

SPRING 2019

ALUMNI IN ACCTION

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*FROM TRAFFIC INVESTIGATOR
TO DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERT,
CONST. ALICE POTTER HAS
DONE IT ALL*

-
- » Keeping you connected
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POLICE STUDIES LEADS TO VARIED, SATISFYING CAREER

FROM TRAFFIC INVESTIGATOR TO DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERT, CONST. ALICE POTTER HAS DONE IT ALL.

Graduating from the Police Studies program at Assiniboine Community College in 2009 has led to a varied and satisfying career for Brandon Police Service Constable Alice Potter.

Potter has moved around within the Brandon Police Service, believing every experience adds to her knowledge and helps her achieve her long-term career goals.

"I started specializing in traffic. I obtained my Traffic Collision Analyst level three and forensic mapping. Up until two weeks ago, I was the only current member reconstructing all fatal and serious collisions within the city," she said.

Furthering her training, Potter became an instructor in many traffic areas including Radar, Laser, Alco-Sensor FST users and calibrators. "Traffic is a passion for me," Potter said with a smile.

Potter also became a drug-recognition expert, to identify drivers who are impaired because of drugs.

"With the new legislation, impaired driving by drugs is becoming a scary reality." Potter obtained her training in Phoenix, Arizona, which she indicated was a phenomenal experience, even though the course was very demanding.

In December, Const. Potter made another move, leaving the training unit where she looked after the Brandon Police Service's training needs for all sworn and non-sworn members and became the school resource officer for the 18 Kindergarten to Grade 8 schools in the Brandon School Division.

Potter is looking forward to her involvement with young people.

"You are able to connect with the students through presentations -- stuff like bike safety, cyberbullying, Internet safety or drug presentations that are age-specific. You read stories during I love to read week. Teach them how to do patrol and basic personal safety. I'm looking forward to it. It's going to be very rewarding, I think," she said.

"I think it's important in your police career to try different units, try different sections. Once you become comfortable, move on. Try something new. And build your knowledge base."

Seven of her classmates are now her colleagues at the Brandon Police Service.

Graduates of Assiniboine's Police Studies program are spread across Manitoba, including Ste. Anne, Morden, Winkler, Victoria Beach, Rivers Police and Manitoba First Nations Police Service, formerly the Dakota Ojibway Police Service (DOPS.)

Potter estimates that more than half of Manitoba First Nations Police Service officers may be graduates of the college's Police Studies program.

Any police agency can hire a Police Studies graduate and put them through the six weeks of Phase B training to become a sworn member.

Some graduates have gone on to work in organizations such as the Winnipeg Police Service and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Although these agencies choose to put all of their candidates through their own complete training



program, Assiniboine grads do extremely well in this further training, because of the solid foundation they built while attending Police Studies at Assiniboine.

Potter runs into many other program grads working in other aspects of law enforcement.

"Every time I step into the court office, many of the sheriffs I see have gone through the Police Studies program. There are tons of corrections officers and security officers. The security officers that look after Assiniboine Community College are Police Studies graduates. Parole officers. Anything you can think of that has to do with law enforcement. Just because they don't go into a police agency, doesn't mean they aren't a success story for the program," she said.

"Many of the graduates want to be police officers. However, they may require just a little bit more life experience and be deferred from an agency for a year or two."

Potter suggests entering into a military program, such as regular or reserve forces, as policing is paramilitary. "Build some life experience and apply often and to as many agencies as you can. It may take a few years, but if the passion is there, you will get hired by a service at some point."

Potter credits the Police Studies program with giving her the skills she needed to succeed in her career, especially the scenario-based training.

During scenario training, students take turns in their roles for a given scenario. Sometimes

you may be the offender, a victim, or other times the officer. Having the ability to see and act out these positions helps you understand all aspects of policing, from every perspective.

"Everything you sat and listened to in class, now as a police officer, you have to be able to do that, standing up, thinking quickly on your feet," she said.

Since Potter's time, Police Studies has added a use-of-force simulation lab to make the scenarios even more realistic.

In 2014, Potter started the Brandon Police Service Cadet Corps. Potter used money out of her own pocket to start and run the program and obtained additional funding from the Brandon Police Service, Brandon Police Association and other community partners. The 13- to 18-year-olds met once a week at the Brandon Armouries, being introduced to many aspects of policing.

