The past year has been one of personal and institutional growth. I thank the Elders, Board members, faculty, staff, students, alumni and everyone else who helped me during my first year as President. I share your commitment to FNUniv and will ensure our way forward honours the vision upon which FNUniv was built.

As this report demonstrates, the past year has been full of accomplishments for FNUniv. Our faculty and staff are all involved in activities that promote student engagement and success. The newly-formed Elders’ Council is providing guidance to the institution. Our scholars are producing projects and publications with a strong emphasis on community service. We played host to a number of high-profile events celebrating Indigenous culture, including the North American Indigenous Games last summer.

Over the past year, FNUniv has continued to see a steady increase in enrollments, and has expanded its offerings at its three campuses. We have doubled our classroom capacity at our Regina campus, and are developing plans for improved infrastructure in Saskatoon and Prince Albert. We are also expanding into more First Nations communities in Saskatchewan and beyond. We are now teaching face-to-face programs at Piapot First Nation, at Parkland College in Fort Qu’Appelle, and at Maskwacis Cultural College in Alberta. This coming fall, we will be reaching out to even more First Nations communities.

The coming year marks a milestone anniversary for FNUniv: 40 years of remarkable progress and success as Canada’s original Indigenous post-secondary institution. This will be a watershed moment for our institution, when we will celebrate our past and anticipate our future. Building on our record of stability and growth, FNUniv is positioned to play a critical role in the future as a new paradigm is created for the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada. Responding to the urgent calls for action arising from the Truth and Reconciliation Report, FNUniv will be a leader in reconciliation by educating people of all backgrounds, promoting respectful dialogue, and forging new links between Indigenous communities and stakeholders. This focus on leadership in national reconciliation will be a focal point of FNUniv’s 40th anniversary celebrations in 2016, and central to our strategic direction going forward.

— Dr. Mark S. Dockstator, President, First Nations University of Canada

FNUniv continues to rely on Lighting the Path: 2013-2018 Strategic Plan to guide our progress as we work to strengthen and solidify our reputation as a leader and successful model of Indigenous higher learning.

FNUniv remains committed to accountability. We employ sound business practices and are confident that the procedures, policies and controls that are in place will continue to steer us toward steady, sustainable growth for the benefit of our students and our institution.

FNUniv’s financial statements for the year ending March 31, 2015 can be found online at: www.fnuniv.ca/facts
OUR STUDENTS

LEARNING BEYOND LECTURES

Joseph Boyden, Indigenous author of three award-winning novels including The Orenda, toured FNUniv’s Regina Campus and spent time with some of our students during his speaking tour in 2014. Boyden read from his latest novel, shared insights into the writing process and encouraged students to keep learning, in the classroom and beyond.

EVENTS THAT ENGAGE

One of the messages that our students share with us all the time is that they are grateful for FNUniv’s sense of community, which is enriched through student gatherings like the round dance that the FNUniv Northern Campus Student Association hosted this past March.

STUDENT SUCCESS SUPPORTS

FNUniv offers a range of supports and services, from writing clinics to scholarships, to ensure our students’ success both in the classrooms and in their daily lives.
OUR ELDERS

FNUniv provides holistic education, bringing together quality academic studies with traditional Indigenous knowledge. We have Elders at each of our campuses and they are integral members of our team; they are holders of our traditions, values, languages and history. They are our leaders, our guides and are our teachers and they encourage what is best for our institution.

In 2014 – 2015, the Katayak Elders Council was formed to provide advice, give direction and share important cultural teachings pertaining to FNUniv programming and activities. The Council consists of one Board of Governor Elder, five campus Elders, three Elder’s Helpers, one Elder Advisor, one faculty member, one management representative and a recorder.

OUR BOARD

We are fortunate to have a professional Board of Governors with national members who are deeply committed to Saskatchewan and FNUniv. This commitment, coupled with their diverse skill sets and backgrounds, ensures strong governance.

Thank you to recently retired Board of Governor Peter Homenuck for all of his dedication and hard work on behalf of FNUniv.
Indigenous Health Studies Professor Dr. Carrie Bourassa is passionate about community and collaboration; she is Co-Principal Investigator for Digging Deep: Examining the Root Causes of HIV and AIDS among Aboriginal Women, a community-based/academic partnership.

In 2014, Dr. Bourassa received the distinction of being named to the inaugural cohort of the Royal Society of Canada’s College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists.

Judy Anderson, Associate Professor of Indian Fine Arts, spent eight weeks at the Prince’s School for Traditional Arts in London bringing Canadian Indigenous art and culture to the school for the first time.
OUR PROFESSORS

BOOK LAUNCHES

DR. SHARON ACOOSE

Dr. Acoose, Associate Professor of Indigenous Social Work, inspires people both in and out of the classroom. In early 2015, she launched her autobiography *An Arrow In My Heart: A First Nation Woman’s Account of Survival from the Streets to the Height of Academia* with enormous community support.

DR. LINDA GOULET

Indigenous Education Professor Dr. Linda Goulet co-authored *Teaching Each Other: Nehinuw Concepts and Indigenous Pedagogies* with her husband Keith Goulet, in which they share 25 years of Indigenous education expertise. They launched the book together at two separate events at both the Regina and Prince Albert Campuses.

