



# Indigenous Student Achievement Awards

March 9, 2023

Honouring Indigenous USask students for their  
academic achievement, community engagement,  
leadership, research and resiliency.

**Congratulations to this year's recipients.**

## **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The land is acknowledged as our Mother, the Earth. The University of Saskatchewan is committed to honour and support the Indigenous peoples, Indigenous cultures, Indigenous values, and Indigenous languages that belong to the land of Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis. The University of Saskatchewan is committed to working towards mending colonized lands and protecting the land in a way that demonstrates honour, respect and love. The University of Saskatchewan extends this commitment to the lands and Treaty territories (Treaties 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10) that constitute kisiskâciwan ([Saskatchewan], "the swift current", Cree/Saulteaux), and all Indigenous people that call kisiskâciwan home. We are born to the land and the land claims us.

# PROGRAM

## **WELCOME AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Candace Wasacase Lafferty Senior Director, Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre

## **PRAYER AND GREETING**

Elder Roland Duquette and Elder Linda Sanderson

## **MÉTIS NATIONAL ANTHEM**

Brandi Tourand

## **HONOUR SONG**

Tyler Smallchild

## **MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS**

Dr. Angela Jamie (Ph.D.), Interim Vice-Provost, Indigenous Engagement

## **AWARDS CEREMONY**

Masters of Ceremonies: Justice Noon, Indigenous Students' Union Leadership and Rachel Fiddler, Community and Cultural Resource Lead, Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre

## **COLLEGE AND SCHOOL LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION**

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

## **HONOUREES GROUP PHOTO**



## **Welcome!**

On behalf of the University of Saskatchewan, I would like to welcome you to this special celebration of Indigenous Student Achievement.

We are proud to honour the many remarkable First Nations, Métis and Inuit students who are being celebrated today and who make our campus community a better place every day. As president, I am committed to ensuring that USask is the best place it can be for all students, and celebrating the achievements of Indigenous students is an important part of that commitment. To all of the award recipients and nominees, congratulations.

No achievement is accomplished alone. I would like to also acknowledge the many family members, faculty, staff, friends, and community

members who support these extraordinary students. Keep supporting and keep encouraging these students. Their achievement is your achievement.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge Indigenous staff and faculty and their allies for organizing this event today and to acknowledge all contributors to Indigenous Achievement Week for their hard work. Thank you for creating opportunities for our university community to learn about and celebrate Indigenous experiences.

— **Peter Stoicheff**

**President,  
University of Saskatchewan**

# ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

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## **Jared Crane**

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

**MIDDLE YEARS/ELEMENTARY MAJORING IN NATIVE STUDIES AND CREE**

*Cumberland House, Saskatchewan.*

Jared Crane (he/him/his) is from Cumberland House, Saskatchewan and is a Swampy Cree member of the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan. Jared is proud to be from the Cumberland Delta in Treaty Five, a territory that is rich with the language and culture of Western Canada's first inland settlement. Coming from a family that has a long history of serving our country and its people, Jared's plan is to work in the north. As part of the Cree Teacher Education Program B.Ed. cohort, Jared understands that an educator's duty is to 'Waso...wastenige' meaning that in order to shed light, one needs to be a source of light to help others navigate a learning journey. In being a teacher, Jared feels that classrooms are ideal places to shed light in order to create brighter learning spaces for all students.

## **Jessica Harper**

**COLLEGE OF NURSING**

*Onion Lake Cree Nation*

Jessica Harper is a proud band member of Onion Lake Cree Nation. She identifies as First Nations, and her pronouns are she/her. She began working as a Registered Nurse in her home community in 2018. Her ongoing commitment to Indigenous health and education led her to begin the Masters of Nursing Nurse Practitioner Program at the University of Saskatchewan in 2021. After graduation, she hopes to work as a nurse practitioner within her community.

## **Maia Houle**

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE**

**DOUBLE MAJOR INDIGENOUS STUDIES AND STUDIO ART**

*Saddle Lake Cree Nation*

Maia Houle is Plains Cree from Saddle Lake Cree Nation, Treaty 6. They were raised in their culture, in ceremonies, and with awareness of the history of colonialism among their people. They come from a lineage of highly educated women who clearly had meaningful influence on them and their studies. Maia is a double major in Indigenous Studies and Studio Art. The Department of Indigenous Studies is pleased to nominate them for an IAW 2023 academic excellence award.

