ABORIGINAL EDUCATION RESEARCH CENTRE

“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

The College of Education, University of Saskatchewan has a strong history and important role in advancing Aboriginal education. Tangible and practical accomplishments include the establishment of core course requirements for all teachers in addressing social justice, gender equity, multicultural and Aboriginal education. Specialized Aboriginal teacher education programs are supported by the College. Yet, there remains a need for more research and study of Aboriginal student populations, successful pedagogy and practices, and appropriate methods for Aboriginal learners. These things are needed to shape future policy and directions of schools serving Aboriginal communities.

The Aboriginal Education Research Centre (AERC) develops and coordinates research activity concerning Aboriginal education. AERC focuses on improving educational successes of Aboriginal learners in multiple learning environments. This may include exploring the needs of learners, educators, institutions, systems, education contexts and related areas that influence educational success.

Currently, partnerships are being forged locally, provincially, nationally and internationally between AERC and other pre-eminent universities and groups. In its first full year of operation, AERC was successful in a national competition to develop and host the Aboriginal Learning Knowledge Centre for the Canadian Council on Learning. AERC and the First Nations Adult and Higher Education Consortium in Calgary, AB are now co-leading this exciting project concerning First Nations, Métis and Inuit education. For information on the Aboriginal Learning Knowledge Centre see www.ccl-cca.ca.

In the future, AERC will be developing Endowed Graduate Scholarship Awards, a Research Chair Professorship and diverse research projects to support on-going scholarship in Aboriginal education at the University of Saskatchewan.

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