

June 20, 2019

Dr. Kristopher Wells named Canada Research Chair

Edmonton – MacEwan University is pleased to announce that Dr. Kristopher Wells, associate professor in the Child and Youth Care program has been named a Canada Research Chair (CRC) in Sexual and Gender Minority Youth Issues.

This is MacEwan's first-ever Canada Research Chair, and the university looks forward to the incredible work that Wells will continue to do given the funding and support provided by this prestigious position. The funding for the five-year term is \$500,000.

"The award of our first Canada Research Chair marks the further maturation of MacEwan as an undergraduate university," says Dr. Craig Monk, provost and vice-president, Academic. "We are proud that Dr. Wells has been recognized as an emerging scholar of exceptional achievement as his influence is felt throughout Alberta and Canada."

Wells' Canada Research Chair will focus on three key areas in support of the public understanding of sexual minority youth by investigating and supporting inclusive and responsive policies, developing equitable and evidence-informed practices, and encouraging the full and equitable participation of LGBTQ2S+ youth in all aspects of our society.

Wells says that he hopes to develop new courses, create research opportunities for undergraduate students and postdoctoral fellows, and develop new and innovative resources and tools to help increase the public understanding of sexual and gender minority youth in Canada.

"I also hope that this Canada Research Chair will serve as a springboard for MacEwan to grow and support the development of other faculty members and CRCs to address some of the most pressing research questions and challenges currently facing our society," said Wells. "We in academia are in a unique position to use research to help ensure that evidence comes to bear in important policy developments and to help shape and inform the public discourse. I strongly believe that research can be used as a catalytic force to both serve and benefit the public good."

Wells says there is much to learn from youth when we listen, support and nurture them to become leaders in their schools, families and communities. "By using research to inform policies, practices and participation, especially in the domains of education, health and sport, sexual and gender minority youth will be afforded the opportunity to do more than simply try to survive in hostile environments – they can be supported to thrive and live up to their full and amazing potential."

For more information, please contact:

David Beharry, Media Relations Advisor

780-497-5586 Cell: 780-231-5954 Email: beharryd@macewan.ca

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The CRC program was established by the Government of Canada to attract and retain world-class researchers and to reinforce academic research and training excellence in Canadian post-secondary institutions.

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.

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