## **Sydney Kuppenbender**

**SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY**

**MASTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY**

*Métis*

"I am a Queer, disabled, Métis bead worker with a passion for community service and sovereignty. This means that I am driven more by my duty to serve and give back to the Land that nourishes me. I was taught that the Land cares for us, and thus we should care for the Land. Not only does this mean that I seek to care for the Land, but I also advocate for it, and bring voices of the Land to the table in land management work."

## **Shaina Manning**

### **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

#### **ITEP**

*Sandy Bay, Peter Ballantyne*

Shaina Manning is a Cree Woman from Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation. Manning's family's roots come from Sandy Bay, Saskatchewan, and Texas, USA. Shaina was born in Saskatoon, but was raised in Minnesota. Shaina Manning says she calls Saskatchewan her home for the last 16 years. Shaina Manning is in her third year of studies in the Education Degree and proud to be a part of the ITEP community at the University of Saskatchewan. Shaina Manning is a third-year ITEP Student Council Committee representative and love participating in community events and cultural activities that expanded her passion for growth and knowledge of her culture. Since joining ITEP, Shaina Manning's academic average has increased to 94.9%.

Shaina Manning has three beautiful children with her husband: Shea, of almost ten years and two daughters, Vanessa, 14 years old, and Ally, 7. Shaina recently gave birth to a baby boy in October 2022 while continuing her full-time studies. Shaina Manning says, "Having my son, Pete has been a huge highlight in my family's life. The milestone of continuing my studies while prioritizing my role as a wife, mother and student has been something I celebrate daily. My goal to achieve my education degree is for myself and my children so that they know they can accomplish what they set their minds to."

Shaina Manning mentioned, before starting University, her entire career since she was 15 years old was helping individuals with disabilities, both children and adults. Shaina enjoys reading in her spare time and plays the violin alongside with her dad. Shaina enjoys watching her kids grow with their passions and love the time with the people she care so deeply about.

Shaina Manning will be a great Teacher Candidate out in the community and a proud ITEP Alumni.

## **Adam McInnes**

### **COLLEGE OF GRADUATE AND POST DOCTORAL STUDIES**

#### **BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING**

*Saskatoon Métis Local 216*

Adam McInnes (He/Him), M.D., M.Sc., Métis. Adam is a PhD student in Biomedical Engineering, conducting research in tissue engineering and regenerative medicine. Adam is passionate volunteer about STEM promotion, Global Health, entrepreneurship, and interprofessional education. He founded Med.Hack(+) and serves as its president, helped establish the Canadian Space Technology Advocacy Group and volunteers with the Canadian International Rover Challenge, mentors Indigenous students, is the president of Saskatoon Métis Local 126, and is the Vice President Communications for Mensa Canada. Adam taught for several years as a pre-clinical instructor in the College of Medicine, helped to establish the M.D./M.B.A. program at USask while in medical school, and is working to establish several educational programs. Adam has received numerous Inspire Scholarships, the USask M.Sc. Devolved Graduate Scholarship, the Indigenous Graduate Leadership Award, was a recipient of the prestigious Vanier Scholarship. Adam also received the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal in 2023 and the APEGS Friend of the Profession Award in 2022. Adam grew up on a small farm near Shaunavon, Saskatchewan.

## **Kira Mudrey**

### **COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND BIORESOURCES**

#### **ANIMAL BIOSCIENCE**

*Métis Nation—Saskatchewan*

Kira Mudrey is in her fourth and last year of the Bachelor of Science in Animal Bioscience degree program. She grew up in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and is a member of the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan. She has strong ties to the community of Batoche and has worked at the National Historic Site as an interpreter for the last two summers. When she is not in school, she enjoys spending time with her dog and playing the fiddle and piano. She is passionate about wildlife conservation and is hoping to pursue a graduate degree in the department of Veterinary Microbiology starting in the fall.

## **Tazana Nilson**

### **COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE**

#### **ENGLISH MAJOR, PRINCE ALBERT CAMPUS**

*Métis Western Region Two*

Tazana Nilson (she/her), is a Métis student studying at the Prince Albert Campus in her first year of studies. In addition to academic excellence in her courses, she is also actively involved in the community. She is especially interested in the fine arts and she has performed in more than a dozen plays in the community.

