

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

A StoryWalk around MacEwan University

Edmonton – A new permanent [StoryWalk® at MacEwan](#) installation on campus designed to welcome children and their families to MacEwan’s campus will be officially unveiled this week.

18 displays located in and around campus feature pages from a book with captivating illustrations and teachings that invite visitors to reach deeper into the story through a unique and immersive reading experience.

[Dr. Ozlem Cankaya](#), assistant professor in the Department of Human Services and Early Learning and MacEwan librarian [Lindsey Whitson](#) headed up a team of faculty, staff and students who developed the initiative that combines the joys of reading with physical activity and community building. StoryWalk was developed in the United States and has become an internationally known way of storytelling.

“Bringing StoryWalk to a university campus is special,” says Dr. Cankaya. “We are inviting families to engage with our campus and our community – to learn and grow in new ways that foster community, connection and understanding.”

It’s never too early to ensure Edmonton’s youngest citizens feel welcome and at home on a university campus, says President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Annette Trimbee.

“Projects like this break down barriers to university education by making sure that all children feel comfortable and can imagine themselves here, long before they make decisions about their post-secondary education.”

Fitting for a project launched during National Indigenous History Month, the first three StoryWalk at MacEwan titles will feature Indigenous authors and illustrators. As StoryWalk visitors make their way across campus this summer, they will experience [Walking Together](#), a powerful story written by Elder Albert D. Marshall and Louise Zimanyi and illustrated by Emily Kewageshi. The storybook explores the concept of Etuaptmumk (two-eyed seeing), the gift of multiple perspectives in the Mi’kmaw language.

With support from the City of Edmonton in the form of a \$50,000 Downtown Vibrancy Grant, the installation begins at the university’s 107 Street entrance. It winds its way through indoor and outdoor spaces, eventually looping its way back to where it began.

In addition to its partnership with the City, StoryWalk at MacEwan collaborates with Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society, Early Learning at MacEwan, Terra Centre, Canada Place Child Care Society and Monarch Daycare.

Media are invited to join us for the official unveiling:

Wednesday, June 5, 2024

9 a.m.

Library Second Floor (6-205)

10700 - 104 Avenue

MacEwan University

Participating in the event will be:

- Dr. Annette Trimbee, president and vice-chancellor, MacEwan University
- Anne Stevenson, Councillor, Ward O-day'min
- Cheryl Whiskeyjack, Executive Director, Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society

For more information, please contact archerj24@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.