October 4, 2015

MacEwan University introduces new Social Work degree

Edmonton—MacEwan University has become the first Edmonton-based post-secondary institution to offer a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW). The degree aligns closely with the university’s objective to expand degree offerings and meets the university’s core values of promoting social responsibility, access and credential laddering.

“A Bachelor of Social Work will provide students with the opportunity to extend their professional education and respond to increasingly complex social needs,” said Kathaleen Quinn, chair of the program. The BSW will build on the excellence of the diploma program and leverage the expertise of the faculty to develop and deliver an innovative degree program. “The expertise of current faculty and the strong diploma curriculum provides the perfect foundation to build a high-quality social work degree program,” added Quinn.

“Graduates from the program will have strong critical thinking skills and the capacity to work in a wide and diverse range of health/mental health, child and family, community, and human service settings,” said David Atkinson, president, MacEwan University. “They will also have the ability to work in an international context and make critical links between local and global social issues,” added Atkinson.

Students will be exposed to courses that explore the role of social work in supporting and enhancing social and environmental sustainability. “MacEwan University has made a concerted effort to address sustainability, and there is a growing body of research that supports the role of social work in addressing current environmental challenges,” said Quinn.

The first intake for the Social Work degree will be fall 2016.