



# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

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## **Sydney Kuppenbender**

**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND BIORESOURCES**

**RENEWABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

*Michif/Laronge*

Sydney Kuppenbender is a proud queer, disabled Michif woman from La Ronge, beadworker, activist, and environmentalist, she has been an active volunteer in her community throughout her studies, and her efforts have been recognized through scholarships and awards. After graduation, she will continue to serve her community as a graduate student in the Master of Environment and Sustainability program, where she will present interspecies communication as a possible method for Indigenous land managers.

## **Tina Mitchell**

**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND BIORESOURCES**

**KANAWAYIHETAYTAN ASKIY CERTIFICATE**

*Mohawks of Akwesasne*

Tina Mitchell was born and lives in Akwesasne. She is married with five children and five grandchildren. She has held numerous positions on the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and works hard to serve her community. She has recently been appointed program manager for the Office of Vital Statistics and is completing the Professional Lands Managers Certification program. This training will enable her to assist her community in finalizing a self-government agreement with Canada.

## **Chelsea Brant**

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE**

**ART AND ART HISTORY**

*First Nations Mohawk of the Bay of Quinte from Tyendinaga Territory*

Chelsea Brant (she/her) is a Mohawk of the Bay of Quinte Turtle Clan from Tyendinaga Territory, currently studying and residing on Treaty 6 Territory, homeland of the Métis. Chelsea is an emerging interdisciplinary artist, independent curator, and a candidate in the Master of Fine Arts program. She is a graduate from the University of Guelph and has since worked for several arts organizations within administrative roles, curatorial assistantships, and programming coordination positions.

## **Brody Burns**

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE**

**ART AND ART HISTORY**

*Cree from James Smith Cree Nation*

Brody Burns is Cree from James Smith Cree Nation. In the Spring of 2021, Brody completed a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology Degree at the University of Saskatchewan. Given his lifelong interest in art, he enrolled in the Masters of Fine Arts program in the Department of Art and Art History in the fall of 2021. Brody's artwork consists of paintings, drawings and digital media that are influenced by ceremonies, graffiti and neuropsychology related to trauma and healing.

## **Skye Landrie**

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE**

**GABRIEL DUMONT COLLEGE**

*Métis Nation of Saskatchewan*

Skye Landrie is a proud Métis student from Glaslyn, Saskatchewan. She is currently enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences and our Gabriel Dumont College program. Skye actively seeks to improve the arts academy by promoting Indigeneity. She is interested in the field of screen writing, the film industry and in acting. We are very proud of her high academic average and her promotion of our Métis culture in the fine arts!

## **Carmen Larson**

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE**

**GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING**

*Plains Cree from Pelican Lake First Nation*

Carmen Larson is in her fourth year at the University of Saskatchewan studying regional and urban planning. She is from Chitek Lake, Saskatchewan, and a member of Pelican Lake First Nation. Environmental resilience, First Nations ecological knowledge and sustainable planning strategies are her interest and passion. Carmen is an active executive member of the Planning Students' Association. Her goal is to have a positive impact on communities and the surrounding environment in her professional career.

## **Leah Burwash**

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE**

**INDIGENOUS STUDIES**

*Métis from Prince Albert*

Leah Burwash is a Métis undergraduate student researcher who was born in Calgary but raised in Prince Albert. She is completing her second year of a bachelor's degree in Indigenous Studies and is planning to continue her studies on Indigenous governance, policies, substance use and law. Her goal is to create positive changes for Indigenous People and communities. Leah's research as an undergraduate is remarkable and compelling and has generated important understanding of the intersections between cultural practices and health care delivery to Indigenous residents of Saskatchewan with particular attention to the segregation of health care delivery during the 20th century tuberculosis epidemic.

## **Jennifer Ward**

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE**

**LINGUISTICS**

*Cree*

Jennifer Ward is in her final year of a Bachelor of Arts majoring in linguistics. She finished her honours thesis this past year and plans on applying for graduate studies in the fall. She received the Academic Excellence Award in 2021, was added to the Dean's Honour List, and is a member of the Golden Key Honours Society. Along with her studies, she enjoys singing in the Greystones Singers choir and taking piano lessons.