"I met so many amazing youth from the Brandon and Westman area. I am sure I will see many of them in uniform someday."

While the program took a break after three successful years, Potter plans to restart it in the fall of 2019.

On the first day of drill class for Police Studies students in 2008, the instructor asked Potter to teach her classmates how to march.

"I was the drill instructor for my own class, which is kind of a bizarre thing, but worked

out really well," Potter said.

Potter has come back as the Police Studies Drill Instructor for each new batch of students since then, and she designs a special memorized precision drill sequence for their graduation.

Potter's career ambitions include a police secondment to Assiniboine Community College as the Police Studies program instructor. "This position is for an active sworn member from the Brandon Police Service to work with Assiniboine administering the Police Studies Program."

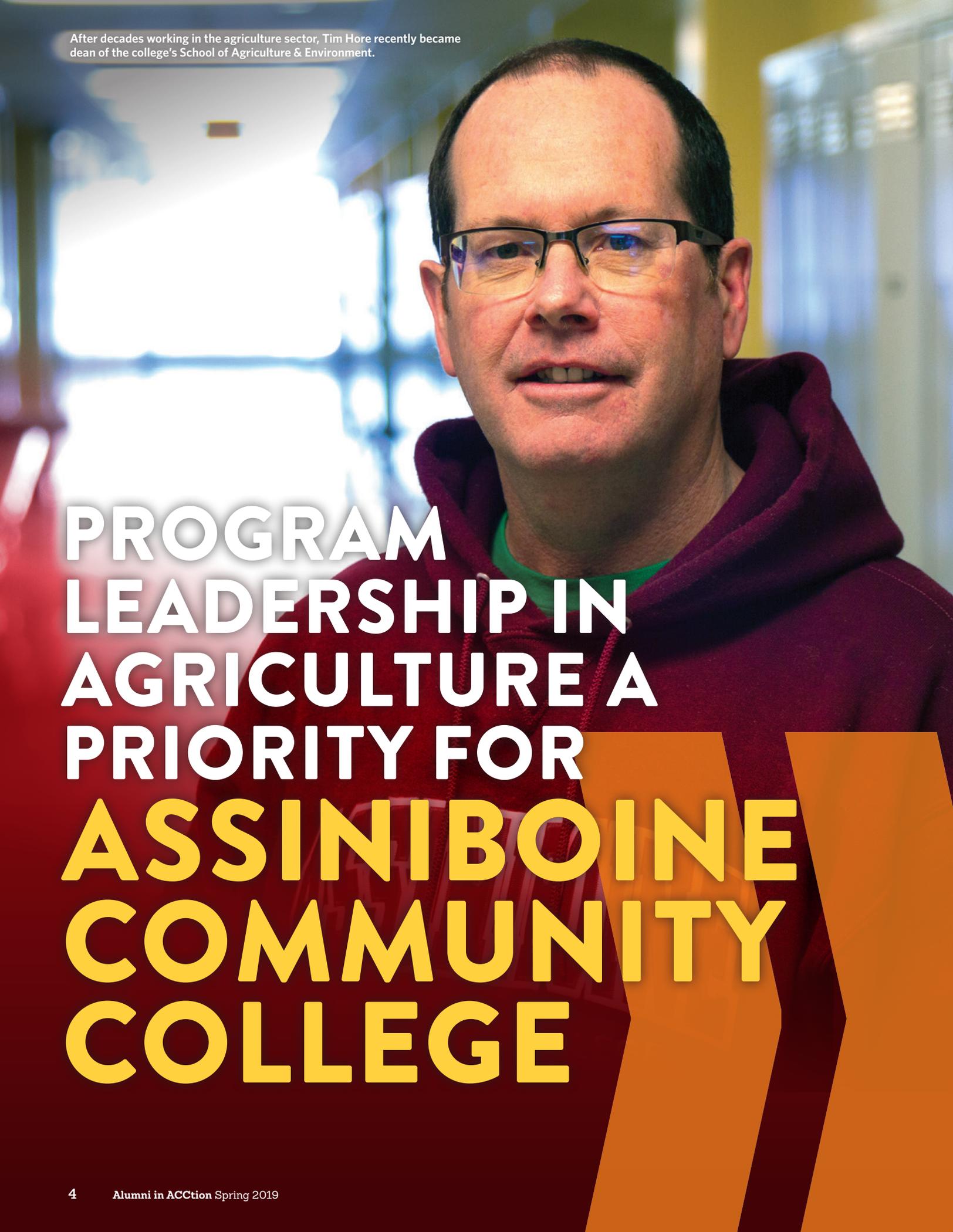
Potter says "It is no secret that I love to instruct, whether it is radar, laser, ASD or level 2 traffic collision investigation to sworn officers or drill and level 1 collision investigation to Police Studies Students."