## **Brielle Perlett**

### **EDWARDS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**

#### **ACCOUNTING**

*Michif/Métis Nation—Saskatchewan*

Brielle's family is from Fort Qu'Appelle; however, she was born in Saskatoon and raised throughout North America. Brielle is in her final year of her B.Comm. degree majoring in accounting. Brielle also completed the honours program at the Edwards School of Business and has been fortunate to pursue interesting and meaningful research as part of her degree. Brielle takes pride in her work and hopes it will provide unique insight to judgement and decision making among public accounting firms. Brielle would also like to express how extremely thankful she is for the opportunity to receive this award.

## **Jordan Shirley**

### **COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND BIORESOURCES**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF SOIL SCIENCE, GRADUATE DEGREE (M.Sc.)**

*Métis*

Jordan grew up in Saskatoon and completed his undergraduate degree in Renewable Resource Management in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources. He is now in his final year of his M.Sc. program in the Department of Soil Science, where he is studying the use of microbial inoculants for biocontrol of crop diseases. Jordan is passionate about the environment and enjoys exploring the Canadian backcountry. When not in school, Jordan may be found woodworking or rock climbing. His long-term goal is to pursue a career in the conservation, research, and documentation of Canada's diverse ecology.

## **Morgan Speiser**

**COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING**

**ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING**

*Métis Nation—Saskatchewan – Western Region II Citizen; Ancestry in Muskeg Lake Cree Nation*

"My name is Morgan Speiser (she/her) and I am an electrical engineering student in my fourth year of study. My focus areas are power and circuits, sensors, and devices. I was raised in the small town of Laird, SK and have always felt compelled to gain a deeper understanding of how the world around me works. My future career in engineering excites me, as I hope to be able to use my knowledge to help improve the lives of others.

I strive to complete my studies to the best of my abilities, and being in a field of study which I am passionate about has made the journey enjoyable along the way. While there are many challenges I have had to overcome to be in a position where I am able to be successful in my academics, I am extremely grateful for the support and recognition I have been given that has made such an impact in my ability to work towards completing my degree."

## **Benjamin Wright-Fraser**

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE**

**GABRIEL DUMONT COLLEGE**

*Métis*

Benjamin Wright-Fraser, is a Métis bi-lingual person from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. He is currently enrolled in his second year of the Gabriel Dumont College and the College of Arts and Sciences. Benjamin is studying History and Linguistics. Benjamin attributes his current high GPA to his dedication to study and invested interest in his language, culture and identity. Benjamin is a dedicated student; his interests in archiving and interpretation are incredible strengths that supports himself and his classmates with uncovering important factual data in genealogical research. Benjamin hopes to apply these skills towards a teaching career majoring in History, Linguistics and more importantly, Indigenous Studies.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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## **Rebecca Agecutay**

**SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY**

**MASTER OF SUSTAINABILITY IN ENERGY SECURITY**

*Cowessess First Nation*

Rebecca is one of the students with the highest grades in the M.Ss. Energy Security program and combines her schoolwork with her duties at First Nations Power Authority (FNPA). Rebecca's work at FNPA promotes sustainability, energy security and wellbeing in Indigenous communities throughout Canada. Her assignments and projects in the M.Ss. Energy Security program address the opportunities of challenges that Indigenous communities face when balancing the urgencies of climate change, the preservation of traditional ways of living and the current demands for improving living conditions and an effective Reconciliation.

## **Jennifer Amarualik-Yaremko**

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE**

**POLITICAL STUDIES**

*Igloodik, Nunavut*

Jennifer Amarualik-Yaremko is a fourth-year Political Studies student and Inuk woman. They are the recipient of the Mabel F. Timlin award for Indigenous students in Political Studies for the 2022-23 academic year. They are involved in continual advocacy for the challenges that First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people face in Canada and will start a Master of Arts in September researching Inuit education policy. They can most often be found wearing Inuit regalia made for them by their mom or grandmother.

## **Nicholas Basaraba**

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

**SUNTEP**

*Métis*

Nicholas Basaraba, is a proud Métis person from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. He recently completed his Bachelor of Education degree through the SUNTEP Saskatoon program. Nicholas is known for his community leadership and mentorship for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students and athletes. Nicholas enjoyed working with vulnerable youth and gave back to this group in big ways through his devotion to sports, particularly with fastball, hockey and golf. Nicholas was voted most valuable player for the Canadian National Championships in Fastball. Nicholas also worked at Eagles Nest Youth Ranch in Prince Albert during his time in the SUNTEP program; his volunteerism and work with youth, as well as his humble and caring mannerisms enabled Nicholas to become a good teacher. Consequently, Nicholas is known to have talents and interests in Business to which he hopes to apply his education skills in business entrepreneurship.



