Community activist to be named a Distinguished Alumni by MacEwan University

Edmonton—MacEwan University is proud to name Ben Weinlick as a Distinguished Alumni. Ben graduated from the Disabilities Studies: Leadership and Community, in 2007.

Ben is the founder of the Think Jar Collective, a group of creative people from diverse sectors who are trying to affect social innovation and positive change in human services, community health and beyond. Ben has written a number of articles on enhancing creativity in organizations. He is also a facilitator, teacher and trainer in human services, challenging individuals and organizations to create meaningful community connections for all citizens.

As a senior manager at SKILLS Society, Ben works diligently to improve the lives of people with disabilities. Ben leads Project Citizenship, a collaboration with the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts, SKILLS Society and the University of Alberta. This project has resulted in an increased awareness of the full citizenship for people with disabilities through stories highlighting the contributions people with disabilities are making in their communities.

In 2012, the project was showcased at a gala at the SNAP gallery. Ben was also instrumental in the launch of the CommuniTEA van, a mobile tea house that creates an opportunity for people to gather and connect. Ben has a keen intellect, a great sense of humour, and an ability to think outside of the box. He uses these traits to create innovative approaches to his work and invites others to be better by asking tough questions in a gentle and fun manner. Ben mentors students from MacEwan in field placements and routinely returns to the classroom providing students with inspirational stories.

He has had a tremendous impact on the lives of people with developmental disabilities in Edmonton. He is a true community builder and embodies the belief that strong communities have the capacity to recognize and appreciate the gifts of all citizens.

The Distinguished Alumni award is another of the MacEwan University’s highly regarded awards. Presented to graduates, the Distinguished Alumni award is granted to individuals who exhibit outstanding achievements or make significant contributions in one or more of the following areas: service to the community, business, the arts, human development, the environment, lifelong learning, post-secondary education, and/or government.

When: Tuesday, November 19
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Winspear Centre

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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