

Tuesday, June 21, 2022

## **MacEwan University celebrates Indigenous graduates**

**Edmonton** – As we mark National Indigenous People's Day, MacEwan University celebrates its graduating class of 2022, including 128 self-declared Indigenous graduates.

"This is almost six per cent of our graduates this year, a substantial increase over last year," says Dr. Annette Trimbee, president and vice-chancellor. "I am looking forward to our convocation ceremonies where we will welcome Indigenous artists and performers to help us celebrate our graduates."

There will be [six convocation ceremonies held at Edmonton's Winspear Centre from June 21 to 23](#). Each will begin with a prayer from a Knowledge Keeper or Elder to bring blessings of good health, healing, prosperity and opportunity to the graduates, their guests and the MacEwan community.

At each ceremony, Indigenous drummers, The Logan Alexis Singers, will perform an honour song to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of the graduates. The drum represents the heartbeat of Mother Earth and of all nations, and is believed to carry the echoes of our ancestors.

"Our strategic vision [Teaching Greatness](#) recognizes our place in O-day'min and that we are partners in reconciliation committed to Indigeneity and inclusive excellence," says Dr. Trimbee. "This belief threads its way through our actions as a university."

A recent example is the creation of cross-appointed faculty who are [teaching in conjunction with the university departments and kihêw waciston](#), the university's Indigenous centre. "These faculty members will develop Indigenous-focused curriculum and share Indigenous perspectives within the university's faculties and schools," says Dr. Craig Monk, MacEwan's provost and vice-president, Academic. "This is an important step in creating a supporting and nurturing environment for the success of Indigenous students, and will forward the university's vision of increasing access to post-secondary education to greater numbers of Indigenous students in programs across the university."

"A university has a unique opportunity to create space for dialogue, in and beyond the classroom," says Dr. Trimbee. "I am inspired by the opportunities I see every day for MacEwan to support and celebrate Indigenous culture, provide space for Indigenous learners and contribute to reconciliation."

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