Potter suggests to anyone who has compassion, is community-oriented and is looking for an ever-changing career where no two days ever look the same, to try policing as a career.

"Give Police Studies a try. It's not for everyone, but everyone who graduates will forever hold that sense of pride marching in that final parade with their squad."

Photo: Brandon Police Service Const. Alice Potter has had a varied and satisfying career since graduating from Police Studies at Assiniboine Community College. She teaches drill to current Police Studies students.

After decades working in the agriculture sector, Tim Hore recently became dean of the college's School of Agriculture & Environment.

A portrait of Tim Hore, a man with glasses and a maroon hoodie, looking slightly to the right. The background is a blurred indoor setting with large windows.

PROGRAM LEADERSHIP IN AGRICULTURE A PRIORITY FOR ASSINIBOINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The future of agriculture and environment at Assiniboine Community College is poised for growth with the cultivation of new programs, applied research projects yielding practical knowledge, and skilled graduates entering careers in the industry.

Agriculture is suffering from a serious labour shortage, and it's going to get worse, according to government forecasts.

In 2014, 1,800 primary agriculture jobs — seven per cent of the ag workforce needed in Manitoba — went unfilled, resulting in \$282 million in lost sales, product losses, and expansion delays on farms and in agriculture-related businesses.

By 2025, unless something changes, the federal government projects that 18 per cent of all agriculture jobs in Manitoba — nearly one in five — will go unfilled.

"There are more jobs than there are skilled people to fill those jobs," said Tim Hore, dean of agriculture at Assiniboine.

Hore joined the college in January after spending the last 25 years in various leadership positions across the private and the public sectors, including 15 years working for two different multinational food companies.

"We are working more closely with the provincial industry to understand some of their labour requirements now and into the future. We are looking at opportunities where Assiniboine can provide exceptional learning experiences for students, with the outcome being a knowledgeable, skilled labour force that meets the needs of the industry," he said.

For example, the college's two-year Agribusiness program combines agriculture, technology and business for an in-depth education in one of Canada's largest industries. Students get the big picture, with hands-on learning through labs, field trips and projects. They enjoy a dynamic, student-focused atmosphere of small classes and experienced faculty.

Other full-time programs at the college in the field of ag and environment include Horticultural Production, Land & Water Management, Sustainable Food Systems, and Geographical Information Systems. And starting this fall, Assiniboine will begin offering a one-year advanced diploma in Agribusiness.

"In the ag industry, many opportunities are in sales, marketing, distribution and procurement. Having that business background is one piece of the puzzle. Knowing the agriculture curriculum — livestock, crop production — is the other piece," Hore said.

"So, the benefit here for people interested in the ag field is they can augment their training and fill some of those vacancies in jobs that are desperately needed in the industry," he said.

In addition to ongoing program renewal and new offerings, the college continues to be plugged into the industry through advisory committees, "to guide us, to provide input and insight into labour market needs and labour market issues, with a specific focus into the future," Hore said.

Assiniboine unveiled a new applied research strategy for agriculture and environment this past year.

"The research funding support we receive is enabling us to expand our Horticulture and Sustainable Food Production Systems programs. Faculty members teach and conduct research, which is still a relatively new practice here at Assiniboine," Hore said.

One of those instructors, Dr. Poonam Singh, partnered with Shelmerdine Garden Centre in Headingley, just west of Winnipeg, to develop biological controls for pests that attack flowering plants, thus reducing pesticide use.

Another instructor, Dr. Sajjad Rao, is working with the Prairie Fruit Growers Association to develop strains of strawberries better adapted to grow in Manitoba's climate and soil conditions, especially in northern Manitoba.

Dr. Rao is also developing new strains of sweet potatoes at Assiniboine's 2,800-square-foot sustainable greenhouse. The goal is to understand what varieties can be grown commercially in Manitoba's climate, which has a shorter growing season than the subtropical regions where the crop has historically been produced.

