Dreamcatcher Aboriginal Youth Conference turns 20 – “Dream, Learn, Achieve”

Edmonton—Aboriginals believe that dreams have magical qualities and they have the ability to change or direct their path in life. Since the night air is filled with both good and bad dreams, one of the traditional beliefs was to hang a dreamcatcher on an infant’s cradle board or in their lodges for the benefit of all.

A hanging dreamcatcher captures the dreams as they float by. The good dreams, knowing the way, slip through the centre hole, drifting gently off the soft feathers to the sleeper below. The bad dreams, not knowing the way, become entangled in the webbing, only to perish with the first light of the new day.

The idea of the dreamcatcher accepting the good and warding off the bad in the lives of youth has shaped the Dreamcatcher Aboriginal Youth Conference. The Dreamcatcher conference’s message is of self-empowerment – Dream, Learn, Achieve.

“For the past 20 years, Dreamcatcher has provided a unique opportunity for Aboriginal youth from across Canada to gather together to explore educational and career opportunities, celebrate culture and develop new friendships,” said Sharon Bookhalter, Dean, Faculty of Health and Community Studies. “This year we celebrate the 20th anniversary of hosting the conference at MacEwan University.”

The conference slogan, “Dream, Learn, Achieve” reflects the importance of education in helping Aboriginal youth fulfill their aspirations. For further information about the conference agenda, presenters and exhibitors, please go to: www.macewan.ca/dreamcatcher