June 23, 2017

Gymnasium renamed in honour of President Atkinson
*The Dr. David W. Atkinson Gymnasium honours a legacy of dedication to sport*

Edmonton – The gymnasium at MacEwan University’s City Centre Campus will now be known as the Dr. David W. Atkinson Gymnasium in honour of the outgoing president, who ends his term on June 30.

Ione Challborn, Chair, Board of Governors, made the announcement during the Faculty of Arts and Science Spring 2017 convocation ceremony, David’s last as president. The announcement included the unveiling of a plaque that will be displayed at the gymnasium. Along with the dates of his presidency, the plaque states that “His leadership advanced the institution’s reputation as a quality undergraduate university focused on academic excellence and providing an extraordinary student experience.”

It’s fitting that the gymnasium was chosen to be named in David’s honour. The space serves as home court for the Griffins basketball and volleyball teams, both of which (along with the cross-country and soccer teams) were granted membership into the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) league under David’s leadership. David has also made known his love of sport. A former cross-country athlete himself, he can now be found teaching weekly spin classes at the university’s Christenson Family Centre for Sport and Wellness.

The gymnasium name change takes effect immediately. David’s presidential term officially ends on June 30. He plans to return as a faculty member in the Department of English after taking an administrative leave.

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.

For further information, please contact:
*David Beharry, Media Relations Advisor*
780-497-5586
Cell: 780- 231-5954
Email: beharryd@macewan.ca

Get MacEwan University news delivered to your inbox. Sign up for our weekly e-newsletter.