Ongoing research studies like these fall under the college's Field to Fork approach, an initiative dedicated to strengthening the local food chain through education, research and outreach.

Hore said his experience in food development and applied research are directly relevant to his leadership role as the new dean.

He was CEO of the Food Development Centre in Portage la Prairie, an operating agency of Manitoba Agriculture. He has also worked for two major food companies: Maple Leaf Foods and Breton Tradition 1944.

"That experience has given me an appreciation of the skill sets that are required at all levels. I see Assiniboine as being a good partner to collaborate with everyone in the food production business on improving and increasing their workforce," he said.

One of the factors that attracted him to Assiniboine was the positive experience his daughter Sydney had obtaining her Agribusiness diploma from the college.

"The combination of in-class learning and field trips made the program more real, more interesting and more hands-on," Hore said. His daughter's co-op work placement led to full-time employment on graduation in 2016.

"Listening to her enthusiasm and her experience at Assiniboine, when this opportunity presented itself to me, whether it was at the forefront or whether it was at the back of my mind, there's no doubt it had some influence in me initiating discussions with Assiniboine," said Hore.

"As I had further discussions with Assiniboine, it just became apparent that the direction of the college — the focus on agriculture and the environment, the field to fork strategy in terms of blending agriculture, horticulture, sustainable foods, right through to the kitchen — resonated with me," he said.

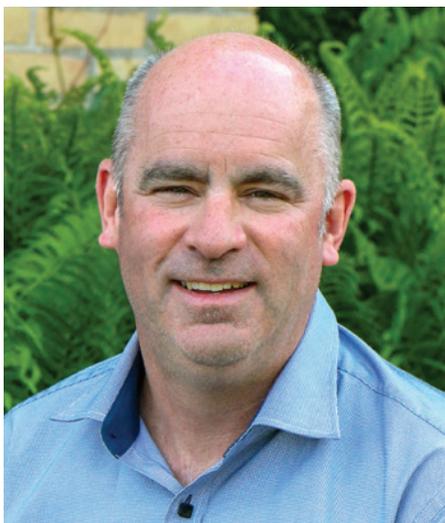
ASSINIBOINE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION RECOGNIZES 2019 ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

Earlier this year, Assiniboine Community College's Alumni Association announced the five recipients of this year's alumni awards. The awards were presented at the eighth annual Alumni Advancement Dinner in Brandon on Thursday, April 4, 2019.



This year's recipient of the *Distinguished Alumni Award* is posthumously presented to **Jeffrey Johnston**. The award is presented annually to a graduate of the college who has distinguished themselves in both their chosen profession and their community.

A lifetime of work in the grain industry started with a decision to pursue a diploma in Business Administration at Assiniboine. Jeffery (Jeff) Johnston, a 1981 graduate, used a combination of education and personality to launch a career that would take him to the role of Vice-President of AgHorizons, Cargill Ltd., and would see him recognized as a leader throughout the Prairies for his visionary initiatives and personal connections with clients, colleagues, and, most importantly, friends.



Glen Tosh received the *Community Service Award*, which recognizes a graduate of the college who has positively impacted the quality of people's lives through the service of others.

Throughout his career, Glen has used his Prairie upbringing as a foundation for his approach to building community.

Some of the highlights of Glen's career include coaching teams to three female hockey Provincial A titles in the past four years and an Atom Provincial B hockey title in 2017-18. He has served as a director of the Souris Glenwood Foundation; he is past president of the Southwest Hockey league, the Tiger Hills Hockey League and the Glenboro Golf & Country Club. He was director of Hockey Manitoba, manager of the Souris Elks hockey team, and a former director of the Souris Community Development Corporation. All of his efforts culminated when Glen received the 2005 Sport Manitoba Regional Volunteer of the Year.



Brice Perkins is this year's co-recipient of the *One to Watch Award*, which honours a graduate who is 30 years of age or younger at the time of nomination and has made exceptional achievements and significant contributions to his or her profession and community.

As a young man growing up in Brandon, like so many other Canadians, Brice would dream of one day being in the NHL. His acumen in television production would get him there.