## **Dawn Bear-Demkiw**

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE, ST. THOMAS MORE**

**PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH STUDIES**

*Flying Dust First Nations*

"I am a young Indigenous two-spirit person from Flying Dust First Nation, SK. I have taken my lived experience, as both an Indigenous and a white-presenting Indigenous person, and used it as a base for my education to be built upon. I specialize in LGBTQ2S+ issues as well as substance use and addictions. My previous positions focused on missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit peoples."

## **Trisha Campbell**

**SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

**MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH (COURSE-BASED)**

*Mosakahiken Cree Nation, MB*

Trisha Campbell is a First Nations woman of Cree ancestry. She grew up in Iqaluit, NU, and has lived in Regina since July 2011. She has obtained two undergraduate degrees from the University of Regina – a B.Sc. in Biology (2017) and a B.Sc. in Psychology (2018).

Trisha is in her second year of the Master of Public Health program at the University of Saskatchewan. She is a Community Research Assistant and Peer Coordinator with Wellness Wheel Medical Outreach Clinic since March 2019, and a Research Facilitator part-time at Saskatchewan Health Authority since March 2021. Trisha's professional background has given her experience working with community members, Elders/Knowledge Keepers, and people with lived experience. Trisha is driven to provide Indigenous peoples with equitable access to healthcare services that are patient-centered and culturally appropriate. She values Indigenous representation in healthcare systems and community-led research that addresses priorities that are important and relevant to Indigenous peoples.

## **Craig Edes**

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

*Gitxsan, Frog Clan, House of Haawx*

Craig Edes (he/him) is of Gitxsan descent: Frog Clan, House of Haawx. He has performed as a poet and emcee prior to beginning his Bachelor of Education degree and continues to do so in many venues across Turtle Island. In ITEP, Craig carries on his inspiring message to youth to celebrate culture and community through music. Craig also performs under the alias of The Northwest Kid.

## **Kendra Farmer**

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE / USASK HUSKIES**

**COMPLETED A ENGINEERING DEGREE AT USASK IN 2022**

*CUMFI*

During her six-year career with the Huskies, Kendra has made significant contributions to Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities through volunteerism. She is a coach and coordinator of Running Wild Athletics Club, supported the last two Tony Cote Summer Games, is an athletics coach for the NAIG championships, and provides a connection between the Indigenous culture and her Huskie teammates and coaches. She is an incredibly accomplished athlete and has completed a degree in Engineering at USask.

## **Aubrey-Anne Laliberte-Pewapisconias**

### **SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY**

#### **MASTER OF SUSTAINABILITY IN ENERGY SECURITY**

*Canoe Lake Cree First Nation and Little Pine First Nation*

Aubrey-Anne combines her studies in the M.Ss. Energy Security with her work with Indigenous organizations, such as Indigenous Clean Energy (ICE), Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (SIGA), and Tatâga Inc. As an acknowledgement of Aubrey-Anne's contributions to promoting collaboration with Indigenous Peoples in a clean energy future, she attended the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 27), held in November in Egypt, as a representative of Canoe Lake Cree First Nation and Little Pine First Nation. Aubrey-Anne is one of the students with the highest grades in the M.Ss. Energy Security program.

## **Michayla Quinn**

### **COLLEGE OF MEDICINE**

#### **COMMUNITY HEALTH AND EPIDEMIOLOGY**

*Métis Nation—Saskatchewan*

Michayla Quinn is a Métis student in their first year of grad school, studying Community Health and Epidemiology in the College of Medicine, with a focus on Indigenous food sovereignty. In various roles at CHEP Good Food, they connected with community based organizations in Saskatoon and pivoted during the pandemic when existing programs were suspended. Michayla was board member of Pride Saskatoon in 2022 and served on the board of Girls Rock Saskatoon for several years.