**AUSTIN GOYER****COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE****POLITICAL STUDIES***Métis*

Austin Goyer is a third year political studies student born and raised in Saskatoon. Austin is incredibly proud of his Métis background. Before beginning his post-secondary journey, he backpacked through Southeast Asia and lived in Vancouver. Austin was the proud recipient of the George McNevin Award for Public Service scholarship in 2021. He hopes to attend U Sask law school to pursue a career in Aboriginal law.

**Hayden Ulriksen****COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE****PRINCE ALBERT CAMPUS***Lac La Ronge*

Hayden Ulriksen is a first year Arts and Science Student studying at the University of Saskatchewan's Prince Albert Campus. Hayden's goals are to transfer colleges and earn a degree from the Edwards School of Business. His hobbies include playing lacrosse and serving as team captain for the Prince Albert Attack, going to the gym and sledding. Hayden is proud to be a member of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band, and he is grateful for their support in his educational goals. He wishes to thank the University of Saskatchewan for the honour of this award.

**Samantha LaRose****COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE****SOCIOLOGY***Birch Hills, Saskatchewan*

My name is Samantha LaRose (she/her) and I am from Birch Hills, Saskatchewan. I am currently in my fifth year at the University of Saskatchewan. I am completing my bachelor's degree in Sociology, and I am in the Indigenous Justice and Criminology program. I hope to work with Indigenous people to help them get access to the necessary support and healing that they need to better their lives and better the community overall.

**Justine Hunter****COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE****STATISTICS***Métis*

Justine Hunter has been a high-achieving student in a variety of introductory mathematics and statistics courses. Through her course work Justine has demonstrated that she is an excellent communicator with a great attitude to learning. We believe that the Indigenous Achievement Award is a great acknowledgement of her early successes, as well as tremendous motivation for her continued excellence going forward.

## **Cassia Anderson**

### **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

#### **INDIAN TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM (ITEP)**

*English River First Nation*

Cassia Anderson's work in one course on the theme of anti-oppressive and ethical understandings of education has shown a strong passion for learning and for connecting with her peers. She actively participated in discussions and shared her enthusiasm not only for the topics and issues in the course, but also for how this learning was impacting on her ideas and plans as a teacher. She has spoken openly about her own experiences as a young person in school and how these experiences have shaped her passion for supporting students and for creating strong working relationships with other educators. Her written work for the course showed that she was a close reader of the material, and able to reflect on and make connections between what she was reading and her experiences and goals in education. Cassia completed her Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology from the University of Saskatchewan in 2021 with high academic average and continues to excel in her current studies with a term average of 90.4%. She will be completing a Bachelor of Education degree from the Indian Teacher Education Program in 2023. So proud of you Cassia!

## **Jacob Fritz**

### **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

#### **SASKATCHEWAN URBAN NATIVE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM (SUNTEP)**

*Métis Nation of Saskatchewan*

Jacob Fritz is a very proud Métis gentleman from Regina. Jacob is a Huskie award-winning athlete with the wrestling team. He consistently balances his athletic skill while maintaining a high academic average. Jacob is a passionate and dedicated student who is invested in Indigenous and anti-racist education. His proud and humble disposition emanates among our SUNTEP community and within the schools he has worked to the greatest degree.

## **Jared Crane**

### **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

*Cumberland House*

Jared Crane is from Cumberland House, Saskatchewan. He is thirty-five years old and a proud father to three daughters. Jared is the first member of his immediate family to have obtained a Grade 12 diploma and is now studying at the University of Saskatchewan in the College of Education. He has made the Dean's Honour Roll in the 2019-2020 and the 2020-2021 academic school years and is working towards making it three years consecutively. His hobbies are visiting his parent's and grandmother while having tea and listening to their stories from the past, fishing and spending time with family. He is inspired to become a teacher to serve the community and people. Jared wishes to help others achieve a good education and encourage others to work towards their goals. His daughters and loved ones inspire him to do something positive with his life and honour them by living a good life.