Brice is a graduate of the Interactive Media Arts program with a technical specialization (class of '16). In 2017, Brice joined Dome Productions, to serve as a Technical Director for broadcasts including NHL, IIHF World Juniors (for NHL Network), CHL and pre-Olympic hockey, curling for clients such as Sportsnet and TSN, as well as working for Fox Sports and AT&T Sportsnet in the United States. Now primarily based out of Alberta, Brice has also travelled internationally to switch content in Indonesia for the 2018 Asia Games, and FIVB World Volleyball for IMG Productions in London, England.



Martin Raupers is this year's other co-recipient of the *One to Watch Award*.

Raised on a farm in Otze, Germany, you might say agriculture was in Martin's blood, but mechanics was something that came naturally. Ultimately something that would blend the two would be a place where he would truly find his success.

Martin enrolled in Assiniboine's pre-employment Heavy Duty Equipment Technician program in 2009. Following the completion of his certificate in the program, he would join the team at Toromont CAT, where he would complete his apprenticeship as an Agricultural Technician in 2014.

Martin is currently recognized as one of the top management talents within AgWest Ltd. He manages a significant portion of the dealership's employees, physical assets and profitability. He is a member of the senior management team, a key player in the selection, recruitment and hiring of all service staff, and the youngest Operations Manager in Toromont history.



The *Excellence in Teaching Award* honours a faculty member for extraordinary contributions to teaching and the student experience. Automotive Technician instructor **Mark Malyon** is the recipient of this year's award.

Raised on the family farm in Glenboro, Mark comes from a background of mechanics and farming. Starting part-time in the local repair shop after school was where he gained his interest and knowledge as an automotive technician. Over the next 32 years, he would work as an Automotive Technician, receiving his Red Seal Certification.

Mark became a teacher at Assiniboine in 2012, and is a member of the Skills Manitoba planning committee that judges at the yearly Skills Manitoba competition, recognizing student excellence at the college level.

AG DAYS

Agriculture is the backbone of the economy throughout the Prairies. We had the chance to catch up with a number of Assiniboine graduates at Ag Days in Brandon. Here are just a few examples of what our grads are up to.



Aaron King Wasagamung
Grad year: Agribusiness, 2016
Hometown: Killarney, MB
Position: Farm Manager

Advice to Students: Pay attention to the economic side of the business. It is the bread and butter of farming.



Bailey Salyn
Grad year: Agribusiness, 2017
Hometown: Rosscburn, MB
Position: Crop Inputs Operations Manager, Glossop- Parrish & Heimbecker

Advice to Students: Don't be afraid to try different things. I encourage people to try and find what suits you in the industry and pursue that.



Brendan Mills
Grad year: Agribusiness, 2017
Hometown: Rivers, MB
Position: Precision Agronomist, Farmers Edge

Advice to Students: Get out and meet your classmates. Make your connections early, make friends, and remember them as you will run into those same people throughout your career.



Cole Vandaele

Grad year: Agribusiness, 2018
Hometown: Medora, MB
Position: Farmer, Seed Dealer

Advice to Students: Take everything you can out of the course and make connections in the industry. Assiniboine allows you the opportunity to make those connections prior to graduation.



Lara Teetaert

Grad year: Agribusiness, 2017
Position: Sales Agronomist, Patterson Grain
Hometown: Goodlands, MB

Advice to Students: Always be prepared for change. The industry is always changing.

Medora



Jennalee Manning

Grad year: Agribusiness, 2014
Hometown: Glenboro, MB
Position: Relationship Manager Associate, Farm Credit Canada

Advice to Students: The program is very hands on. The instructors come from industry, so immerse yourself in the program and pay attention on the field days. This is very important as it mimics the work you will do in industry.



Lindsey Friesen

Grad year: Agribusiness, 2013
Position: Market Development Representative, Bayer Crop Science
Hometown: Wawanesa, MB

Advice to Students: There are a lot of opportunities to meet with agriculture industry representatives when you are in the program. Take those opportunities to ask questions, be interested, and learn as much as you can.



Kyle McLeod

Grad year: Agribusiness, 2014
Hometown: Elkhorn, MB
Position: Relationship Manager, Farm Credit Canada

Advice to Students: You should look at pursuing ag. There are so many opportunities throughout this province. If you are thinking of getting into ag, the success rate of students finding jobs after their time at Assiniboine is really high.