## **Tannicka Reeves**

### **WESTERN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**

#### **D.V.M. PROGRAM**

*Taku River Tlingit First Nation (Atlin, BC)*

Tannicka Reeves is currently a second-year student in the D.V.M. program. Tannicka is a community and family minded individual who possesses strong mentorship skills and a motivation to advocate for decolonial progress at the WCVM and in the veterinary profession. Her experience working for the Science Ambassador Program last summer gave her valuable exposure to youth mentorship, building on her lived experience of acting as a role model for her younger sister.

## **Jaedon Wolfe**

### **EDWARDS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**

#### **FINANCE**

*Muskeg Lake Cree Nation*

Jaedon is proud Muskeg Lake Cree Nation member and will graduate from the Edwards School of Business in June 2023 with a Finance major. Jaedon was nominated for Community Engagement by his peers as he continually finds ways to engage with Indigenous youth. Jaedon is honoured to be recognized for his contributions to Indigenous economic development and for promoting Indigenous culture during his academics. Jaedon feels this award is an excellent achievement for the efforts and passion that go into his work, and it will continue to motivate him to give back in as much capacity as possible.

## **Rourke Wonder-Buhr**

### **COLLEGE OF KINESIOLOGY**

#### *First Nations Non-Status*

Rourke is currently completing her third year of Kinesiology studying abroad at the University of Southern Queensland in Australia. She is a member of the Indigenous Business Students' Society this year as a corporate communications director and in 2022 as the conference director. In 2021, Rourke was appointed as the Indigenous representative on the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee for the City of Saskatoon and served through to December 2022. She also has been coaching junior boys with the Living Sky Indigenous Basketball League for the past two seasons. In the summer months, you can find Rourke working for Parks Canada in Prince Albert National Park. She is an advocate for sharing the Indigenous history of the park with visitors. Rourke is also a volunteer with the Waskesiu Fire Department.

# LEADERSHIP

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## **Kirsty Abbott**

**SCHOOL OF REHABILITATION SCIENCE**

**MASTER OF PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM**

*Métis Nation—Saskatchewan*

Kirsty Abbott (she/her) belongs to the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan. Kirsty grew up playing competitive softball and volleyball, engaged in an apprenticeship coaching program, and served as a leader at a Youth Center. During her time in the Physical Therapy program, Kirsty has become an advocate for Indigenous health and decolonizing physical therapy practice. Kirsty's hope as a Métis woman is to lead courageously to promote health and wellness using her coaching and leadership experience.

## **Averie Allard**

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION / USASK HUSKIES**

**SUNTEP**

*Fisher Branch*

Averie is a SUNTEP student who has been a member of the Huskie Women's Volleyball team for the past six years and team captain this past season. As an athlete, Averie wore MMIW written down her leg as she advocates for missing and murdered Indigenous women. Summer 2022, she was named to the Team Canada Next Gen to train as a potential future Women's Volleyball National Team athlete and most recently signed a professional contract in Italy. As she continues to grow and be a leader in her sport, she will continue to use her platform to educate and have conversations effecting Indigenous people in Canada.

## **Dylan Bauman**

**COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING**

**CIVIL ENGINEERING**

*Muskowekwan First Nation*

"My name is Dylan Bauman (he/him), and I am a member of the Muskowekwan First Nation. I am a third-year civil engineering student athlete on the University's track and field and cross-country teams. This year I am a Co-President on the Bridge Team and sit on the SESS Board of Directors and USESF Council. Another form of my leadership was re-establishing the Canadian Society of Civil Engineering Saskatoon Student Chapter."

## **Jenna Bear**

### **COLLEGE OF NURSING**

#### *Mosquito Grizzly Bear's Head Lean Man First Nation*

Jenna Bear is currently the Indigenous representative on the Saskatchewan Nursing Student Association and has worked with the Advisors' office to host mentorship events. She volunteered to assist with recruitment events, where she interacted with Indigenous youth at these events with ease, confidence, and a passion for nursing. Jenna is involved as a mentor and a presenter with the Brave Spaces Project, a pilot project to provide mentorship and support for students as they navigate their first clinical experience. Jenna is also one of the three students going to St. John's, Newfoundland in May 2023 to present at The CASN Biennial Canadian Nursing Education Conference 2023 to promote an anti-discriminatory pedagogy in nursing education. Jenna shows exemplary leadership and diplomacy in everything is involved in the College of Nursing and in the larger community with her advocacy work in bringing awareness to homelessness, addictions, and mental health in honor of her late brother, Jorell, who recently lost his battle to these.

