“We need to strengthen students’ Aboriginal self-identities as they learn to master and critique Western scientific and technological ways of knowing without, in the process, sacrificing their own culturally constructed ways of knowing.”

Dr. Glen Aikenhead, College of Education

“The College of Education has played an important role in advancing Aboriginal education in Saskatchewan but more needs to be done. We hope through our research that we will come to better understand the needs of the Aboriginal student populations and to develop successful teaching methods which will enhance the delivery of education to Aboriginal students in both provincial and band schools.”

Dr. Cecilia Reynolds, Dean of the College of Education

[Logo: University of Saskatchewan]
The Aboriginal Education Research Centre (AERC) is located in the heart of the central Prairies where many Aboriginal Nations reside including Cree, Nakawe, Dakota/Nakota/Lakota, Dénesuline and Métis. AERC is designed to serve research needs concerning First Nations, Métis, and Inuit learners within Canada.

The University of Saskatchewan announced its intention to create the AERC on February 17, 2005. The new Centre, located in the College of Education, opened its doors November 1, 2005. The College of Education has a strong history and important role in advancing Aboriginal education. Core course requirements have been established for all teachers in social justice, gender equity, multicultural and Aboriginal education. The diversity of research undertaken by AERC will compliment programming not only at the U of S, but across Canada. AERC has been established as a first priority in the College’s Plan.

No comparable centre exists in Canada. Diverse national partnerships supporting AERC research projects continue to grow. Researchers experienced in working in Aboriginal communities and schools strengthen research results. AERC is at the forefront of an endeavour working to transform the preparation of future teachers, administrators and staff that will result in the creation of more effective learning environments.

AERC’s Goals:

- Research and study the needs of Aboriginal student populations, successful pedagogy and practices, and experimental methods to shape future policy and directions of provincial and band schools;
- Improve the educational capacity of schools to retain and meet the needs of Aboriginal students, while improving the knowledge and sensitivity of other students and school staff to Aboriginal peoples;
- Develop supportive partnerships with Aboriginal communities, elders, institutions and organizations;
- Build local and Canadian capacity to value and learn from the knowledge and educational practices of diverse Aboriginal peoples;
- Mobilize knowledge and practices among educational institutions through dialogues, conferences, publications, and websites on Aboriginal education;
- Develop research activities as decolonizing sites to improve Indigenous education across disciplines, throughout Canada and internationally;
- Facilitate dialogues with Aboriginal communities, organizations and elders to develop collaborative protocols and practices for ethical research, learning, and teaching;
- Support and enrich graduate students and faculty in scholarly interests and subsequent research in Aboriginal education; and
- Create local, provincial, national and international partnerships with other pre-eminent universities and groups.

"This Centre will build research capacity and nourish leadership in a new generation of scholars as they take their place in the Canadian academy, in the administration of schools, colleges, and universities and in advancing Aboriginal education. We plan to collaborate, as well as innovate, working with groups and individuals across the U of S campus and in the local community to ensure the Centre’s research makes a significant academic and social impact.”

Dr. Marie Battiste,
Academic Director  AERC

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION RESEARCH CENTRE

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