

Message from the President - October 2009

As you all know, the University of Regina broke new ground in the Canadian university sector when we became the first university in Canada to guarantee student success through a new program called UR Guarantee. I invite you to read about the details at www.urconnected.ca/urguarantee.

I want to let you know why the University is able to offer this guarantee in a time of change and uncertainty in the world. I want to answer the question I've been asked many times: "On what basis can an academic institution offer a guarantee of student employment?"

The short answer is that we are confident in our students and the education they receive at the University of Regina. We believe that the education provided here is the best possible investment they can make in their future – and we're willing to stand behind that claim through this program. Even in uncertain times, we are certain that our students will be successful, and we are committed to providing them with the best possible tools to ensure that success. We believe in our students and they are our number one priority because our teaching, research and community service – the three pillars upon which our University rests – all come to life through their experience. It is as simple as that.

The strength of our commitment has created a great foundation upon which we can guarantee the value of a University of Regina education – an education that engages our students and prepares them to succeed as tomorrow's leaders.

Out of this commitment we have built many successful community partnerships that support our students in their education and career development. This is borne out, for example, in our Co-operative Education program which has a long and proud history of linking education and a related career. We were the first university in Western Canada to offer co-operative work placement programs in 1969. Today, our Co-operative Education program is available in nearly 50 disciplines. The program boasts more job placements than all other post-secondary institutions in the province combined, with co-op students last year earning close to \$7 million in wages. We also offer ample opportunities to

participate in field experiences, internships, campus employment and international work experience.

We believe the UR Guarantee is yet another step forward in demonstrating how a University of Regina education – focused on academic success, student engagement, and service and leadership – leads to a career in a student's field of choice.

The University of Regina recently reached out to our internal and external communities for ideas and advice as we developed a new [strategic plan](#) that will guide us for the next five years and beyond. Together with our communities, we arrived at a vision for our University as a welcoming, student-focused institution that combines deep-rooted values with innovative thinking, classroom theory with real-world practice, and global ideas with regional needs. The completion of the strategic plan is just the beginning; now we are in the process of integrating the recommendations into all that we do.

The UR Guarantee – a guarantee that expresses full confidence in our students and their education – is in line with our vision and new strategic plan and is supported by our faculty and staff's continuing commitment to student success. It is one more step we are taking to ensure our students realize their full potential – academically, professionally, and in their lives beyond the University.