

Wichitowin ahci kaskihtamasowin ati nikan



(Michif)

Helping each other with success for the future

**SASKATCHEWAN
POLYTECHNIC**



Saskatchewan Polytechnic Indigenous Student Success Strategy Partnership Opportunities

We deeply value the rich heritage and resilient spirit of our Indigenous students at Saskatchewan Polytechnic. We are committed to fostering an environment where every Indigenous student is nurtured to thrive, both academically and personally.

Learning is powerful. I am optimistic about what lies ahead, not only for current Indigenous students, but for the Indigenous youth who will see themselves reflected in greater workforce representation and will be inspired to follow that lead.

Our intent at Sask Polytech extends beyond merely bridging post-secondary achievement gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students. It's about dismantling barriers and creating pathways that honour the wisdom, cultures, and aspirations of Indigenous peoples. We understand the importance of not only adapting our approaches to meet distinct educational needs, but also empowering Indigenous students toward self-determination and meaningful contributions to their communities, and our province as a whole.

We have seen tremendous headway in closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous student success rates but barriers to Indigenous student success remain. Proactive support sets Indigenous students up for post-secondary success before they arrive, and approaches must address Indigenous peoples' learning needs, support self-determination, and advance socio-economic development of Indigenous communities.

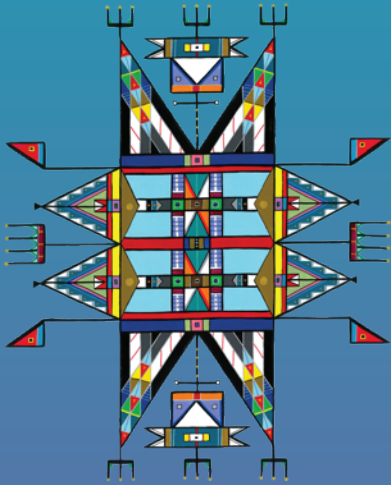
Support Sask Polytech as we aim for a future where Indigenous students are unencumbered by financial burdens through scholarships, bursaries, awards, and waived application fees. Amplifying outreach ensures ensures more Indigenous community members see Sask Polytech as a place they belong. Your contribution toward the holistic and culturally attuned support systems—catering to the diverse needs of Indigenous students—enriches their experience, and the very fabric of Saskatchewan, with the perspectives and representatives of Indigenous peoples.



Deanna Kematch

Director, wītōkamāhtōtān Indigenous Student Success





miyo wâhkôhtowin

This Cree phrase expresses the positive value and richness of experience that stems from interconnectedness and relationships.

This worldview represents the individual and the community, and encompasses the foundation of all we do at Saskatchewan Polytechnic.

We honour this principle in every interaction, institutional practice, procedure, policy, and service we provide to learners, faculty, staff, alumni and our communities.

There are several on-going initiatives informed through consultation with our Indigenous communities that remove barriers to success and enhance the Indigenous student experience.

Hoʔá (Dene) Welcoming Goal: \$250,000 Annually

Many Indigenous students leave family and community to study with us, and the transition can be difficult. The more we help them navigate unfamiliar processes and systems, the easier these transitions are. Your investment helps us:

- Establish meaningful relationships with Indigenous communities to ensure prospective students understand the prerequisites for success in post-secondary education, ensuring they are well-prepared prior to their enrollment.
- Endorse and strengthen the Summer Transition program, which is thoughtfully designed to equip Indigenous students with the knowledge and skills necessary for a smooth transition to post-secondary education.
- Ensure comprehensive, culturally informed support within the community, including assisting with finding housing, childcare, and other necessities for Indigenous students relocating away from home.

Your investment ensures Indigenous students are prepared to succeed.

Ombi-ah` (Nakawe) Inspiring Goal: \$200,000 Annually

Enhanced accessibility to post-secondary life with holistic services and learning environments centred on Indigenous needs, honouring Indigenous culture and identity in authentic and meaningful ways. Your gift means we are better able to:

- Offer tailored academic support, including tutoring, to assist Indigenous students in overcoming educational challenges and achieving success.
- Increase Indigenous student representation at Sask Polytech to reflect a diverse and inclusive campus community.
- Nurture and grow programming to help Indigenous students maintain their connections to their identity and community.

