



# Provost's Report to Council

March 2026

## GENERAL REMARKS

Somehow, yet again, February flew by and we are moving towards the end of March and the end of winter term. I know this becomes a very busy time of our academic cycle and I thank everyone for the hard work underway.

I visited Manila and Bangkok for one week at the end of February, accompanying the Minister of Advanced Education on a mission, alongside leaders from Saskatchewan Polytechnic and the University of Regina. There were numerous meetings with government ministries (Higher Education, Science and Technology, Agriculture) and a range of universities in both countries. Post-secondary education is certainly part of Canada's diplomatic trade activity, and I was pleased to contribute and looked to create opportunities for USask people (including students, faculty, staff), activities and programs.

In keeping with my intention to continue uplifting discussions on academic strategy, I am including an update on USask's activity within the area of micro-credentials. Micro-credentials are an example of "pathways" within our broader concept of flexible learning, improving access and demonstrating responsiveness to industry and communities. Recent micro-credential activity reflects steady growth across academic units at the USask, with several offerings approved and delivered over the past two years and important new developments underway.

In 2023–24, micro-credentials were approved in Agriculture and Bioresources, Nursing, Public Health, Arts and Science, and Law, with two of these, *Management of Major Depressive Disorder (MDD) in Adults: Clinical Update* and *Municipal Leadership in Addressing Substance Use Harms* successfully offered during the 2024–25 academic year. In 2025–26, additional offerings continued across Public Health and Nursing alongside the approval and launch preparations for *Food Product Development and Safety*, the first micro-credential from the Department of Food and Bioproduct Sciences in Agriculture and Bioresources.

Looking ahead, significant new work is underway, including the development of a three-part Indigenous Clean Energy Project Management micro-credential in collaboration

with SENS, positioned to become the institution's first stackable suite leading to certificate or degree credit. This micro-credential, targeted for launch in fall 2026, is aimed at youth with the goal of generating early interest.

Taken as a whole, we have both breadth in recent achievements and a trajectory toward more integrated, multi-unit, and stackable micro-credential pathways.

## **USASK UPDATES**

### **INDIGENOUS ACHIEVEMENT WEEK**

The USask community celebrated Indigenous Achievement Week from March 9-13. This annual event has become a treasured tradition at USask that celebrates Métis, First Nations and Inuit students, staff, faculty and alumni's successes. A major highlight of the week is the Indigenous Student Achievement Awards Ceremony, where students are honoured for their academic achievement, community engagement, leadership, research and resiliency. This year, the Awards Ceremony also included the chance to honour the Wise Ones for their support and focus on Indigenous students. Thank you to all who made this year's Indigenous Achievement Week a success, and for all colleges and units who hosted programming and engagement opportunities for students. More information about this year's Indigenous Achievement Week and past celebrations is available on the [Spotlight webpage](#).

### **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

USask recognizes and celebrates Black History Month each February. This year's launch event took place on Feb. 2 and welcomed remarks from student leaders, staff and President Vince Bruni-Bossio, who shared stories of those who have inspired them and their vision for the future. Many colleges, schools and units hosted events, including panel discussions, featured menus by USask Culinary Services, a celebration of student-athletes and Black culture by the Huskies, a film screening of an educational video on allyship hosted by the Student Wellness Centre and in partnership with the USask School for the Arts, and a night of recognition for the efforts of the university community in uplifting Black voices.

We want to extend a thank you to all who played a role in developing a robust month of programming for the month of February. A full list of past events and stories of the USask community can be found on the [Black History Month Spotlight website](#).

## **USASK FINALISTS NAMED FOR MCCALL MACBAIN SCHOLARSHIP**

USask College of Kinesiology graduate Austen Zentner (BSc'25) and College of Agriculture and Bioresources student Greta Mader Stevens (BSA'26) will head to Montreal this month as national finalists for the McCall MacBain Scholarships at McGill University. Established with a \$200-million gift in 2019, the McCall MacBain Scholarships are Canada's largest leadership-based scholarships for master's and professional studies. More than 700 Canadians applied, and 151 advanced to a first round of interviews in November. The top 53 Canadians, including these two USask students, will attend the final round of interviews in Montreal, joined by 38 finalists from other countries. Both Austen and Greta exhibit the academic excellence and community leadership skills that characterize, McCall MacBain scholars, and we celebrate their accomplishments in the scholarship adjudication process thus far.

