

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

Provost's Report to Council

October 2024

GENERAL REMARKS

This report provides updates from University of Saskatchewan (USask) academic planning initiatives, academic successes, leadership searches, reviews and appointments, as well as indications of our progress toward achieving the five aspirations outlined in the [University Plan 2025](#).

I hope everyone has enjoyed returning to the excitement of our bustling campus as Fall Term began. As I am new to my role as Acting Provost and Vice-President Academic, I aim to be a meaningful and purposeful steward of our university as we work towards our common goal of being the university the world needs. We are off to a strong start in Fall Term 2024 with initiative and funding announcements, community partnerships and exciting opportunities for learning, research and teaching with new programs on the horizon and the growth of program delivery options. I anticipate a great academic year ahead. I am looking forward to celebrating a new class of USask graduates alongside you at Fall Convocation in November.

'First of their kind' health-care training programs to launch at USask

Three new two-year master's level programs will be launched by USask's College of Medicine to expand health-care training opportunities in Saskatchewan. The [Master of Physician Assistant Studies](#) program (MPAS) is accepting applications until November 18, 2024. [Starting in the fall of 2025](#), the program will accept a cohort of 20 students. Physician assistants are a newly regulated health-care profession in Saskatchewan. They are highly trained clinical professionals who work under the supervision of physicians to improve patient access to quality care.

Additionally, the [Occupational Therapy and Speech Language Pathology](#) programs will be delivered by the School of Rehabilitation Science. Targeted to begin in the fall of 2026, each program will accept up to 40 students per year.

Launch of new dental hygiene program at the College of Dentistry

The College of Dentistry has launched a [new Dental Hygiene program](#) with an initial cohort of 22 students. This is a three-year BSc program in Dental Hygiene, unique in North America, as it operates from 5 PM to 10 PM. The program is designed to provide opportunities for students who are already in the workforce and wish to pursue a career in oral health without abandoning their current jobs. Additionally, it maximizes the use of our dental clinic, allowing patients who are unable to visit during regular hours due to work commitments to be treated by our students, with the clinic also operating from 5 PM to 10 PM.

Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

The USask community recognized Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on Sept. 30 with a Week of Reflection that the university community was encouraged to participate in events, activities and learning opportunities leading up to Sept. 30. The week opened with a celebration held in Convocation Hall that featured installations from the Blanket Project, and continued with learning events and Huskie Athletics events throughout the week. The USask community was also encouraged to take a walk through the Bowl to take in the special orange lighting and newly installed orange banners inscribed with the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada as well as purple banners etched with the Calls for Justice from the Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

USask's Mistatimōk Committee, which encourages our university community to engage in the difficult, but critical work of decolonization and reconciliation, has coordinated this week's events leading up to National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This week is filled with events and opportunities for learning and growth as a campus community and as individuals. Please see the [National Day for Truth and Reconciliation webpage](#) for more information about this year's events.

Huskie Athletics Celebrates 2023-24 Academic All-Canadians

Huskie Athletics is proud to announce that [121 student-athletes](#) achieved an average of 80% or higher during the 2023-24 season while maintaining registration in a minimum of 18 credit units. As a campus community, we are extremely proud of these student-athletes - both in competition and in the classroom - as they successfully balance athletics and academics during their time as a Huskie.

USask honours outstanding graduates with achievement awards

USask is announcing the 2024 winners of the Alumni Achievement Awards, one of the university's highest honours. This year's six recipients embody the university's aspiration to Be What the World Needs because of their significant accomplishments and contributions since graduating from USask.

This year's recipients will be honoured at the annual awards gala on October 21 at Remail Modern, hosted by award-winning CBC journalist and USask honorary degree recipient, Susan Ormiston (DLET'22). More information can be found at alumni.usask.ca.

Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award:

- Murad Al-Katib (BComm'94)
- Dr. Jim Dosman (BA'59, MD'63, MA'69)
- Judy Pelly (BEd'85)

Outstanding Impact Alumni Achievement Award

- Andrew Chau (BComm'09)
- Neal Kewistep (MPA'11)

"One to Watch" Alumni Achievement Award

- Dr. Arinjay Banerjee (PhD'18)

USask Residence Queer Housing adds community lounge to its home

This fall, Residence Services [officially launched the Queer Housing Lounge](#). The new space, which was enhanced through a generous donation from Herb McFaull and Anthony Bidulka, has been designed to provide students living in Queer Housing (QH) with a community space where they can feel safe, supported and comfortable in their home during the academic school year.

The lounge will have a queer book nook that provides collections from the queer community to be showcased and will have other resources available to students. In addition, the lounge will offer office hours in which staff will be present to connect with students and offer information about campus and community resources. This will be a social space for all queer students in residence to study together, or socialize. [Learn more about Queer Housing](#).

USask Nursing prioritizes Learn Where You Live flexible learning model

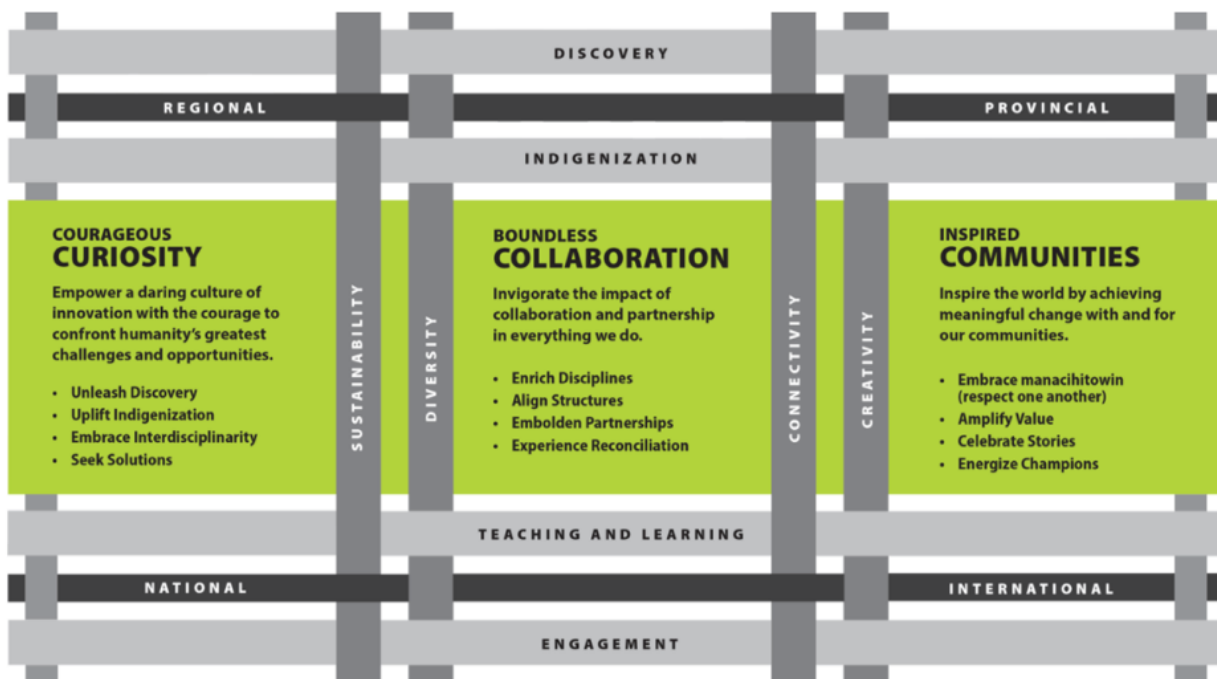
The [Flexible Learning Initiative at USask](#) aims to provide students with choices in how, where, and when they engage in learning, enabling more personalized pathways into and through a program. The initiative is intended to build on and highlight offerings that are already available. For example, at least 13 per cent of current USask classes are offered in a flexible mode, such as online or hybrid.

