

## **President's Message – November 2010**

The University of Regina is a provincial university with a wide reach beyond the local community. Our teaching and research take place across the province, across the country and across the world, contributing to the betterment of our communities. At the same time, our alumni are making their own contributions in Saskatchewan and beyond, using their University of Regina education to influence change.

It is important for us to build on this wide reach, which is why faculty and staff of the University travel to Saskatchewan communities each year as part of the annual Community Connections tour.

This year's tour focuses on the commitment we have made in our strategic plan to increase our presence throughout the province, foster educational, research, community and business partnerships, and promote excellence in our teaching, research and community service. To do this best, the tour focuses on showcasing some of the good work you have been a part of by hosting events throughout Saskatchewan that feature our faculties, our research, and our many contributions to society.

I'm proud to say that we have already hosted the first of many Community Connections for this year – and it was a big success! The Faculty of Education took its "Talkin' About School and Society" discussion series to Melville and engaged with members of the local community on the topic of technology and education. Organized by professors Dr. Patrick Lewis and Dr. Marc Spooner, the event featured Faculty of Education professors and alumni leading a lively discussion on the role of technology in today's classrooms.

It was fitting for the Faculty of Education to host an event in Melville, as the Faculty has long been involved in the community. Dr. Norman Yakel and Dr. Ann Kipling Brown are Faculty of Education professors who supervise, among other community-based programs, a program called Professional Learning as Community Experience (PLACE). PLACE allows students in their fourth year of the Arts Education Program in the Faculty of Education to create learning opportunities for elementary school children at Davison and Miller schools in Melville.

Connections such as this one add value to our surrounding communities, and also illustrate the relevant education we are providing to our students – education they can take with them as they pursue their ambitions and become the leaders of tomorrow.

The next community I will visit as part of the Community Connections tour is Estevan, where on November 22 the Faculty of Science will host an event profiling the research of Dr. Stephen Bend in a public lecture called "Using the past to predict the future: True Confessions of a Geoscientist."

Each time I visit a community like Melville or Estevan, I'm inspired by the people I meet and proud to be the president of a university that is connected with them.

The tour will continue into the new year – a time when we will have an additional reason to celebrate! In 2011 the University of Regina will celebrate 100 years of Excellence in Education – a century-long history of teaching and research to which all of you have contributed, and of which all of us should be proud. The University of Regina had its beginnings in 1911 as Regina College, a small high school established by the Methodist church. Over the years, Regina College evolved to become the Regina Campus of the University of Saskatchewan, and eventually an independent degree-granting university, the University of Regina, in 1974.

Generations of people from Saskatchewan and abroad have studied at our University, and our alumni –56,000 strong – have gone on to succeed as innovators and leaders throughout the world. Over the years, we have strengthened our commitment to discovery and opportunity, made strides in research, grown our program offerings and built new and lasting partnerships locally, provincially, nationally and internationally.

Throughout 2011 the University of Regina will continue that proud tradition of Excellence in Education and together, we will respond to the needs and aspirations of our students, our people and our communities. It's going to be an exciting year for YOUR University!