## **Deserae Goodhand**

### **COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING**

#### **CHEMICAL ENGINEERING**

##### *Métis community*

Deserae Goodhand is a Métis student in her fourth and final year of a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering. She attended high school at Mount Royal Collegiate in Saskatoon, where she was able to take part in an Engineering Pathway. The pathway gave Deserae the opportunity to volunteer for a work placement at the University of Saskatchewan in the rock mechanics lab, where she worked alongside civil and geological engineers. This experience pushed her to pursue an education and career in engineering. Deserae has always valued education as it has not only helped her grow intellectually, but it has also helped to develop her into the person she is today. Deserae believes learning through experience is one of the best ways to learn new skills, which is why she always looks for new opportunities to do so, whether through work, volunteer experience or taking part in projects through school. Throughout Deserae's education she has had opportunities to work with companies such as the Saskatchewan Research Council as a summer student, Federated Co-operatives Limited as an engineering intern and Cameco, which was an opportunity provided through MentorSTEP. Through these experiences Deserae has been able to apply skills she has learned to real-life applications and has developed an interest in the mining sector. Upon graduation she hopes to work with a diverse company and expand her experience and technical knowledge within the mining industry.

## **Nevan Parsley**

### **COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING**

#### **ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING**

##### *Métis Nation of Saskatchewan*

Nevan Parsley is a Métis descendant of the Red River settlements on his mother's side. He is a third-year electrical engineering student at the University of Saskatchewan, completing a co-op internship with SaskPower. "I am proud of my Métis identity, an identity that ancestors like my grandmother did not get a chance to celebrate. I am honoured to be given a distinction such as this that not only celebrates my academics but also my heritage. I would like to specifically honour my grandmother, from the Swain and Breland families of Skull Creek Saskatchewan."

## **Alex Halpin**

### **COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND NUTRITION**

#### **DOCTOR OF PHARMACY**

##### *Métis with original ancestry from Red River Colony*

Alex Halpin is currently in his fourth year of the Doctor of Pharmacy program. After graduating with great distinction in 2018 with a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology and Immunology, Alex entered the Pharm.D. program with a goal of a career in health care that will have a more direct impact on the health and well-being of the community. He has been on the Dean's Honor Roll in each year of the program.

## **Dayna Wellman**

**EDWARDS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**

**ACCOUNTING**

*Métis Nation of Saskatchewan*

While living in Saskatoon, Dayna Wellman discovered her heritage when she was ten years old through her involvement with Métis awareness programs at her school. Since then, Dayna has taken pride in her heritage and has made it a priority to educate herself about Métis culture and history. As a fourth-year accounting student, it has been her goal to represent the Indigenous community through her academic excellence. Dayna is honoured to be nominated for this award as it attests to all those who have believed in her throughout her education allowing her the opportunity to be a leader in the community.

## **Theoren Novotny**

**GABRIEL DUMONT COLLEGE**

*Métis Nation of Saskatchewan*

Theoren Novotny is a proud member of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan. He is an 18-year-old young man from Prince Albert. Theoren graduated from high school last year with great distinction. He entered his first year of arts and science through the Gabriel Dumont College with the goal of achieving a 4-year Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science. Theoren has dedicated himself to his studies and the Gabriel Dumont community of Prince Albert. His first term consisted of five classes and two labs in a combination of online and in-person classes. Theoren has exceeded expectations in all his classes and has maintained academic excellence.

## **Natasha Tinis**

**SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY**

*Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation*

Natasha Tinis is pursuing a Master of Sustainability. She is Anishinaabekwe and Nehiyawak. Her mother is from Keeseekoose First Nation in Treaty 4, while her father is from Southend, part of Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation in Treaty 6. Her mom taught her that hard work and application could get her anywhere she wanted. Natasha has a bachelor's degree in engineering and is working as an environmental engineer while attending the part-time energy security program at the School of Environment and Sustainability. She is married with two children. Natasha says: "I think the award should go to my children and husband since they are affected most by my ambition and hard work."

## **Hana Sollner**

**WESTERN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**

**DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE (DVM)**

*Manitoba Métis Federation, SW region, Grand Valley Local*

Hanna Sollner was a recipient of the Governor General's Academic Medal when she graduated high school in 2017. In 2021, she graduated with greatest distinction with a Bachelor of Science from Brandon University. There, Hanna was placed on the Dean's Honour List in all four years of her degree and was inducted into the Brandon University Honour Society. Hanna's proudest achievement has been being accepted into the Western College of Veterinary Medicine's DVM program.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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## **Jennifer Lenny**