The USask College of Nursing has made progress in this area with the strong belief that a student's opportunity to obtain a quality nursing education should not be limited by where they live. A shortage of registered nurses (RNs) exists globally, particularly in rural communities. USask Nursing chose to prioritize the expansion of undergraduate nursing education across Saskatchewan. Studies show students who build connections with patients, communities, and other health professionals during rural and remote clinical placements are more likely to consider RN positions outside urban communities.

In 2024, the College of Nursing announced the expansion of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program to three new Saskatchewan locations. Beginning in fall 2025, the complete BSN program will be offered in 10 communities throughout Saskatchewan – Saskatoon, Prince Albert, La Ronge, Ile-a-la-Crosse, Lloydminster, North Battleford, Yorkton, Muenster, Swift Current, and Weyburn. Students in these rural and remote areas of Saskatchewan, who had an interest in nursing but were unable to relocate to begin their studies, will now have the opportunity to reach their full potential as registered nurses. For more information on all College of Nursing campuses and distributed sites, please visit the Nursing [website](#) or for information on the newly announced distributed nursing sites, please read more at these links: [Muenster](#), [Swift Current](#), [Weyburn](#). [Learn more about USask's flexible course and program offerings](#).

Updates from the Vice-Provost, Faculty Relations

Faculty relations continues to implement the new collective agreement. Increases to pay are scheduled for Oct 1 and Oct 15th. Units have been provided with guidance on how to operationalize the new entitlement for Indigenous candidates or those doing Indigenous work to include an advocate on search, tenure and promotion committees. The required unconscious bias and anti-racism training is scheduled for 14 identical sessions over the coming academic year. The plan to revise the 2011 university standards along with creating new standards for the tenure track teaching stream has been communicated and should be completed by June.



UNIVERSITY 2025 PLAN: THE UNIVERSITY THE WORLD NEEDS

nīkānītān manāchitowinihk / ni manachīhitoonaan/ let us lead with respect

Meaningful Impact

Shklanka gift to advance critical minerals research at USask

USask alumni Dr. Roman Shklanka (BA'51, BComm'53, MA'57, PhD) and Patricia Shklanka (BSc'58) have generously donated \$3 million to create the [Shklanka Chair in Precambrian Critical Minerals Systems](#) in the Department of Geological Sciences in the College of Arts and Science.

The funding will support an outstanding scholar who will explore fundamental and applied aspects of critical minerals systems, including ore-forming processes and metal-mineral associations. The chairholder will lead critical research, mentor students, and help to build the future workforce in this emerging field.

Student lounge named in honour of the late Dr. Cecil King

Dr. Cecil King (PhD) was a pioneer in First Nations teacher education throughout Canada and the founding director of the Indian Teacher Education Program (ITEP) at USask. He passed away on May 4, 2022 at the age of 90. The [ITEP student lounge located in the College of Education](#) was reopened as the Dr. Cecil King ITEP Student Lounge on Friday, September 20.

After 18 years as a teacher and administrator spanning remote First Nations and urban provincial schools, King moved to Saskatchewan in 1971 to complete his Bachelor of Education and Master of Education degrees at USask. During this time, he was approached by the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians to become the first director of ITEP and help implement the program.

USask scholars create a legacy

Following the passing of Professor Emeritus Len Findlay (DLitt'11), Professor Emerita Isobel Findlay (MA'80) is honouring her husband's memory through two funds that will [support graduate students and community research](#) as part of USask's Be What the World Needs campaign. The Findlay family has been actively involved in campus life and research since 1974.

The couple has endowed The Isobel and Len Findlay Travel Award for the Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives. The \$30,000 donation will provide financial travel support to graduate students studying in the area of co-operatives or the broader social economy. The second gift to USask is The Isobel and Len Findlay Endowment Fund for Social Research. It provides \$30,000 to support the priority financial needs of the Community-University Institute for Social Research.

USask's cutting-edge soil science laboratory receives \$760K

USask has received more than three quarters of a million dollars [to conduct soil research](#) more quickly, efficiently and with greater detail than ever before. USask researchers have long been innovators in soil science research and now a project to upgrade and overhaul the USask soil sciences laboratory has received funding from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation's John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF). The fund supports innovative research and research infrastructure projects across the country.

