Aboriginal Framework

Indigenous Voices is a staff and faculty development initiative that aims to create a shared space for dialogue, learning, and collective action to catalyze individual and systemic change at the University of Saskatchewan. The College of Education and Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching Effectiveness (GMCTE) are leading this work with the guidance and support of local Elders and community members. Programming is presently being piloted in the College of Education and GMCTE.

Background

Faculty in the College of Education’s BEADWORK committee proposed this initiative to address the inadequacies of formal education for Aboriginal people in Canada. The emphasis placed on Indigenous peoples, knowledges, and ways of knowing in Saskatchewan’s revised K-12 curricula underscores the need to enhance the College’s capacity to provide relevant support to pre-service teachers. The GMCTE is similarly aiming to strengthen its ability to assist instructors, departments, and colleges that are interested in bringing Indigenous people and perspectives into their teaching, programming, and disciplinary communities. The University of Saskatchewan’s commitment to Aboriginal Engagement provides strong impetus for expanding this programming to the entire campus community.

Programming

Indigenous Voices programming consists of a Core Program (right) and extended learning opportunities (e.g., conversation circles, cultural events, consultations). Programming is designed to meet the learning needs of a range of participants with various levels of knowledge and experience in Aboriginal education. Programming will engage, enlighten, and support faculty and staff to explore four layers of themed knowledge:

- Aboriginal peoples in Saskatchewan, including: languages, cultures, histories, and relationships with governments;
- The Indigenous renaissance of reclaiming and restoring Indigenous knowledges, languages, cultures, and governance;
- Aboriginal learners and the role of professional identities in creating in a postcolonial Canada; and
- Decolonizing pedagogies and the inclusion of Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing in curricula and assessment.

The Indigenous Voices core program consists of thirteen gatherings. Introductory topics are located nearer to the centre of the circle, and participants are encouraged to begin their learning journey wherever they feel is appropriate. Gatherings in dark green are three hours in duration and those in light green are six hours.

Contact

For more information on the Indigenous Voices initiative please visit our website at www.usask.ca/indigenousvoices or e-mail us at indigenous.voices@usask.ca.

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