### **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

#### **SASKATCHEWAN URBAN NATIVE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM PRINCE ALBERT**

##### *Prince Albert*

Jennifer Lenny is a 2Spirit Métis person from Prince Albert. They are the single parent of a vibrant 8-year-old whom they adopted at birth. Jennifer is a mature student who is in their first year of Education at the SUNTEP Prince Albert Program. They come to SUNTEP with a vast amount of knowledge from various workplaces, volunteering and cultural learnings. They work casually at the Prince Albert Métis Addictions Council, the Saskatchewan Health Authority Brief and Social Detox as an Addictions Counsellor and at the YWCA Our House as a client support worker. Though working, they still manage to be a top achiever who displays a profound sense of pride for their community, culture and advocacy to the 2Spirit community. They have participated in and are a vocal advocate, presenter and individual support person for the gender and sexual diverse community in Prince Albert. Jennifer sits on the Prince Albert Pride Board as chair and is a committee member of the Heart of the Youth Community Powwow, where they helped provide guidance to change the dance categories to be non-binary and created a statement of inclusion and welcome for 2Spirit dancers. They hold bi-monthly drum circles with women and 2Spirit people called "Spirit Strong Singers", facilitate bi-weekly drum circles for children and youth, along with drum-making workshops and Grandmother moon ceremonies for the Prince Albert community. They were invited to sit on an ADHOC Advisory Committee between the University of Saskatchewan and the City of Saskatoon to give advice on how the city can support post-secondary students and are a member of the SUNTEP Culture Committee, planning events for students and staff. Jennifer is an asset to the SUNTEP community and to the University of Saskatchewan.

## **Jaira Cross Child**

### **COLLEGE OF KINESIOLOGY**

##### *Kainai, Blood tribe (Blackfoot)*

Jaira Cross Child has been involved in the Prairie Run Crew Outreach Program (formally Child of The Cross Running Clinic) since 2018. This program aims to serve Indigenous communities by sharing a message of hope while sharing a passion for living a healthy and active lifestyle. Jaira's involvement has included visiting schools, sorting and donating running shoes, promotion of the event and coaching at running clinics. Jaira loves to share her passion for active living. She is on the Huskies Cross-Country and Track and Field team.

## **Jodie Sierzycki**

### **COLLEGE OF NURSING**

##### *Member of Saddle Lake Cree Nation in Alberta - Lives in La Ronge*

Jodie Sierzycki lives in La Ronge, Saskatchewan and is a member of Saddle Lake Cree Nation of Alberta in Treaty 6 Territory. She is completing the final preceptorship of her fourth year in the Bachelor of Science Nursing degree from the University of Saskatchewan and will graduate from the program in Spring 2022. Her placement is in the La Ronge Health Centre, where she hopes to be employed as a registered nurse (RN) after completing her degree.



## **Emma Werezak**

**COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND NUTRITION**

**DOCTOR OF PHARMACY**

*Muskeg Lake Cree First Nation*

Emma Werezak is a second-year Pharm. D. student. She also completed her undergraduate honours degree in anatomy and cell biology. She loves to be a part of the community and has worked as an upper year mentor for the Indigenous Student Achievement Program (ISAP) for several years. Through pharmacy she has been given the opportunity to join the Indigenous Initiatives Committee, as well as obtain a position as a “big sister” through Big Brothers Big Sisters of Saskatoon.

## **Lauren Aussant**

**EDWARDS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**

**MANAGEMENT**

*Métis Nation of Saskatchewan*

Lauren Aussant is a proud citizen of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan. She is a third-year management major, and she attributes a significant portion of her university learning to her involvement in the Edwards community since her first year. Lauren is one of the directors of Indigenous Initiatives for the Edwards Business Students’ Society, an International Business delegate on JDC West Team Sasky and the logistics director for the Indigenous Business Students’ Society. Outside of school, she attends Gabriel Dumont Local 11 events whenever possible to continue learning about her culture and history.

## **Yvette Nolan**

**JOHNSON SHOYAMA GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY**

**MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY**

*Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg (Quebec)*

Yvette Nolan (Algonquin) is a playwright, director and dramaturg. Born in Prince Albert, raised in Winnipeg, she has worked across Turtle Island. From 2003-2011, she served as artistic director of Native Earth Performing Arts in Toronto. Her book, *Medicine Shows*, about Indigenous performance in Canada was published by Playwrights Canada Press in 2015. She is currently the company dramaturg for Sum Theatre, the co-curator for Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan, and the chair of Common Weal Community Arts.