Dr. Colin Laroque (PhD), the head of the Department of Soil Science and a professor in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources, said the funding will help upgrade the tools and technology of the Bank of Montreal (BMO) Soil Analytical Laboratory to match the skills and expertise of the researchers at USask.

Innovative USask collaboration helps medical residents develop essential disaster response skills

[An ambitious simulation exercise](#) at the USask Clinical Learning Resource Centre is addressing the need for disaster management curriculum in Canadian emergency medicine residency programs. 2024 marks the third year that a simulation of this type and magnitude has been administered through the USask [Clinical Learning Resource Centre \(CLRC\)](#) to support emergency medicine resident training at the request of the [College of Medicine](#).

Productive Collaboration

USask, Sask Polytech continue transfer agreement for mining engineering tech student

[A Saskatchewan Polytechnic and USask partnership](#) enables students to continue to complete both a diploma and a degree within five years. Qualifying graduates who complete a Saskatchewan Polytechnic Mining Engineering Technology diploma will continue to have the option to transfer into the Bachelor of Science in Engineering – Geological Engineering program at USask. This means students can graduate with both a Sask Polytech diploma and a USask degree after only five years of study.

The Sask Polytech Nutrien School of Mining, Manufacturing and Engineering Technologies and the USask College of Engineering remain committed to collaborating to provide engineering students with an exceptional education grounded in Saskatchewan.

Kinesiology students bring impact to West Winds Primary Health Centre

University of Saskatchewan kinesiology students are [gaining real-life experience working as part of a health care team](#) at West Winds Primary Health Centre in Saskatoon, SK. This placement is a part of the KIN 481 practicum course coordinated by professor Bart Arnold and was created with the support of Dr. Cathy MacLean in the USask College of Medicine. They both helped bring the practicum to life after a project was completed in 2020 by alumna, Sahya Bhargava (BScKIN'20). Sahya believed in creating an opportunity for graduates with a kinesiology background to contribute in a positive way to the medical profession.

The college is proud to offer practicum placements that provide kinesiology students the opportunity to gain real-life work experience. These practicums help highlight what kinesiology students and graduates have to offer a variety of fields.

Huskie Health: The team behind the team

Over the past six years, Merlis Belsher Place has been home to the Sport Science and Health Centre, which houses [USask's Huskie Health and Huskie Strength teams](#). This state-of-the-art facility, funded by the generous donation of Ron and Jane Graham, has provided the opportunity for the Huskie Health and Strength teams to collaborate with the Canadian Sport Centre Saskatchewan and the Sports Medicine and Science Council to support both Huskie athletes and elite athletes in Saskatchewan. These Interdisciplinary Support Teams have allowed the chance for high-performance athletes to remain in Saskatchewan when many are required to move away for training opportunities. Together, they have provided comprehensive support in the training of two USask students and elite divers, Rylan Wiens and Margo Erlam, who competed in the Paris Olympic Games this past summer.

Distinguished Learners

USask historian a finalist for SSHRC Talent Award

A USask graduate student [Mckelvey Kelly](#) has been [named one of three finalists](#) for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Talent Award. The [Talent Award](#) recognizes outstanding achievement by an individual who, on April 1, 2024, held a SSHRC doctoral scholarship or fellowship or postdoctoral fellowship.

As a PhD candidate in the Department of History in the College of Arts and Science, Kelly rigorously worked to uncover how Wyandot women from Wyandott City (now modern-day Kansas City, Kansas) resisted removal from their lands through community building.

College of Education student recognized with prestigious USask scholarship

Incoming College of Education first-year student Joanne Ter [was awarded a USask Best and Brightest Entrance Scholarship](#). The Best and Brightest Entrance Scholarships are USask's highest valued, renewable entrance scholarships and are awarded based on academics, leadership and contributions to school and community life.

