April 26, 2016

Panel to discuss Gender Identity at MacEwan University

Edmonton – The issue of gender identity and expression is one that is quickly becoming a greater and more frequent reality in the workplace, and in particular, in educational institutions. The Alberta Human Rights Act was amended in December 2015 to add ‘gender identity’ and ‘gender expression’ specifically as prohibited grounds of discrimination.

“Students of post-secondary institutions are focusing more and more on issues surrounding sexual orientation, gender identity and diversity,” said Michelle Plouffe, vice-president, general counsel and compliance Officer, MacEwan University. “We welcome a diverse community of students, faculty and staff to whom we are committed to provide the highest quality education, services and opportunities,” added Plouffe.

As a part of this commitment, a working group has been struck to look into issues of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression at MacEwan University. The working group has considered a number of actions the university will take in this area to enhance its support of students, faculty and staff.

“Providing education and training to the university’s management team on this emerging area of human rights will be a key step to ensure MacEwan is creating a safe, caring and inclusive environment,” added Plouffe. The panel will discuss the ways the executive team at MacEwan University can support this initiative.

The panel guests include Matt Woodley, Dr. Kristopher Wells and Marni Panas. Woodley is a partner at Reynolds Mirth Richards & Farmer LLP. He provides advice to a wide-range of organizations including employees, print and broadcast media organizations. Wells is an assistant professor and faculty director with the Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Service at the University of Alberta. Panas is a senior employee relations advisor with Alberta Health Services.

When: Friday, April 29

Time: 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Where: City Centre Campus, CN Conference Theatre 5-142 (Building five, room 142)

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.

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