

*This Aboriginal Education Research Centre will build research capacity and nourish leadership in a new generation of scholars as they take their place in the Canadian academy, in the administration of schools, colleges, and universities and in advancing Aboriginal education. We plan to collaborate, as well as innovate; working with groups and individuals across the U of S campus and in the local community to ensure the Centre's research makes a significant academic and social impact.*

*Dr. Marie Battiste, Professor, Educational Foundations,  
College of Education and Academic Director, AERC*

*The College of Education has played an important role in advancing Aboriginal education in Saskatchewan but more needs to be done. We hope through our research that we will come to better understand the needs of the Aboriginal student populations and to develop successful teaching methods which will enhance the delivery of education to Aboriginal students in both provincial and band schools.*

*Dr. Cecilia Reynolds, Dean of the College of Education*

The College of Education in the University of Saskatchewan has a strong history and important role in advancing Aboriginal education. Tangible and practical accomplishments include the establishment of core course requirements for all teachers in addressing social justice, gender equity, multicultural and Aboriginal education, specialized Aboriginal teacher education programs, and Aboriginal faculty to provide the needed expertise and research to develop this area.

More focused research is needed, however, on diverse systems of learning, community-based approaches to Aboriginal pedagogy, Indigenous knowledge and the needs of Aboriginal student populations. The College of Education at the University of Saskatchewan has invested in the Aboriginal Education Research Centre (AERC), establishing it as its first priority in the College's Plan for 2003 – 2008 and in the second five-year planning cycle (2008-2013). With a mandate to help identify successful pedagogy and practices, and appropriate methods for Aboriginal learners to shape future policy and directions of schools serving Aboriginal communities, the Aboriginal Education Research Centre (AERC) provides expertise in the development, collaboration, and coordination of research activity in Aboriginal education and provides mechanisms for knowledge dissemination and mobilisation. Through its multiple funded projects, AERC focuses on engaging researchers in improving educational successes of Aboriginal learners in multiple learning environments, improving teacher education and application of Indigenous knowledge systems in diverse learning environments and curriculum. This includes exploring the needs of learners, educators, institutions, systems, education contexts and related areas that influence educational success.

Currently, partnerships are being forged locally, provincially, nationally and internationally between AERC and other pre-eminent universities and groups to serve research needs concerning First Nations, Métis, and Inuit learners within Canada. In its first year of operation, AERC was successful in a national competition to develop and host the Aboriginal Learning Knowledge Centre for the Canadian Council on Learning. AERC and the First Nations Adult and Higher Education Consortium in Calgary, AB are now co-leading this three-year national project concerning First Nations, Métis and Inuit learning. For information on the Aboriginal Learning Knowledge Centre see [www.ccl-cca.ca](http://www.ccl-cca.ca). AERC is also involved in research projects within the health sector and with the study of indigenous knowledge and science.

AERC is currently seeking to expand in areas of Endowed Graduate Scholarship Awards, a Research Chair Professorship and diverse research projects to support on-going scholarship in Aboriginal education at the University of Saskatchewan.

The Aboriginal Education Research Centre (AERC) is located in the central prairies, in the land of the treaty First Nations and Métis.

No comparable centre exists in Canada. AERC is at the forefront of an endeavour working to transform the preparation of future teachers, administrators and staff that will result in educational transformation that will remedy the current crisis in schooling and learning.

AERC's Goals:

- Improve the educational capacity of schools to retain and meet the needs of Aboriginal students, while improving the knowledge and sensitivity of other students and school staff to Aboriginal peoples' knowledge, experience, and relationships;
- Develop supportive reciprocal partnerships with Aboriginal communities, elders, institutions and organizations;
- Build local and Canadian capacity to value and learn from the knowledge and educational practices of diverse Aboriginal peoples;
- Mobilize knowledge and promising practices among educational institutions through dialogues, conferences, publications, and website on Aboriginal education;
- Develop research activities as decolonizing sites to improve Indigenous education across disciplines, throughout Canada and internationally;
- Facilitate dialogues with Aboriginal communities, organizations and elders to develop collaborative protocols and practices for ethical research, learning, and teaching;
- Support and enrich graduate students and faculty in scholarly interests and subsequent research in Aboriginal education; and
- Create local, provincial, national and international partnerships with other pre-eminent universities and groups.