College of Dentistry celebrates success in prestigious national student research awards

The USask College of Dentistry announced that [seven students have been awarded](#) Canadian Association for Dental Research/Network for Canadian Oral Health Research (CADR/NCOHR) student research awards. The CADR and NCOHR are cornerstone organizations in the dental research landscape, with a mission to advance research and increase knowledge for the betterment of oral health in Canada and globally. This prestigious achievement for students, faculty, and the entire dental research community, affirms the College of Dentistry's commitment to advancing oral health research.

USask students participate in world-class pitch competition

In a new collaboration with UAlberta Graduate of Postdoctoral Studies, USask early career researchers are able to participate in the [Falling Walls Lab Edmonton](#) which is a world-class pitch competition where participants showcase their groundbreaking ideas. Fifteen finalists – all early career researchers – competed in the event to represent the region at the international finals in Berlin. USask's College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies sponsored two finalists, Albin Joseph (PDF, Mechanical Engineering) and Priyanka Tirumareddy (PhD student, Chemical and Biological Engineering) to travel to Edmonton for the finals that were livestreamed Friday, September 20. (See [uab.ca/fwlab](#)). Congratulations to the two finalists in their excellent work and representation of USask at this event.

Transformative Decolonization Leading to Reconciliation

Health Sciences and Shop USask collaboration to support Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

USask Health Sciences has helped raise over \$11,000 in proceeds through the sales of orange shirts [based on a commissioned design created by Cree/Saulteaux artist James Desjarlais](#). This initiative is thanks to an ongoing collaboration between the USask Indigenous Space & Visual Symbols in the Health Sciences Committee and Shop USask. Proceeds will be directed toward a fund supporting the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action with a portion of proceeds also being directed toward the artist.

Since 2019, the Health Sciences has raised approximately \$46,000 through this initiative. The USask Indigenous Space and Visual Symbols in the Health Sciences Committee is co-chaired by [Valerie Arnault-Pelletier](#) (Senior Lead, College of Medicine Indigenous Programming and Initiatives) and [Dr. Adam Baxter-Jones, PhD](#) (Interim Associate Provost, Health).

USask alum's art part of Truth and Reconciliation stamp series

Residential school survivor and acclaimed artist Adrian Stimson (MFA'06) has helped [create a powerful stamp series](#) to commemorate the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

The 2006 Master of Fine Arts program graduate at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) was one of three residential school survivors commissioned to design the artwork for the third year of Canada Post's Truth and Reconciliation stamp series booklet, which was available at postal outlets across the country and on canadapost.ca on Friday, Sept. 27.

Global Recognition

Renowned USask researcher named Canadian Academy of Health Sciences fellow

A top USask health researcher renowned for her work in Indigenous wellness is now [a fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences \(CAHS\)](#). Dr. Alexandra King (MD), an associate professor in the College of Medicine and the Cameco Chair in Indigenous Health and Wellness, was announced as a fellow of CAHS on Sept. 10.

Considered one of the highest honours for Canadian health scientists, being named a CAHS Fellow recognizes excellence and leadership in advancing both health sciences and diversity, equity and inclusivity in Canada.

International congress gathers world-renowned expertise at USask

Leading international researchers, industry partners and community members gathered at USask to identify challenges and drive solutions around the food-water-energy nexus. The [People Around the World \(PAW\) 2024 International Congress](#) took place at USask from Oct. 16-18. Researchers and speakers from USask and across Canada, the United States, Germany, the Netherlands, and more came together to share critical research and new ideas here on the Prairies.

USask faculty members guide future of sustainability

Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy (JSGS) faculty member [co-authors the Earth Commission's latest paper](#): For the first time, over 60 international scientists reveal how urgent transformative actions can help humankind reach a 'safe and just space' in a study published by *The Lancet Planetary Health*, co-authored by JSGS Professor & Canada Research Chair, Dr. Margot Hurlbert (PhD). The Earth Commission's scientific paper acts as a science-based guide for all actors - especially businesses and cities - to take action to reach the 'Safe and Just space', where it is possible for all people to escape poverty and be safe from harm caused by Earth system change.

