

## **President's Message – August 2012**

This is an exciting time for the University of Regina, as we have recently launched our Family Campaign, which is the faculty and staff fundraising effort for Building Knowledge - The College Avenue Campus Renewal Project. As you will recall, Building Knowledge is the University's number one capital fundraising priority, building on the traditions established by the founders of Regina College, the predecessor of the University of Regina. In many ways, the revitalization of our historic College Avenue campus is a tribute to those pioneering visionaries who understood the transformative power of education.

Last year, we celebrated our centennial. This year, we are looking to the future by preparing for the College Avenue campus renewal - something which will strengthen our connection to the larger community and further contribute to educating the next century of learners and leaders. The Family Campaign kicked off with a barbeque on May 24 at the College Avenue campus. While inclement weather forced us indoors, the event was well-attended, with faculty and staff taking buses from the main campus to enjoy lunch hour tours, entertainment and speakers.

I am proud to report that we all have embraced the campaign. To date, the University family has contributed more than \$200,000 to the project - a wonderful beginning! We have also seen a very high participation rate from the University Leadership Team.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed thus far. The early success generated by our own faculty and staff bodes well for the future when we take the campaign to our extended family - donors, alumni and friends of the University of Regina.

We have an exciting story to tell them. The College Avenue campus, which will be known as the University of Regina Leadership and Outreach Centre (LOC), will be transformed to a vibrant, accessible and environmentally efficient place of teaching and learning for Regina and surrounding communities, and will include a large-scale premier event and reception space. The hub of the LOC will be the new Executive Education Centre that will house the Centre for Continuing Education, the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, the Lifelong Learning Centre, and the Conservatory for Performing Arts. It will also provide state-of-the-art meeting and educational facilities for groups ranging from 20 to 300 people.

The project includes a full restoration of Darke Hall and the College Building. Darke Hall, with its superior acoustics, will be upgraded into a 550-seat, bustling performance centre that the entire community can enjoy. Darke Hall and the Conservatory of Performing Arts will be linked by a new atrium.

It is of special note that this year marks the 100th year that the Conservatory of Performing Arts has been providing students with access to art and culture for personal enrichment or as the foundation for further academic and performing opportunities. In recognition of this, auction proceeds from the 2012 President's Gala will be directed to the Conservatory of Performing Arts. The President's Gala will be held on November 3, 2012 at the Hotel Saskatchewan. There are a limited number of tickets available, so I encourage you to consider purchasing one today. You may do so by visiting the 2012 President's Gala website at [www.uregina.ca/campaign](http://www.uregina.ca/campaign), or by calling 585-5435.

While the Building Knowledge campaign is really only just getting underway, it's difficult not to be excited by what a revitalized College Avenue campus will mean for our University and the larger community. If you haven't already done so, I encourage you to think about contributing to this forward-looking initiative. We are hoping for 100 per cent participation in our Family Campaign, and your involvement will help us deliver on our mission of offering a welcoming and rewarding study and work environment that fosters creativity, engagement, continuous learning, and the opportunity to succeed.

Thank you for your support.

Vianne Timmons  
President and Vice-Chancellor