SOLOMON RATT

Solomon Ratt, Associate Professor of Indigenous Languages, Linguistics and Literature, introduced his new book *nîhithaw âcimowina/Woods Cree Stories* at FNUniv in the fall of 2014. The book is part of the University of Regina Press’s First Nations Language Readers series, edited by FNUniv’s Dr. Arok Wolvengrey. This volume presents stories in Cree syllabics, standard roman orthography and English translation.
OUR FACULTY AND STAFF

LONG SERVICE AWARDS

There are more than 140 years of combined service and commitment to FNUniv represented in this photograph from our 2014 Achievement Awards Banquet.

FNUniv faculty and staff are dedicated to the success of our institution and our students.

Willie Ermine (centre), Assistant Professor of Indigenous Studies, was blanketed by FNUniv Board of Governors David Sharpe (Chair) and Claudette Commanda in recognition of his 20 years of service.

Peter Carton and Claudette Commanda from FNUniv’s Board of Governors, presented staff member Rhonda Thompson (centre) with a starblanket for her 20 years of service with FNUniv.
CAMPUS LIFE

FNUniv’s campus life reflects culture, ceremony and community, with students at the heart of every event.

MORE THAN JUST SCHOOL

FNUniv is often a hub of activity, bustling with people and pride. We host many community celebrations and cultural events and nothing makes us happier than when our students, faculty, staff and community members gather at our campus events to share laughter, food and companionship.

ELDERS ARE AT THE HEART OF EVERY FNUNIV GATHERING AND ALWAYS SO WILLING TO SHARE THEIR KNOWLEDGE, HUMOUR AND TIME WITH STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF.

PEOPLE OF ALL AGES AND BACKGROUNDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT OUR CAMPUS EVENTS – WE LOVE WHEN GOOD ENERGY AND SMILES ABOUND!

FNUNIV HOSTED THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIGENOUS GAMES’ CULTURAL VILLAGE IN SUMMER 2014, WELCOMING THOUSANDS OF ATHLETES AND VISITORS TO OUR REGINA CAMPUS.

FNUNIV’S 37TH ANNUAL SPRING CELEBRATION POW-WOW WAS A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS WITH 700 DANCERS FROM ACROSS CANADA AND THE U.S. ATTRACTING MORE THAN 7,000 SPECTATORS OVER THE WEEKEND. WHAT A WONDERFUL WAY TO SHARE FNUNIV PRIDE AND CULTURE!
TOPICAL AND RELEVANT EVENTS

FNUniv takes pride in being part of events that matter to our community – it’s part of our mandate to enlighten, empower and educate. The Walking With Our Sisters exhibit resonated deeply with our students, faculty and staff, as well as with the broader community – we were honoured to host the exhibit at our Regina Campus.

FNUniv honours First Nations veterans and their sacrifices at our annual remembrance day service in the veterans memorial tipi.

FNUniv programs include distinct cultural experiences such as elder-led, land-based experiences.

Traditional teachings by FNUniv elders underpin many of FNUniv’s courses – ensuring indigenous knowledge gets passed on to new generations.

FNUniv alumna Tracy George Heese (left) and Sheila Coles, host of CBC’s The Morning Edition, at the Walking With Our Sisters exhibit at FNUniv – Regina campus, where more than 1,700 pairs of moccasin vamps were on display, each representing a murdered or missing indigenous woman.
We put a lot of energy, effort and enthusiasm into our recruitment and outreach efforts. Last year saw the launch of the new FNUniv recruitment brand, *What’s Your Soul Reason*, which included a revamped website, new program catalogue and other promotional products bearing the new brand.

Our two Student Recruitment Officers are making good use of the new recruitment products in their travels across Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba.

Over the past year, they visited high schools, career fairs and other targeted events asked prospective students about their “soul reasons”.

Faculty and staff are instrumental to our outreach efforts. They commit their time and talents to specialized initiatives aimed at capturing the interest of aspiring entrepreneurs, budding scientists and future mathematicians.

FNUniv students make the best ambassadors, sharing their enthusiasm at high school career fairs and other community events.

*WHAT’S YOUR SOUL REASON?*

*To study where Indigenous cultures are an important part of my university experience.*

*OUR NEW RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN RESONATES WITH PEOPLE BY PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THEM TO REFLECT ON WHY THEY CHOOSE TO COME TO FNUNIV.*

*SHANE KEEPNESS IS OUR COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAM COORDINATOR AND AN FNUNIV ALUMNUS SUCCESS STORY WHO APPLIES HIS EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE TOWARD HELPING OTHERS SUCCEED!*
FNUNIV ABORIGINAL YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP CAMP

FNUNIV’s School of Business and Public Administration puts on the Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurship Camp every year. This is a weeklong business incubator for high school students and recent graduates where they learn about running their own business.

Our annual Wiseman Mathematics Contest has become so popular among Canadian First Nations schools that in 2014, we had to expand it to include Grade 6 students!

FNUNIV’s Science Unit introduced the Science Showcase Series in early 2015 to illustrate how fun science can be to local students in Grades 6 to 8.

Student recruitment officer Cadmus Delorme travelled nearly 10,000 km last year while visiting 117 schools across three provinces.

Joey Sugai joined FNUniv as a student recruiter in 2014. He is based out of our Prince Albert Campus and is already an invaluable part of our Student Success Services team.
We would like to acknowledge the supporters and funders who assist us in achieving our mission. They include:

The First Nations of Saskatchewan
Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations
Government of Canada through the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
Government of Saskatchewan through the Ministry of Advanced Education
University of Regina