JSGS Assistant Professor Dr. Alaz Munzur (PhD) is part of the [Canadian Climate Policy Partnership \(C2P2\)](#), which provides publicly accessible information on Canadian climate policies, supporting effective strategies to adapt and mitigate climate change, improving resilience, and helping Canada meet its net-zero emissions target.

REVIEWS, SEARCHES, APPOINTMENTS

Searches:

- Senior Leader for the USask University Library

Reviews:

- Dean, College of Agriculture and Bioresources

Please see [here](#) for information.

Appointments:

- Dr. Greg Kost has been appointed as acting Assistant Dean, Clinics College of Dentistry, for a term of up to six months, effective May 16, 2024 and up to November 15, 2024.
- Dr. Susantha Gomis has been appointed as Department Head, Veterinary Pathology, Western

College of Veterinary Medicine, for a term of up to three years, effective July 1, 2024 and up to June 30, 2027.

- Dr. Anas El-Aneed has been appointed as Assistant Dean, Pharmacy, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, for a term of up to two years, effective July 1, 2024 and up to June 30, 2026.
- Dr. Liran Levin has been appointed as Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies, College of Dentistry, for a period of up to five years beginning July 1, 2024 and up to June 30, 2029.
- Dr. Gordon Zello has been appointed as Assistant Dean, Nutrition, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition for a term of up to two years, effective July 1, 2024 and up to June 30, 2026.
- Dr. Jennifer Lang has been appointed as interim Vice-Dean, Academic, College of Arts & Science, beginning July 1, 2024 for term of one year, up to June 30, 2025, or until a new Vice-Dean is appointed.
- Dr. Yansun Yao has been appointed as acting Department Head, Physics and Engineering Physics, College of Arts and Science, for a period of up to six months, effective July 1, 2024 and up to December 31, 2024.
- Dr. Abdullah Mamun has been appointed as acting Department Head, Finance & Management Science, Edwards School of Business for a term up to 12 months, effective July 1, 2024 and up to June 30, 2025.
- Dr. Maha Kumaran has been appointed as acting Assistant Dean, Collections and Discovery, University Library for a term of up to one-year, effective July 1, 2024 and up to June 30, 2025.
- Dr. Terry Wotherspoon has been appointed as acting Department Head, Indigenous Studies, College of Arts and Science, for a period of up to one-year, effective August 1, 2024 to July 31, 2025, or until the former Department Head returns from leave, whichever occurs first.
- Dr. Lynn Lemisko has been appointed as acting Department Head, Educational Foundations, College of Education, for a term of up to six months, effective August 1, 2024 and up to January 31, 2025.
- Dr. Geraldine Balzer has been appointed as the acting Department Head, Curriculum Studies, College of Education, for a term of up to six months, effective August 1, 2024 and up to January 31, 2025.
- Dr. Jay Wilson has been appointed as Principal, USask Prince Albert Campus, for an initial term of up to two-years starting August 1, 2024 and up to July 31, 2026.
- Dr. Bruce Wobeser has been appointed as Associate Dean, Academic, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, for a period of up to five-years beginning August 16, 2024 and up to August 15, 2029.
- Dr. Jim Bugg has been appointed as interim Associate Dean, Faculty Relations, College of Engineering, for a period of up to four months, beginning September 1, 2024.

- Dr. Patricia McDougall has been extended as Deputy Provost, for up to two years, beginning October 1, 2024 and up to September 31, 2026.
- Dr. Bill Roesler has been appointed as acting Department Head, Biochemistry, Microbiology, and Immunology, College of Medicine, for a term of up to 4 months, effective October 15, 2024.
- Charlene Sorenson has been extended as interim Dean, University Library, for a term of up to two months, beginning November 1, 2024 and up to December 31, 2024, or until a new Dean is appointed, whichever occurs first.
- Dr. Andrew Denton has been appointed as the director for the School for the Arts, College of Arts & Science, for a term of up to five years, effective July 1, 2024.
- Dr. Peter Doig has been extended as interim Associate Dean, Academic, College of Dentistry for a term of up to one year, beginning October 1, 2024 and up to September 30, 2025.