Tim Gompf

Grad year: GIS Resource Technician, GIS, Environmental Tech, 2009
Position: Nature Conservancy of Canada
Hometown: Oak Lake, MB

Advice to Students: Learn as much as you can from your instructors. Out in the field is a big learning curve, so take in as much as you can from the program. Assiniboine provides a good base for your career so make the most of your time there.



Kylie Gompf

Grad year: Land & Water Management Program, 2017
Position: Research Team, Pfizer
Hometown: Oak Lake, MB

Advice to Students: Be open to positions throughout the industry. I started off in one stream in the industry and ended up pursuing something different that I'm really happy with.



Will Sikora

Grad year: Agribusiness, 2017
Position: Sales Agronomist, Pembina Co-Op
Hometown: Brandon, MB

Advice to Students: Pay attention to the weeds and chemistry aspects of your class work at Assiniboine. Those are important to a career in agriculture, especially in a field like I'm in now.

Killarney

Goodlands



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT A CONTINUED FOCUS

GREETINGS ALUMNI,

I appreciate the opportunity to share news and highlights as it relates to the Indigenous affairs department. The college has received the final report from our external review consultants. A high-level presentation was given to senior leadership in early February, with more internal communications scheduled very soon. We are grateful to the reviewers for sharing their knowledge, wisdom and recommendations on how we can improve services and supports to enrich the post-secondary experience for our Indigenous students.

One of the recommendations is to increase and celebrate the recognition of student achievement. To that end, I am pleased to report that Assiniboine, Brandon University and the Brandon School Division will be holding a joint celebration in honour of our graduating Indigenous students. This event is in addition to grad ceremonies carried out by each organization. The celebration will be held on May 23rd on the Keystone grounds. We intend to honour students in elementary school, high school, post secondary and beyond. I hope you share my enthusiasm for this opportunity to collaborate with our external shareholders for this event.

I look forward to sharing more with you as the college continues its efforts to implement our Indigenization strategy and create an unparalleled post-secondary experience for First Nation, Métis and Inuit students.

Kris Desjarlais

CATCHING UP WITH...

NINA CRAWFORD



Nina Crawford

In this edition, we feature a Q & A with Nina Crawford, alumna from the college's Business Administration, Human Resources program, class of '94.

Name Nina Crawford

Hometown Medicine Hat, Alberta

What program did you take at Assiniboine?
2-year Business Admin focus on Human Resources

What year did you graduate? 1994

Did you attend college right after completing high school?

No, first time I was 23 and went to Medicine Hat College/Mount Royal College for Early Childhood Education in Alberta and when I went to Assiniboine I was 37

Where are you currently employed?

Child and Family Services, Dauphin Office

What is your current job title?

Resource Development Worker

How long have you been employed there?

Just about 12 years

Briefly describe your occupation.

I am a social worker working with foster homes/families. This means that I evaluate individuals and their families in order to complete home studies in order to license foster homes and I supervise the licensed home, helping when they need help to manage problems or issues with foster children.

Why did you choose this career path?

I sort of fell into this position. After graduating from Assiniboine I took a job at the Watson Arts Centre and worked there for 12 years. In that job, I used all the tools that I have learned at Assiniboine. Although I really enjoyed that position, I needed to move on and from there, I took a job with the Métis CFS Agency as a Team leader of a Children's shelter which used the HR skills I had gained. From there, I moved into my current position that still utilizes much of the learning I did at Assiniboine.

Did you find it difficult to find work in your field?

No. Initially, when first out of Assiniboine I did work at a couple of part time jobs until I took the job at the Arts centre and I was able to transition into my current career fairly easily because I had the education and experience needed for it. The training in Business Admin is usable in every job or volunteer activity one is involved in because you learn how to work with people.

Did you take additional steps to get you where you are today? (work experience, other training, education)

The agency provides regular training specific for work in child welfare, and I joined a University of Manitoba social work cohort to gain a Bachelor of Social Work in 2015. Much of the education I received at Assiniboine was accepted as credits toward electives and I was able to complete the degree fairly quickly. I am also a Registered Social Worker and have to continue to learn as part of my retaining my registered status.

Did you receive a scholarship, award and/or bursary before you came to Assiniboine or during your time as a student? And, if so, can you give a brief statement about the impact this had on your student experience. If you had a chance, what would you want to say to the donors?

I did receive a bursary for my second year at Assiniboine and received an HR award when I graduated. The first year I was funded by EI so having won a bursary helped cover costs for the second. As an older student, it was very empowering and validating to win education awards and it certainly gave me impetus to do my best.

