The Science Ambassador Program (SAP) pairs senior undergraduate and graduate students in science, engineering, agriculture, and the health sciences with remote Aboriginal community schools for placements of 4-6 weeks each spring. These Science Ambassadors provide creative and culturally relevant support for science teaching and learning. Their activities include acting as a 'science contact' for teachers, mentoring senior students about career choices and continuing education, planning and leading hands-on science activities across all grade levels, and engaging with community by participating in school and cultural events.

**Program overview**

- to provide fun and engaging learning experiences to teachers and students in remote communities, counteracting attitudes that dismiss math and science as boring, difficult, and/or irrelevant
- to have Science Ambassadors serve as role models and academic mentors for students in the schools
- to form learning partnerships with teachers, schools, and communities
- to engage schools and post-secondary institutions in dialogue to enhance science education overall
- to broaden the pool of future University of Saskatchewan students!

**Program reach and scope**

Initiated in 2007 by Dr. Julita Vassileva, NSERC/Cameco Prairie Women in Science and Engineering Chair, as of 2012 the SAP has arranged 29 Science Ambassador placements in 11 remote communities, reaching > 100 teachers and > 4500 First Nations and Metis students. Qualitative surveys and questionnaires indicate a strong positive correlation between time spent with Science Ambassadors and student attitudes toward high school science enrollment, jobs in science and engineering, and the success of women in these careers. Gaining momentum through positive feedback from Science Ambassadors and participating schools, communities, and youth, the SAP has grown each year.

In spring 2013, 18 Science Ambassadors representing 5 University Colleges will be hosted in: Fond du Lac, Black Lake, Stony Rapids, Wollaston Lake, Pinehouse, Beauval, and Green Lake (Saskatchewan), and The Pas, Opaskwayak Cree Nation, and Flin Flon (Manitoba).

“Making Science Fun & Relevant, One Community at a Time!”

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The Science Ambassador Program is offered by the **Division of Science, College of Arts & Science** with support from: The College of Medicine, The College of Nursing, The College of Kinesiology, The College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, The College of Engineering, The College of Agriculture and Bioresources, and The Western College of Veterinary Medicine

**Aboriginal Framework**

[Aboriginal Framework diagram]

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