

Message from the President – May 2010

Guided by our strategic plan entitled *mâmahohkamâtowin: Our Work, Our People, Our Communities*, the University is committed to responding to the needs of the community and reaching out to the world around us.

Through their work both inside and outside the classroom, our students play an important role in this. Their vision, talent and determination all contribute to how we serve the community and raise the University's profile as a place of excellence.

Many of the people who study here are fuelled by passion, and in turn inspire passion in others.

Let me highlight some of those students:

Kinesiology student Jerid Stevenot, for example, recently travelled to the Western Cape Rehabilitation Centre in South Africa for 10 weeks to work with clients who had acquired spinal cord injuries as a result of being shot or stabbed.

He went because he wanted to make a difference.

This month, Education student Christine Selinger will attempt to be the first paraplegic woman to complete the Nootka Trail in British Columbia, an approximately eight-day challenge through 35 kilometres of wilderness. Christine will use an all-terrain hand cycle, a series of rigging systems, and at some points she will crawl to maneuver through the trail's many obstacles.

Her motivation for the trip is to show the world that a "disability isn't an inability."

University of Regina master's student Sadie Bellegarde - a graduate of the First Nations University of Canada - is studying how people who have, or have had, a benign brain tumour interact with society. It's an area of research that holds personal significance for her. After herself being diagnosed with a brain tumour, Sadie knows that this group of people, while they may appear healthy and are treated as such, often lives with chronic pain. It's her hope to give this community a voice through her work in medical anthropology.

These students are only a few of the members of the University community who have a driving urge to learn, to test their limits, and to be a part of something bigger than themselves.

It makes me proud to be part of a university where education translates into thoughtful action.

By engaging our students, we are laying the foundation for the innovative research, scholarship, and social, environmental and economic advancements that will ultimately build a brighter future for our communities. What better measure is there of our University's success?