## **Zoey Bourgeois**

### **COLLEGE OF MEDICINE**

#### **UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION**

#### *Métis Nation—Saskatchewan*

Zoey Bourgeois is a first-year Métis medical student at the University of Saskatchewan who balances many commitments on top of her schoolwork. Zoey sits on the Admissions Committee where she's been actively involved with indigenizing the recruitment process to the M.D. program. Her contributions include formulating thought-provoking mini multiple interviews questions, participating in panel interviews and Indigenous Conversation Circles, and helping guide future admissions process improvements. Additionally, she competed at the 2022 national Canada Summer Games in road cycling, and she is very active in the cycling community as a mentor to (underrepresented) young females. She is the recipient of the Dean's Award at the 2022 College of Medicine Fall Formal for her cycling involvement at the national level.

Following her graduation from the B.Sc. in Toxicology program in 2021, she received the Certificate in Sustainability Excellence Award, Fisher Scientific Undergraduate Toxicology First Place Research Award, and First Place in the Science and Engineering category at the USSU Research Symposium. She was the recipient of the national Richard C. Playle Award in 2021 for Best Thesis in Ecotoxicology, which then became a first authorship publication. Additionally, Zoey is an engaged participant in the Indigenous medical student events and gatherings, and is active in several student groups.

## **Raymond Fox**

### **COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE / USASK HUSKIES**

#### *Sweetgrass First Nation*

Raymond Fox is a proud member of the Sweetgrass First Nation and the founder of the Indigenous Sports Performance Institute, a non-profit and group collective created to bridge the gap between Indigenous youth and high-performance sport. His belief is that all athletes deserve a space to feel supported, nurtured and elevated so they can accomplish their sport and life goals. He has been openly sharing his former addictions and using his experience with sport to provide positive leadership to Indigenous youth and communities. A member of the USask Huskies Men's soccer team Raymond also recently signed with Nautsa'mawt Fc, the first Indigenous focused Professional soccer club in Canada.

## **Heather O'Watch**

### **JOHNSON SHOYAMA GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY**

#### **MASTER'S DEGREE IN PUBLIC POLICY**

#### *Okanese and Carry The Kettle*

Heather (She/Her) is a Nakota and Cree woman from the Okanese First Nation. Currently enrolled in a Masters Degree in Public Policy (M.P.P). She holds a B.A. in Indigenous Studies from the First Nations University of Canada. She works with Indigenous Peoples Rights International. Heather facilitates at the Indigenous Youth Policy School through the Canadian Roots Exchange. Heather is an official delegate to the Y7 Summit delivering a communique to the G7 Presidency.

## **Marissa Pilat**

### **EDWARDS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**

#### **MARKETING**

#### *Lac La Ronge Indian Band*

Marissa is a proud member of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band. She is currently a third-year marketing major at Edwards. Marissa loves to be involved and is currently the Spokesperson Headperson for the Indigenous Business Students' Society and the Indigenous Initiatives Director for the Edwards Business Students' society! When she is not busy with classes, extracurricular activities, or work, you can find Marissa volunteering in her role as Social Media Content Creator for the Saskatoon Dog Rescue!

## **Riley Plett**

### **COLLEGE OF MEDICINE**

#### **UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION (UGME)**

*Pine Creek First Nation, MB*

Riley Plett is a Saulteaux Métis Anishinaabek with Indigenous and settler ancestry. She is a proud band member of Pine Creek First Nation. Riley has completed her master's in pharmacology and is in her third year of medical school studies. She aspires to become a child and adolescent psychiatrist. She is this year's Canadian Association of Medical Education Rising Star recipient. She has recently filled in as the Student Medical Society of Saskatchewan (SMSS) Indigenous Health Representative and is a co-leader of ratifying the College's first Indigenous Medical Student Association of Saskatchewan. Riley is truly a rising star who has demonstrated and continues to demonstrate a commitment for medical education and passion for affecting change by advocating for the inclusion of Indigenous peoples in the various aspects of medical admissions and education. She led a Government Affairs and Advocacy Committee SMSS letter writing campaign addressing the Ministry of Education regarding the Impact of Covid-19 on primary education as well as an advocate for the inclusion of mental health and indigenous knowledge within the (UGME) program. This resulted in subsequent meetings with UGME staff and faculty to refine and enrich mental health curricula with Indigenous knowledge and perspectives. She has been a vocal and active participant in the Indigenous Admissions Circle and Indigenous Health Working Group. The Indigenous Admissions Circle is revising the way we admit Indigenous medical students to our college by looking at their applications through an Indigenous lens and allowing them to shine as part of conversation circles.