What career related volunteer or community activities are you currently involved in?

I have always felt it important to give back to the community and have been involved in many things through the years. Currently, I am treasurer for the Manitoba Arts Network, a provincial arts organization that connects rural arts organizations to aid them wherever they can. I also am a member of the board of the Dauphin and District Allied Arts Council, Parkland Assiniboine Alumni, the Parkland Women's Choir, Boxes of Love Ukraine and Treasurer for Dauphin's Crocus Quilters.

Do you have a career 'highlight' that you're most proud of?

I don't necessarily have a specific highlight but would say that doing a good job at whatever I am doing gives me a sense of pride because of the positive contribution I can continue to make in both my career and my volunteer activities.

Looking back to when you first started to think about getting a post-secondary education, what first attracted you to the program that you took at Assiniboine?

I had been in Dauphin about three years when I started looking to expand my education. I have a previous diploma from Mount Royal in Calgary in Early Childhood Education and had been working with children and youth for several years and wanted a change. Working in the position I had when I moved to Dauphin showed me that I had an interest and affinity for paperwork so thought Business Admin was a good fit. I also didn't really feel like I wanted to move away from the community, so being able to stay and gain education where I lived was fantastic.

What was your favorite class? Did you have a favorite instructor? What would you say was your most important academic and/or student experience while you were attending Assiniboine?

I really enjoyed several instructors, some I had in classes and some I interacted with evenings when I was cleaning at Assiniboine. Belva Ferly, Shirley Ford, Mike Gavin and Dave Simmonds to name a few.

Were you involved in any extra-curricular activities during your time at Assiniboine?

I was working two part-time jobs while attending Assiniboine, so I didn't have a lot of extra time for extra-curricular activities. I worked weekday evenings at Assiniboine cleaning and as a cook on the weekends.

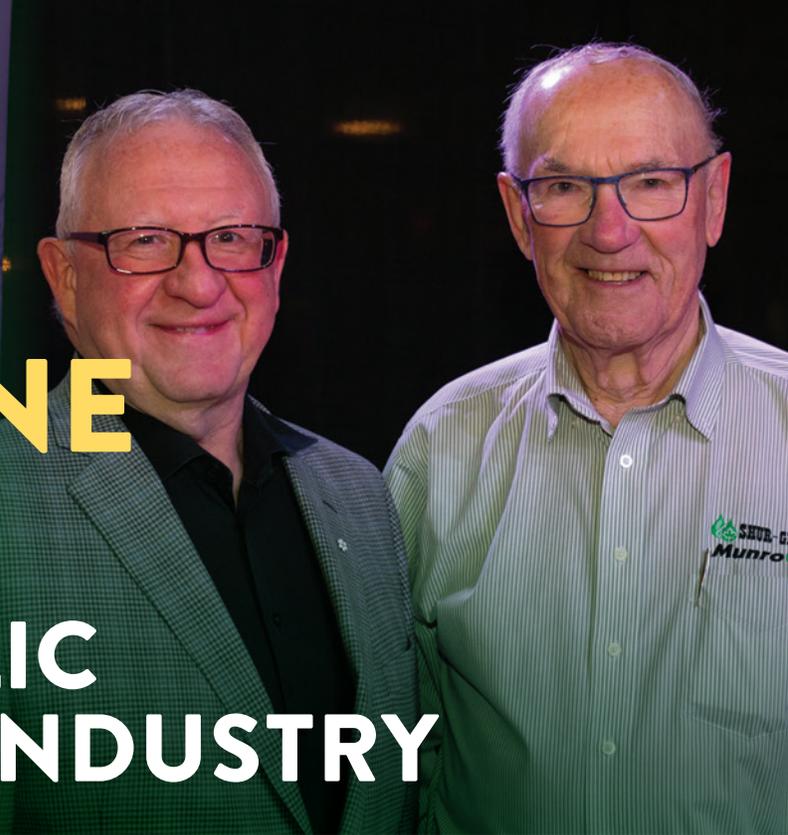
What were the most important skills that you gained at Assiniboine and how have these skills applied to your career?

I learned a lot at Assiniboine both personally and educationally—to persevere, to work cooperatively, how to evaluate people, programs and financial data, not be afraid of new things and especially how great and useful spreadsheets are.