# LEADERSHIP

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## **Sarah Pocha-Tait**

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE**

**ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY**

*Métis*

Sarah Pocha-Tait is in her final year of undergraduate studies in archaeology. She is originally from the hamlet of MacDowall where she is very active within the community and with Métis Local #83. She is the vice-president of the department's undergraduate students association, AASA for 2021-2022 and is active in department meetings. She is also involved in planning the APALA student conference in 2022. She hopes to be involved with the department's ARCHAIA graduate student association next year and begin her master's program on the subject of Métis ceramic use at Fort Carlton.

## **Kristen Wapass**

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE**

**LINGUISTICS**

*Poundmaker Cree Nation*

Kristen Wapass is a reconnecting person of British/white and nēhiyaw decent. She is a dedicated mother and student, keeping a full course load while staying home with her daughter. In reconnecting she developed a passion for nēhiyawēwin and believes it should be made accessible and attractive for people of all ages, ethnicities, and education levels to learn. She delivered a thought-provoking presentation at a public forum during the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, September 2021.

## **Julian Chief**

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

**INDIAN TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM**

*Onion Lake Cree Nation*

Julian Chief is a third-year student in the Indian Teacher Education Program. He has shown leadership in many ways during his time in the program. Julian began the program with a great deal of commitment to his success, but it was soon apparent that he was also supportive of his peers' success too. He speaks with confidence in class, answers questions and has a kind demeanor when speaking to his peers. When campus is open for classes, Julian can be found in the ITEP student lounge not only working on his own assignments but offering assistance to classmates who ask him questions. In remote classes, Julian offers to get the discussion going and encourages his classmates to share their input. He represents the ideals of Indigenous community kinship both on and off campus.

## **Pierrette Settee**

### **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

#### *Cumberland House Cree Nation*

Pierrette Settee is a third-year student in the College of Education from Cumberland House Cree Nation. She has a background in media arts production and feels she should share her gift with people. She uses nature as her classroom because to Pierrette, life has an interesting story to tell and she wants to learn more so she can teach it. Pierrette is an Indigenous storyteller, artist and future educator. In addition to working on her education degree, she is a grant writer for her Cree Nation. She is working on finding funding for a canoe trip with families to travel the same route their ancestors took repeatedly. She also enjoys brainstorming with youth and other community members to create land-based education projects: cultural camps, canoe trips with youth. "On the water you feel so free, and you heal. I teach youth how to use media equipment so that they can learn to document and capture the beauty of the world, but mainly the Saskatchewan River Delta (our home)."

## **Connor Johnston**

### **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

#### **SASKATCHEWAN URBAN NATIVE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM**

#### *Metis Nation of Saskatchewan*

Connor Johnston is a proud Métis from Saskatoon. He will graduate with his Bachelor of Education this coming spring. He is academically gifted and demonstrates great humility and respect towards those with whom he works. Connor took part in leadership roles in the Graduate Student Association club, the SUNTEP Anti-Racist Education Forum and was the student representative council vice-president. Connor is a conscientious leader; he passionately assisted fellow classmates with a food drive fundraiser for northern families in La-Loche.

## **JC Steele**

### **COLLEGE OF LAW**

#### *Cote First Nation*

JC Steele is a third-year student in the College of Law. She is Anishinaabe from Cote First Nation in Treaty 4 Territory. As the vice-president of Indigenous Relations for the Indigenous Law Students Association, she advocates for students' success and well-being. JC is also proud to be part of an amazing team of Indigenous women delivering the Kwayeskastasowin course to first-year law students. She plans to practise Aboriginal law and work in Indigenous Nation Building.

## **Hanna Dunnigan**

### **COLLEGE OF MEDICINE**

#### ***Metis Nation Saskatchewan***

Hanna Dunnigan (she/her) is a proud Métis person completing her final year of medical school from the University of Saskatchewan, Regina campus. Hanna attended the University of Jamestown in North Dakota where she received a scholarship to play softball while studying to complete a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. She worked as a direct support professional for kids with varying abilities before returning to USask to pursue her medical degree. Her goal is to practise broad scope medicine and work towards improving health-care access for marginalized populations. Hanna says "I am so thankful for all the support I have received along the way and honored to receive this nomination!"