## **10 YEARS AT USASK'S GORDON OAKES RED BEAR STUDENT CENTRE**

Over the past decade, the Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre has been dedicated to being a place for Indigenous students to build community and connection. The Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre was designed to meet the needs of Indigenous students, offering a variety of cultural programming such as *Introduction to Powwow*, *Matriarchs in the Making*, and *CreativiTEA*. The centre also facilitates access to good medicines like smudging, and connection to Elders and Knowledge Keepers. Congratulations and many thanks to all who have contributed to the centre's success for the past decade, and who have made an impact on the lives of so many USask students.

## **COLLEGE UPDATES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND MILESTONES**

A selection of recent accomplishments, achievements and milestones for USask's college and school community are shared below.

### **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION TO LAUNCH INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE CERTIFICATE IN MICHIF**

The USask College of Education, in partnership with Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, the Gabriel Dumont Institute, and Saskatoon Public Schools, is expanding its Certificate in Indigenous Languages program to include a Michif language stream. The Indigenous Language Certificate is designed to help educators develop proficiency in speaking and teaching Heritage/Southern Michif through Indigenous teaching methodologies.

## **EDWARDS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS HOSTS JDC WEST COMPETITION**

In January 2026, the Edwards School of Business JDC West team participated in the annual JDC West competition, hosted in Saskatoon by an organizing committee made up of Edwards alumni and current students. The event brought together nearly 600 delegates from 12 western Canadian business schools. Edwards teams earned second place in Business Strategy, International Business, Marketing, Challenge and Participation, and third place in Debate and Athletics. The team showed outstanding camaraderie throughout the weekend. Special thanks go to co-captains Bryanna Conway and Max Eyre Wilkins, along with the coaches, parents and volunteers whose dedication supported the team. Congratulations to the Edwards JDC West team for their outstanding performance, dedication and hard work throughout the competition and for their important role in hosting the event.

## **EDWARDS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS INTRODUCES NEW DONOR-SUPPORTED SCHOLARSHIP AND LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS**

A new scholarship program at USask will help ensure a commerce degree remains within reach for students across the province. The Edwards School of Business has established the [Pringle Scholarship Program](#) thanks to a \$10 million legacy gift from William (Bill) and May Ellen Pringle. It is the largest bequest ever received by the University of Saskatchewan and will provide full tuition support for continuing commerce students who demonstrate financial need and who graduated from high schools outside of Regina or Saskatoon. Three scholarships named for Bill and his brothers, Jack and Bert, will be awarded in perpetuity. The program is expected to support about 35 students each year and reflects the Pringles' lifelong commitment to education and opportunity.

USask has also launched the [Marcoux Leadership Program](#), an initiative designed to help students build leadership skills for their communities and careers. Created through a \$1 million gift from Russel and Bonnie Marcoux, the program will integrate leadership principles into coursework and offer a coaching program for upper year students across USask. Powered by the Edwards School of Business, the program includes a one-week intensive course that focuses on communication, decision making and real-world problem solving. The Marcoux family, longtime supporters of education and community development, hope the initiative will empower future leaders across campus. The first cohort will begin in May 2026.

## **DIRECTOR OF SLOGOTSKI HUNT CENTRE FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP APPOINTMENT**

The Edwards School of Business is pleased to announce that Dr. Monique Simair (BSc'04, PhD'09) has been appointed the [new director of the Slogotski Hunt Centre for Entrepreneurship \(SHCE\)](#), effective February 2, 2026. An accomplished scientist, entrepreneur, and founder of two successful environmental technology companies, Dr. Simair brings extensive experience in innovation, collaboration, and real-world problem solving. The SHCE, powered by the Edwards School of Business and established through a generous gift from Bernie Slogotski and Thedra Hunt, will support entrepreneurial thinking across all USask colleges. Dr. Simair aims to build a campus-wide culture of curiosity, resilience, and interdisciplinary collaboration, helping students, faculty, and researchers turn ideas into meaningful ventures and community impact.

## **CALL FOR INDIGENOUS ARTISTS: ORANGE SHIRT DAY AT USASK**

The USask Indigenous Space & Visual Symbols, a sub-committee of the Joint Governance Council in the Academic Health Sciences Committee together with Shop USask invite local Indigenous artists at any stage in their practice to declare interest in creating the 2026 USask Orange Shirt Day t-shirt artwork. This commissioned artwork plays a meaningful role in supporting learning and conversation connected to Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Many across campus use the annual shirt to reflect on truth, history, and shared purpose, and this artwork supports that reflection. Artists may also connect with Shop USask about making handcrafted items available for sale through a separate opportunity. Declare interest by Friday, April 10, 2026. Full details on both projects are available on the [Shop USask website](#).