## **Matthew Recollet**

### **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

#### **ITEP**

*Whitefish River First Nation*

A proud Anishinaabe from Whitefish River First Nation, located in Birch Island Ontario, Matt came to ITEP with enthusiasm and commitment. As a veteran, Matt was enlisted with the Canadian Armed Forces and served as an Aircraft Structure Technician. Through this experience Matt travelled, met new people, and established new perspectives, hence his passion for education. He is devoted to his role as a professional student by demonstrating his involvement with community, and program requirements.

## **Dominga Robinson**

### **COLLEGE OF LAW**

#### **LAW**

*Pheasant Rump Nakota First Nation*

Dominga Robinson is a Nakota/Jamaican woman and a citizen of the Pheasant Rump Nakota First Nation. She is currently a student in the College of Law and works part-time for Sunchild Law and as a teacher's assistant for the Indigenous Law Course, Kwayeskastasowin. She is also Chair of the Rainbow Youth Center in Regina and the President of the Indigenous Law Students Association at the College of Law.

## **Cheyanna Sapp**

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE**

**INDIGENOUS STUDIES**

*Little Pine First Nation*

Cheyenna Sapp, a Nehiyaw Iskwew from Little Pine First Nation in Treaty 6 territory, is an actress, comedian, photographer and student in the Indigenous Studies BA and wicêhtowin Indigenous Theatre Certificate programs. Some know her as “Rose Sinclair” from the CTV sitcom Acting Good. She strives to breakdown stereotypes of Indigenous women and peoples in her public speaking, film and comedy work while representing decolonial perspectives that empower Indigenous youth. Cheyenna is a leader in her INDG classes and in media by undertaking new and important forms of Indigenous performance and resurgence work.

## **Erika Warkentine**

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

**SUNTEP PRINCE ALBERT**

*Métis Nation*

Erika Warkentine is a proud Métis and LGBTQ2S+ student, and a second-year student at SUNTEP Prince Albert. She is a high academic achiever and is always willing to support her peers if they need it. Erika has been active with the Student Resource Council and the Culture Committee during her time at SUNTEP. She is quick to help with any volunteer opportunities that she can and actively strives to give her best contribution to both her SUNTEP and Prince Albert community. Erika advocates for awareness of Indigenous and LGBTQ2S+ issues in the SUNTEP community. An artist at heart, Erika loves sharing her skills with cultural arts with her peers, particularly beadwork, and looks forward to sharing these teachings with her future students as well. “Beadwork has helped me connect with my cultural roots in a special way, and I would love for anyone who may benefit from this art form to have the same opportunity.”



# RESEARCH

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## **Dee Cameron**

### **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

#### *Métis Nation—Saskatchewan and Métis Local #7*

Dee Cameron (She/Her) is a member of Métis Nation—Saskatchewan and Métis Local #7. She lives, works, teaches and learns in Treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Métis. She is working on her doctorate in education, doing narrative inquiry research that focuses on three generations of Métis women's experiences with education. She is dedicated to reclaiming culture, bringing forward silenced narratives, truth and reconciliation. She is a proud granddaughter, daughter, wife, maman and sister.

## **Dylan Merrick**

### **COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE**

#### **PHD STUDENT IN INDIGENOUS STUDIES**

#### *Chicano/Mayan*

Dylan Merrick is Chicano with maternal Mayan roots in Campeche, Mexico. His research examines how virtual healthcare technologies can best serve Indigenous peoples. The Mental Health Virtual Assistant Project (MIRA) has developed a library of resources that address wellness needs of First Nations and Métis Peoples. MIRA has co-created conversational scripts, in partnership with Indigenous communities, that utilize community identified language conventions. The goal is to enhance AI chatbot services for Indigenous Peoples with mental health needs in Alberta. He has also engaged with Saskatchewan based Indigenous groups through creation of a website that functions to communicate community health research.