## **Amanda Nelson**

### **COLLEGE OF NURSING**

#### **MASTER OF NURSING PRIMARY HEALTH CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER**

#### ***Montreal Lake Cree Nation***

Amanda Nelson is a proud treaty member of the Montreal Lake Cree Nation, in Treaty 6 Territory. She's a married mother of six children, all of whom are in primary, secondary or post-secondary education. Amanda is a registered nurse with additional authorized practice and has been nursing for 13 years, nine of which have been in the northern communities providing primary care services. She is enrolled in the Nurse Practitioner program with the University of Saskatchewan, with two practicums left to completion.

## **Danielle Kehler**

### **EDWARDS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**

#### **MANAGEMENT**

#### ***Kawacatoose First Nation***

Danielle Kehler is a Plains Cree woman from the Kawacatoose First Nation in her fourth year of business management at the Edwards School of Business and is also an Indigenous artist. Danielle is the graphic designer and the Headperson for the Spokesperson portfolio with the Indigenous Business Students' Society. She is the vice-chair of delegate relations for the SevenGen 2022 Indigenous Youth Energy Summit. Danielle is also the "first" First Nations person to be a participant of the 2041 ClimateForce Antarctic Expedition becoming an ambassador for the Antarctic, charged with making a stand in the fight against anthropogenic climate change.

## **Dante Carter**

### **EDWARDS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**

#### **MARKETING**

#### ***Onion Lake Cree Nation***

Dante Carter is a proud nêhiyâskwew from Onion Lake Cree Nation. She has a passion for all things EDID (equity, diversity, inclusion, and decolonization)! Dante is a third-year Edwards student and is working towards majoring in marketing and minoring in international business. Along with her studies, she is an active member of the school community where she helps to support Indigenous students as part of the Indigenous Business Students' Society and works to implement EDID initiatives as the vice-president of diversity and inclusion on the Edwards Business Students' Society.

## **Sarah Gauthier**

**JOHNSON SHOYAMA GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY**

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN PUBLIC POLICY**

*La Ronge*

Sarah Gauthier is nihithaw (Woodlands Cree) heritage through her mother and Scottish/French Canadian heritage through her father. She is a mother, wife, proud member of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band, and an Indigenous engineer who spent most of her career working as an engineer in the areas of water and the environment. Sarah is a PhD candidate in the Johnson Shoyama School of Public Policy.

## **Jordan Koe**

**SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY**

**MASTER IN SUSTAINABILITY - ENERGY**

*Tetlit Gwich'in Dinjii from Treaty 11 Territory*

Jordan Koe is a Tetlit Gwich'in Dinjii from Treaty 11 Territory. He works as the manager of housing for Tsawout First Nation in Victoria as well as an outreach worker at Our Place Society's drop-in centre for the unhoused. Jordan has a Bachelor of Native Studies from the University of Alberta and has built a career focusing on sustainable housing, poverty reduction, harm reduction, and Indigenous sovereignty. Jordan is in his final year of his Master of Sustainability at the University of Saskatchewan and is a part of the Community Appropriate Sustainable Energy Security (CASES) partnership. Jordan's role in CASES is to research the impact that energy insecurity has on northern Indigenous communities, focusing on the effect energy sovereignty will have on cultural capacity, poverty reduction, and reconciliation. Jordan also is a radio host of Land Back Radio on the University of Victoria's campus radio station CFUV 101.9 FM, celebrating Indigenous punk, metal and experimental music from wherever Indigenous Peoples are making music. When not working or studying, Jordan is also a podcaster, musician and multimedia artist. Jordan was very active in managing the COVID response in his community. Also, he is active in organizing shelters for people in his community and instrumental in the community response to the discovery of unmarked graves.

## **Dawn Deguire**

**ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE**

*Muskoday First Nation*

Dawn Deguire is co-founder of the Saskatchewan Indigenous Yoga Association (SIYA), a not-for-profit making the healing benefits of yoga accessible to Indigenous people. In 2018, Dawn received the Saskatoon Community Foundation's leadership award, and she is an alumnus of Leadership Saskatoon. In addition to her current study of psychology and sociology at STM, Dawn studied Public Relations at UVictoria and is a certified professional director in Indigenous board management through the Johnson-Shoyama School of Public Policy.

