February 21, 2017

University names first advisor for Indigenous initiatives

Edmonton – Dr. Valerie Henitiuk has been named to a two-year term as MacEwan University’s first advisor for Indigenous initiatives. Henitiuk is responsible for developing the strategic direction and coordination for MacEwan’s Indigenous programming.

The creation of the Special Advisor to the University, Indigenous Initiatives is one of the actions resulting from MacEwan’s “Strategic Indigenous Initiatives,” a document that lays out the principles for the Indigenization of the university in light of the findings of the report on Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

“Dr. Henitiuk has provided exemplary leadership for CAFÉ, and I am pleased that she has agreed to take on this new and very important role,” said David Atkinson, president, MacEwan University. “She will put together an internal advisory council to assist with developing the university’s plan for the future, and she will be focusing on establishing a broader advisory council with strong representation from Indigenous communities.”

Henitiuk also serves as the executive director of MacEwan’s Centre for the Advancement of Faculty Excellence (CAFÉ) and as professor in the university’s Department of English. She is the recipient of a SSHRC Insight Development Grant for her research on Inuit literature. She will be adding the new responsibilities to her current portfolio.

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

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