# RESILIENCY

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## **Emerson Bear**

**EDWARDS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

*Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN)*

Emerson Bear is from Sandy Bay, Saskatchewan and is in his third year majoring in Human Resources. Being nominated by his peers for this award means a lot to Emerson as it shows how far he has come in his post-secondary education even after battling a life changing situation which still affects him today. In March of 2020, Emerson was shot twice, one bullet was meant for his partner, in a random attack of being at the wrong place at the wrong time. His partners first aid training kicked in and saved his life. Emerson is still recovering from his injuries; however, he continues to attend school with a colostomy bag, overcoming many challenges, one being that of the uncontrollable flatulence of his bag. Emerson is very determined to finish his university journey and obtain his B.Comm. degree so he can start making positive change in his northern community.

## **Gloriann McAuley**

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

**SUNTEP PRINCE ALBERT**

*Cumberland House Cree Nation*

Gloriann McAuley is a First Nations woman from Cumberland House Cree Nation. She is a third-year Bachelor of Education student at the SUNTEP, Prince Albert location. Gloriann is what many would consider an anomaly. She has overcome many obstacles and addiction in her life and through her own self-growth and healing, she was able to find and maintain her path to sobriety and has been sober for the past three years. She is an advocate and role model for not only her home community but for the greater community as she encourages those struggling with addictions that anything is possible. Gloriann has demonstrated determination, perseverance and commitment to not only her academic work but also through her leadership as the current President of SUNTEP's Student Representative Council and as an active member of the Culture Committee.

## **Sasha Merasty**

**COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND NUTRITION**

**DOCTOR OF PHARMACY**

*Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation*

Sasha Merasty is a third year Pharm.D. student. Sasha lives her life by the quote "Don't lose what you have, to what you have lost". Sasha continually strives to be better and evidence of this includes her involvement in the community by volunteering at READ Saskatoon teaching adults literacy skills and becoming certified to give injections. She is also involved with Indigenous Pharmacy Professionals of Canada to create and promote pharmacy practice models that respect the safety, equality, strengths, and teachings of the Indigenous Peoples of Canada. Sasha also works part-time in a pharmacy and tutors her siblings.

## **Elicia Munro-Sutherland**

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

**ITEP**

*Beardy's and Okemasis' Cree Nation*

Elicia Munro-Sutherland is a fourth-year student in the Indian Teacher Education Program. ITEP nominated Elicia for her resiliency as a strong nehiyaw Anishinaabe Métis woman. She is from Beardy's and Okemasis' Cree Nation. She is proud mother of two daughters Zahara and Arizona. Prior to ITEP, Elicia also conferred an Indigenous Social Work degree from the First Nations University of Canada in 2020. Her entire post-secondary education journey is based around the revitalization of Indigenous cultures, languages, and traditional systems. Her future goals are to complete a Masters in Indigenous Leadership Education Administration, then a doctorate. She sees her future as a professor with plans to start her own school for Indigenous youth. Her goal is to empower and uplift her people towards self-determination and thrive within their traditional systems once again. She states the knowledge she has gained throughout her life experiences and in university has helped her through the passion she feels for her people, their way of life, and overall promoting Indigenous success and excellence! She strongly believes education is the key to reconciliation and healing as a collective nation.

## **Morgan Seesequasis**

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

**SUNTEP**

*Beardy's and Okemasis' Cree Nation*

Morgan Seesequasis is a fourth-year SUNTEP Saskatoon student from Beardy's and Okemasis' Cree Nation. Morgan worked against great odds to complete his BED program and although he managed through the barriers and adversity, he spoke of returning home and working with his family that helped him realize his goal of going back to university and becoming a teacher. His move home helped him know more of his traditional culture. Morgan recently successfully completed his extended practicum at City Park School where he worked closely with middle-years students supporting their learning with land-based education while incorporating traditional Indigenous pedagogy. Morgan is a very proud and humble young man with numerous talents that he is embracing and sharing with others!

## **Maddy Soles**

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE**

**GABRIEL DUMONT COLLEGE, PRINCE ALBERT**

*Métis Nation—Saskatchewan*

Maddy Soles is second year Gabriel Dumont College student and a member of the Métis Nation. She has demonstrated resilience and growth in the following areas: confidence, organization, balancing her personal and work life and academic achievement. Upon completing her B.S.N. degree, Maddy wants to nurse in her home community of Prince Albert, which will allow her to serve in the community that played an important role in raising her to be a hardworking, compassionate and dedicated person.