## **Charlie Wyatt-Swain**

**WESTERN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**

**DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**

*NunatuKavut community*

Acting as an Indigenous representative for the Western Canadian Veterinary Student's Association (WCVSA), Charlie Wyatt-Swain has taken on numerous responsibilities, including sitting on the WVM Committee on Indigenous Engagement. In the summer of 2021, Charlie co-founded WVM DIVERSE, a student-run club focused on improving diversity, equity and inclusion in the veterinary profession. In the fall of 2021, Charlie organized a ribbon-tying ceremony to recognize survivors of the Residential School system. Thank-you Charlie for your excellent leadership!

# RESEARCH

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## **Micaela Champagne**

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE**

**MASTER OF ARTS IN ARCHAEOLOGY**

*Métis*

Micaela Champagne is a Metis/Cree woman who is currently in her first year of her Master of Arts in Archaeology. She is actively involved within her community by engaging with Indigenous youth and promoting Indigenous ways of knowing within the sciences. Micaela is passionate about reclaiming her traditional practices and language, in particular by learning from her Kokum. Part of her Master of Arts research involves work being done with residential schools and survivor communities to bring closure and awareness to communities in Canada.

## **Nicholas Boudreau**

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE**

**PSYCHOLOGY**

*Métis*

Nicholas Boudreau is a fourth-year psychology honours student who identifies as Métis. Nicholas has lived all across Canada; he was born in British Columbia, grew up in Ontario, and has now spent much of his life in Saskatchewan. Nicholas has always been people-oriented and never realized until entering university that psychology was the right fit for him! Applying his psychology studies to counsel others has become Nicholas's most important mission.

## **Demetria King**

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE**

**PSYCHOLOGY**

*La Loche*

Demetria King is originally from La Loche, Saskatchewan. Over the summer she completed an exploration project on Tommy Douglas and the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation in Northern Saskatchewan's social policy initiatives and their implementation 1944-1960. Demetria's work focuses on the day school experience in La Loche. Much of the history on the school has been from the perspective of church missionaries and she is working towards changing that.

## **Norine Tourangeau**

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

**EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATIONS**

*Cote First Nation 366*

Norine Tourangeau is originally from Moosomin First Nation and is also a member of Cote First Nation. Her teaching career is dedicated to Indigenous culture and language retention. Her research focuses on assessment in a Cree language program, contributing to the culturally responsive assessment making and identity formation of children involved in those Indigenous language programs. She is a strong, contributing member of her community (personally and educationally) bringing attention to the issues such as the residential schools, Indian day schools, Sixties Scoop, and MMIWG.

## **Jessica McDonald**

### **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

#### **INDIAN TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM**

##### *Black Lake First Nation/Dene*

Jessica McDonald was raised in Black Lake. Her journey to seeking an education degree was inspired by her mother who just retired as an educator in Black Lake after over 30 years as an educational assistant and has worked in the field of special education and shared the gifts of working with youth. When Jessica had her son, he was diagnosed with a rare condition and her mother's work helped to provide the care and needs of not only her son, but all her children. She wants to continue her work as an Indigenous educator and provide services in special education to children, specifically in the North as a community member.

## **Gabriella Antaya**

### **COLLEGE OF MEDICINE**

##### *Metis Nation Saskatchewan*

Gabriella (Gabby) Antaya, Métis, was born and raised in Prince Albert where she attended Carlton high school and participated in competitive gymnastics, cross country and track and field. She completed her biochemistry degree at USask and is in her second year of medicine. She is a member of the Anti-Racist Transformation in Medical Education cohort, Family Medicine Club, Obstetrics and Gynecology Interest Group, Wicahowin - Indigenous, Rural and Remote Health Group, Cree language classes and mentors youth. She was named Huskie First Team All-Academic Canadian four years in a row. In her final year of medicine, she plans to apply to both obstetrics and gynecology and family medicine residency programs. She says thank you to all the amazing teachers, coaches, mentors, professors, family and friends.

## **Tina Shaw**

### **COLLEGE OF NURSING**

#### **MASTER OF NURSING PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE**

##### *La Ronge*

Tina Shaw, a Métis woman from La Ronge is enrolled in MN Professional Practice program with an average well over 85%. She has demonstrated strong leadership skills within her academic responsibilities as a graduate student. As a Graduate Teaching Fellow, she is very supportive of everyone and wants everyone to succeed. She has produced very innovative and creative ideas for hybrid and online learning that have been adapted in the undergraduate program.



