June 17, 2016

Community leader awarded the Medal of Excellence

Edmonton – MacEwan University is pleased to announce that Oliver Kamau is one of four individuals selected to receive a Medal of Excellence during the Spring Convocation ceremonies. The Medals of Excellence are awarded to individuals from the broader community for their outstanding contributions and achievements. These individuals have contributed extensively to the quality of life in our city and beyond.

Originally from Kenya, Kamau studied Literature and Sociology at Kenyatta University, and then moved to Edmonton in 1997 to pursue a Master’s degree in Drama at the University of Alberta. Kamau is currently the Manager of Settlement Services at Edmonton Immigrant Services Association (EISA) where he oversees School and Library Settlement programs in Edmonton, St. Albert, Strathcona County, Fort Saskatchewan and Fort McMurray.

Kamau is passionate about social justice, equity, peer mentorship, youth empowerment and relations between Canada’s immigrant and indigenous communities. He also offers workshops on combating racial discrimination using art-based strategies to employers, community members, secondary and post-secondary institutions.

In 2004 he developed an intervention program known as Bamboo Shield to provide personal and life-skills to immigrant/refugee youth and Aboriginal youth. Kamau also developed the Youth Civic Engagement program that has new immigrants and refugee youth mentored by established Canadian entrepreneurs.

Kamau sits on a variety of boards in Edmonton, including HIV Edmonton, Edmonton Social Planning Council, Council of Canadians of African and Caribbean Heritage and other ethno-cultural associations.

Kamau will receive his Medal of Excellence on June 23 during the 3:00 ceremony.

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.