Fawn Wood and Dallas Waskahat. The livestream will be available on the kihêw waciston Facebook page.

For more information, please contact kw@macewan.ca

Founded in 1971, MacEwan University inspires its students with a powerful combination of academic excellence and personal learning experiences. Offering more than 65 programs including undergraduate degrees, applied degrees, diplomas, certificates, continuing education and corporate training, the university provides a transformative education in a creative, collaborative and supportive learning environment where creativity and innovation thrive. Located in Edmonton, Alberta Canada, MacEwan University offers a unique student experience that opens up diverse pathways for achievement and growth.