# RESILIENCY

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## **Chantel Cameron**

### **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

#### **INDIAN TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM**

##### *Beardy's and Okemasis Cree Nation*

Chantel Cameron is a member of the Beardy's and Okemasis Cree Nation. She has two beautiful sons ages four and fifteen. Chantel has done extremely well in both her studies and her extended practicum placement. It brought great pride to be informed that Chantel received a letter from LEADS. "On behalf of the Executive Board and all members of the Saskatchewan League of Educational Administrators, Directors and Superintendents, congratulations on being nominated for the Leads Exceptional Student Award." Chantel has demonstrated, determination, perseverance, and commitment to her role not only as a professional student, but a future teacher. We are so proud of you, Chantel!

## **Kiefer Paul**

### **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

#### **SASKATCHEWAN URBAN NATIVE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM PRINCE ALBERT**

##### *One Arrow First Nation*

Kiefer Paul is a second-year Bachelor of Education student in the SUNTEP Prince Albert program. He was born and raised on One Arrow First Nation and is a devoted husband and father of two, soon to be three, children. He is a mature student who entered his first year at the height of the pandemic. He spent his first year studying mostly from home while also caring for his one-year-old daughter, who often made spontaneous appearances in his online lectures. Kiefer is the oldest of 12 children who lost their father suddenly in September of 2021. Despite everything he was dealing with personally, Kiefer's consistent commitment to his studies never faltered. Kiefer is a true role model, not only to his family but to his fellow classmates. He has a natural caring tendency to help anyone in need, friend or stranger. Kiefer is a proud Indigenous man who enjoys sharing the teachings he grew up learning from his grandmother. He hopes to bring those teachings into his future classrooms!

## **Cam Bird**

### **COLLEGE OF KINESIOLOGY**

##### *Ahtahkakoop First Nation*

Born and raised in Prince Albert, Cam Bird experienced the loss of his biological mother and one of his foster parents during his adolescence. Persevering amidst adversity, Cam went on to excel in high school and is set to graduate from the College of Kinesiology this spring with an interest of pursuing nutrition. Faculty describe Cam as a bright light in any space, a person with an extraordinary ability to connect with and impact people around him.

## **Sheldon Bear**

### **EDWARDS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT**

#### ***Little Pine First Nation***

Sheldon Bear is from Little Pine First Nation, and is truly honoured and grateful for being nominated by his peers for the resiliency award. Sheldon is a mature student taking full-time classes at the University of Saskatchewan which can be quite the struggle especially during these trying times as everyone continues to learn remotely. Sheldon has a positive outlook and is viewed by his peers as someone who has an “unwavering commitment to his academic goals despite all this life has thrown at him.” Determination, perseverance, hard work, smudging and praying to Creator for strength and guidance, is what got him through it.

## **Danielle Poulin**

### **SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY MASTER OF SUSTAINABILITY – ENERGY SECURITY**

#### ***Lac La Ronge Indian Band***

Danielle Poulin is a member of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band. She is a proud mom to three wonderful sons ages nine, five and one. Danielle's is a busy family with her two oldest sons in hockey. They spend most weeknights and weekends together at the rink cheering them on. Danielle received her Bachelor of Education degree in 2012 from the University of Saskatchewan. She is a Grade 8 teacher with a passion for teaching and inspiring youth. She says this passion makes it easy for her to love her career. Teaching during Covid-19 has presented many obstacles for Danielle and her students, but she continues to learn and adapt and understands that the real importance of her job is beyond academics, and includes teaching resiliency, inspiration and hope for a better future.

Danielle used the same teachings to encourage herself to enrol in the SEMs master program. It was a more than challenging endeavor for her as she was expecting their third son in October 2021, but she knew she had the ability to accomplish it while balancing family and work life. She just needed to believe she could accomplish it and sometimes take each challenge day by day.

It is important to Danielle to be a role model to her sons. She knows that obstacles will come but by planning each step by step one can accomplish much more than they think.

Although this last year has been busy with family life and transitioning from maternity leave with a newborn to teaching middle years full-time, Danielle has been able to achieve excellent marks in the MSs Energy Security program largely due to her support system at home, her Lac La Ronge post-secondary program and the supportive professors and students within the MSs program.

“What you already have in your head and heart makes you capable of meeting any obstacle and rising to any occasion.” – Dr.Robin Hanley-Dafoe