June 17, 2019

Dr. James Makokis namd Distinguished Alumni award recipient

Edmonton – Dr. James Makokis walked across the stage at the Winspear Centre in 2001 to receive his Bachelor of Science, University Transfer. He'll once again walk across that very stage, this time to be presented with MacEwan University's Distinguished Alumni award.

Makokis is a nehiyô (Plains Cree), two-spirit physician from onihcikiskwapiwinihk (Saddle Lake Cree Nation), who practices general family medicine in kinokamasihk (Kehewin Cree Nation) and at a more specialized clinic in Edmonton where he focuses on providing medical hormonal transitioning for transgender people.

His passion drives him to elevate the nehiyô health system, which includes the use of nehiyâw maskihkiya (Cree medicines) and preventative interventions during the Cree Seven Stages of life, while simultaneously working to eliminate systemic racism and discrimination in the health care system and beyond.

Dr. Makokis has served as chairperson of the inaugural Indigenous Wisdom Council of Alberta Health Services, and is currently a board member of the Waakebiness-Bryce Institute of Indigenous Health at the University of Toronto and Indigenous Advisory Council at MacEwan University.

He is a recipient of the National Aboriginal Achievement Award (currently known as the Indspire Awards), and a Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

The Distinguished Alumni award is presented to graduates who exhibit outstanding achievements or make significant contributions in one or more of the following areas: service to the community, business, the arts, human development, the environment, lifelong learning, post-secondary education and/or government.

Makokis will be presented the Distinguished Alumni award at MacEwan University's Spring Convocation.

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.