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**MacEwan University student forges new path in student government**

Edmonton - Peter Lee has big plans for the future that include one day opening his own business. Lee is a student with a developmental disability, and he is the first such student in Alberta to be appointed to a general assembly student council.

As a child back in Taiwan, Lee struggled in school. The education system didn’t have much help for students with developmental disabilities and Lee’s parents knew that he would have only two options: enter the workforce or compete for placement in Taiwan’s only special-needs high school.

Lee’s parents decided to immigrate to Canada, where Lee was able to get the help he needed to achieve his goal of attending university. Lee enrolled at MacEwan University through Campus Connections, an initiative with the Alberta Association of Community Living (AACl) that aims to include persons with developmental disabilities in post-secondary education.

Lee has served as a MacEwan Ambassador, sat on the City of Edmonton Youth Council, attended Bachelor of Commerce classes, and now sits on Students’ Council. Lee earned his place on Students’ Council in the same manner as all other student councilors – he was elected. His election became the catalyst for an historic Students’ Council policy change and the reason AACl presented a Community Living Award to the Students’ Association MacEwan University (SAMU).

For Lee, joining Students’ Council wasn’t about being first, or paving the way for others, he simply wants to make a positive impact. “I think this campus is for everyone,” said Lee. “One thing that really benefits me is getting an inside look at what’s happening in the council and on campus.”

Founded in 1971, MacEwan University is a comprehensive university offering more than 65 programs including undergraduate degrees, applied degrees, diplomas, certificates, continuing education and corporate training. Its philosophy of inspiring minds, academic excellence, and providing career opportunities continues to be its guide as it serves the educational needs of students across Alberta, Canada and the world.

The MacEwan University spirit means we are excited about the future and how each person contributes to our growth, success and creating new traditions.

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