## **2026 COLLEGE OF KINESIOLOGY RESEARCH SHOWCASE AND DON BAILEY LECTURE SERIES**

The College of Kinesiology Research Showcase at the University of Saskatchewan is an annual event celebrating the depth and diversity of research across the college - from early-stage ideas to real-world application and impact. This event will run from March 20–27, 2026 and will feature daily poster and oral presentations showcasing the work of undergraduate Honours students, graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and faculty. The week also includes the Don Bailey Lecture Series, highlighted by guest speaker Dr. Mary Jung (PhD). A full schedule can be found [here](#).

Created to raise the college's research profile and extend the reach of innovative, leading-edge scholarship, the Showcase brings together contributions from students, researchers,

alumni, community partners, and external collaborators. By fostering collaboration and sharing diverse perspectives, the event celebrates impactful work that advances physical education, physical activity, human performance, health, well-being, and sport.

### **UNIVERSITY LIBRARY RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP**

Beginning in 2026-27, the University Library will be offering a new research fellowship aimed at supporting and promoting research activity using the holdings of University Archives and Special Collections (UASC). The fellowship will support projects within any discipline or field of study. Recipients will be asked to provide a final copy of their project work (article, book, artistic work, film, etc.) to UASC and to present their research project through a public forum, preferably a physical or digital exhibit and/or public lecture on campus. This fellowship is made possible through the generous contributions of University Library donors.

### **OPEN EDUCATION WEEK**

The Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching and Learning and the University Library collaborated on a [full week of sessions](#) to celebrate Open Education Week from March 2–6. Seven online sessions were held to learn more about how to find open resources, get started with open textbook/resource creation, understand Creative Commons licences, incorporate open pedagogy, engage students as creators, and navigate the HARVEST repository. Thank you to all who made these learning opportunities possible for instructors and students.

### **COLLEGE OF MEDICINE PROGRAM EXPANSION UPDATE**

Health-care training opportunities are being expanded with the launch of three new programs: the [Master of Physician Assistant Studies \(MPAS\)](#), [Master of Occupational Therapy](#), and [Master of Speech-Language Pathology](#). These important first-in-Saskatchewan programs will help strengthen our future health workforce in the province. The admissions windows for these programs closed in late 2025, with all three receiving high interest from applicants.

The first MPAS cohort is currently engaged in case-based and team-based teaching methods and early clinical exposure supported by multiple clinical partners including the Saskatchewan Health Authority and St. Paul's Hospital. In addition, the work continues in the School of Rehabilitation Science to launch occupational therapy and speech-language pathology programs. Activities include hiring faculty, engaging with the clinical community, and working on program accreditation.

## SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY LAUNCHES ECO CAMPS

The School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS) Eco Camps will be offered, for the first year, across four weeks in summer 2026. Each week of camp will introduce campers to foundational concepts in environmental science, sustainability, and climate awareness through hands-on, age-appropriate, and interactive activities designed to build understanding, confidence, and curiosity. Some topics will be explored through a ‘two-eyed seeing’ approach, introducing both Indigenous and Western perspectives. Programming will be designed and delivered by trained staff, faculty members, and graduate students with subject-matter expertise and experience working with youth. Registration opened as of March 5, 2026. [Registration can be found here.](#)

## RECENT APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Linda Chelico has been appointed as Vice-Dean, Research (Biomedical), College of Medicine, for a term up to 5 years, beginning March 1, 2026, and up to April 1, 2031.

Dr. Scot Stone has been appointed as acting head, Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology, College of Medicine, beginning March 1, 2026, and up to June 30, 2026.

Dr. Amaranta Sokol has been appointed as acting/interim Vice-Provost, Indigenous Engagement, for a period of up to one-year beginning April 1, 2026, and up to March 31, 2027.

Kim Kroll-Goodwin has been appointed as interim Vice-President, University Relations, beginning May 1, 2026, and will continue until a successful search for the Vice-President, University Relations position is completed, and the successful candidate is appointed.

Dr. Joel Lanovaz has been extended as Associate Dean, Academic, College of Kinesiology, for a two-year term, beginning July 1, 2026, and up to June 30, 2028.

## ACTIVE SEARCHES AND REVIEWS

### Searches:

- Dean, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition
- Dean, College of Law
- Executive Director, Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy

### Active reviews:

- Dean, College of Nursing

- Dean, Western College of Veterinary Medicine

Please see [here](#) for information on searches and reviews.