

President's Message – November 2015

Members of the University community,

With the traditions of Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanza, it's easy to think of December as the month of giving. There is a good case to be made however, that at the University of Regina, November is the month of giving.

Students, faculty and staff gave generously to Farm Credit Canada's Drive Away Hunger campaign, filling on-campus bins of non-perishable food products in support of this annual fundraiser for World Food Day. All donations made on campus are now at the Regina and District Food Bank.

November also marks the halfway point in the University's annual United Way Campaign and as always, it has been generously supported by the University family. I'm pleased to say that we have reached 70 per cent of our goal. It is not too late to get involved. With your continued support we can reach our \$105,000 objective. Every dollar allocated to the campaign benefits more than 25 local organizations, ranging from early learning and family support programs, to women's shelters, to organizations that support refugees. One simple gift to the campaign touches the lives of thousands in Regina and makes our community a better and healthier one.

I'd like to thank this year's United Way Campaign team: Co-chairs Devon Anderson and Bill Bonner, as well as team members Bruce Anderson, Shayla Bonhomme, Brian Christie, Joanne Kozlowski, Sheila Leach, Chris Oriet, Pat Patton and Wendy Whitebear. The United Way Campaign team truly embodies the essence of our University motto: As One Who Serves.

Year after year, our campus remains dedicated to this worthy cause, and others in the community are recognizing this generosity. The University's 2014 United Way Campaign, which raised \$100,089.40, was awarded the Greystone Leadership Award at the Spirit Awards Luncheon – an award that recognizes workplace teams that achieve outstanding results in their United Way campaigns.

Of course, November is also the month when we see the first sprouts of facial hair on the upper lips of some of our faculty, students and staff. Movember is a global charity dedicated to men's health. The foundation has gone from 30 to 300 million moustache-growers since its founding in 2003 and has raised \$677 million. No doubt that there will be ample support for this worthy cause around the University and plenty of sponsorship and positive encouragement for all of our would-be Burt Reynoldses, Tom Sellecks and Stuart Masons.

Mid-November also marks National Philanthropy Day, a special day set aside to recognize those people and organizations in our community, many associated with the University, who go above and beyond in the giving department. The awards will be presented on November 10 at the Conexus Arts Centre. Awards are presented in such categories as outstanding volunteer, outstanding community group, and outstanding corporate philanthropist. National Philanthropy Day is a great way to recognize those special people in our community who are working to make a difference in the life of others.

One of the priorities of the University's five-year strategic plan is Commitment to our Communities. As stated in the plan, we are "A community of dedicated and passionate students, alumni, staff, and faculty who embrace our responsibilities to serve and engage our diverse peoples and communities in the pursuit of well-being and pride of place." Faculty, students, alumni and staff freely and frequently give of their time – sitting on local committees, offering expertise to boards, or volunteering throughout our communities – and that gift of time makes our communities better places to live and work. Thank you for that.

It was Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta who said, "It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving." In light of that sentiment, and recognizing the generosity of the University family, it's apparent to me that University of Regina faculty, students, staff, alumni and donors not only put much love into giving, but also love giving very much.

Sincerely,

Dr. Vianne Timmons
President and Vice-Chancellor