Your investment helps Indigenous students thrive at Sask Polytech.



Mnihéya (Nakoda) Empowering Goal: \$100,000 Annually

We take great pride in our students' achievements and are dedicated to ensuring they graduate equipped to make a positive impact in their local communities, across Canada, and around the world. Funding supports:

- Honour Ceremonies hosted to celebrate our Indigenous students alongside their families, friends, and other home community members.
- Dedicated career counselling and employment services that enhance Indigenous students' global skills and competencies.
- Indigenous career engagement with opportunities for students to learn from industry professionals, forge strong ties with the world of work, and foster an Indigenous alumni network.

Your investment celebrates Indigenous student achievement and prepares Indigenous graduates for successful lifelong careers.

Heca (Dakota) Belonging Goal: \$200,000 Annually

Embracing the principle of miyo wâhkôhtowin, or good relations, Sask Polytech is committed to cultivating strong, respectful ties with Indigenous communities before students begin their educational journey.

Financial contributions are essential to:

- Nurture close and trusting relationships with Indigenous students and communities in Saskatchewan, allowing us to address specific educational concerns and needs.
- Create safe and nurturing spaces—virtual and physical—that respect and reflect the cultural values of Indigenous students, fostering environments where they can thrive.
- Continue to Indigenize spaces within our campuses, making them places of welcome, inclusion, and cultural celebration, which resonate with the identities and traditions of Indigenous students.

Your support is an investment in the spirit of miyo wâhkôhtowin, advancing an educational space that is truly reflective of the diverse and rich cultures at the heart of Saskatchewan.



Indigenous Declaration

Sask Polytech is committed to the indigenization of our institution. Indigenization is our social and collective responsibility and it enriches and benefits all aspects of our institutional culture.



**“Find a place that aligns with your beliefs and respects your culture.
My experience at Sask Polytech was nothing but positive.”**

“If I could go back to my first month of classes, I would reassure myself that I would find support and a place of acceptance,” says Mikayla Edy-Lizuck. Enrolled in the Psychiatric Nursing advanced diploma program, the First Nations student says it was that welcoming spirit and “seeing Sask Polytech’s value of Indigenous heritage” that drew her to the polytechnic.

“Every month, we receive a calendar, via email, with events, education, courses and gatherings offered to Indigenous students. It includes smudge ceremonies, traditional food, beading, Cree language courses and more.” Mikayla says she appreciates that these activities “show the effort in continuing our teachings, culture and our vocal histories.”

Mikayla says her biggest challenge was juggling her studies and a complicated pregnancy in her first year. “My program faculty worked with me to guide and support me successfully through year one.” With the assistance of the Indigenous student advisor, she also applied for—and received—student awards and bursaries, which reduced some of her financial pressure.

Mikayla Edy-Lizuck



Indigenous Belief Statement

We indigenize by holistically integrating Indigenous ways of knowing, teaching, and learning within all of the institutional practices, procedures and services we provide to students, staff and communities.

This results in Indigenous people seeing themselves and their realities reflected throughout our institution. It also results in non-Indigenous people gaining the skills and knowledge that enable them to work with and live alongside their Indigenous neighbours knowledgeable and respectfully.



Join us in championing the success of Indigenous students at Sask Polytech, where their growth, achievements, and meaningful contributions to their communities are celebrated.

This extends beyond a mere appeal for funding—it is an invitation to forge a partnership rooted in the shared values of Indigenization and the mutual enrichment of our communities.

By investing in Indigenous Student Success, you are not only providing resources, but actively participating as an agent of positive transformation.

Your support is a commitment to a future where the educational landscape honours Indigenous cultures, fosters equity, and nurtures the potential of every student to succeed at work, in their communities, and in life.



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