What advice do you have for people who may have similar interests in this field or a related one?

Education is never wasted; one can learn something from any class that will be applicable to one's life. These days, when people move from one occupation fairly regularly one should take education that might be usable across many fields. Even in social work, a degree can be used in many different occupations.

ASSINIBOINE AG GRADS CAN HELP PUBLIC UNDERSTAND INDUSTRY



The agricultural industry has a lot of explaining to do—and Assiniboine Community College grads can play a key role in helping the wider public understand the issues, says one of Canada’s foremost experts on the industry.

Kim McConnell, founder and former CEO of AdFarm, a communications company that specializes in ag issues, says we are living in a world “where our food has never been safer, yet consumers have never been more concerned. There is no failure to innovate in agriculture, but there may be a failure to communicate.”

That communications gap can be filled by Assiniboine’s grads and other knowledgeable young people who bring credibility and commitment to the task, McConnell told more than 200 attendees at Assiniboine’s third annual Ag Partnership Breakfast in January.

The breakfast is held during Manitoba Ag Days, an exposition of agricultural production expertise, technology, and equipment that attracts exhibitors and visitors from across Canada and the North Central United States.

Mark Frison, Assiniboine’s president, welcomed guests. “We all know that opportunity abounds in Manitoba. Probably the single biggest factor in whether we’re going to take up that opportunity or miss that opportunity is whether we have the people and the skills to take advantage. Certainly, that’s one of the key roles for us at Assiniboine, as true in agriculture as it is in any other sector that we support,” Frison said.

Sponsors of the breakfast included McCain Foods, Heritage Co-op, Redfern Farm Services, Shur-Gro Farm Services, Parrish and Heimbecker, Farm Credit Canada, Wawanesa Insurance and Manitoba Agriculture.

The breakfast raises funds for the college’s Foundation.

Derrick Turner, the college’s director of advancement and external relations, thanked sponsors, saying last year’s funds went to support three new entrance scholarships for students in agricultural-based programs at Assiniboine. The funds also allowed some students to attend the breakfast to hear McConnell.

“That’s just incredible for the college, the type of support that we have to help out our students,” Turner said.

Also on hand to hear McConnell were dignitaries Ralph Eichler, Manitoba Minister of Agriculture; Larry Maguire, MP for Brandon-Souris; Reg Helwer, MLA for Brandon West; Len Isleifson, MLA for Brandon East; and Jeff Harwood, chair of Assiniboine’s Board of Governors.

Johanne Ross, member of the college’s Board of Governors and executive director of Ag in the Classroom, introduced McConnell as “my good friend, a true champion of our industry and a mentor for me.”

McConnell contrasted the easy acceptance of most new technology with the suspicion aroused by anything new in the agri-food sector.

“Isn’t it interesting that when Apple comes out with a new phone, we line up for blocks to be able to buy it. When a new drug comes out, we want to be there to get poked in the arm, to make sure it’s acceptable and we can move forward. But when agriculture comes out with something new, the consumer says, ‘No, no, no. Let’s go backwards,’” McConnell said.

Doing the right thing is only the first step in building public trust. The industry needs to have neutral third parties certify that it is doing the right thing and then communicate those advances, he said.

"In today's world, you better not have anything to hide. We maybe used to put those chemical containers back wherever, and we maybe used to have the feedlot near the creek. Well, we know we shouldn't do that, and we won't anymore."

When McConnell had an opportunity to talk to some top executives from McDonald's and Cargill about the future of agriculture, he didn't give a speech. He interviewed two young producers in front of the business people.

"Brody said, 'In my county, there are three producers under 30 years of age. We're told we're the future. We're told that we're the ones who are going to raise the cattle and raise the beef for you to make your hamburgers. We've got to make a living, too,'" McConnell said.

"Rosie said, 'We have a problem. You have a credibility problem. I have credibility. I don't have a platform. You have a platform. Maybe we should work together.'"

McConnell then directly addressed the ag students in the audience.

"Young folks, you can do a hell of a lot more than an old guy like me. Assiniboine, help them. Train them. Encourage them. We all need them, so we can be better businesspeople. Young folks, you've got a great opportunity. If we want to go fast, we go alone. If we want to go far, we've got to go together," he said.

"If your dreams don't scare you, I don't think you're dreaming big enough."



Reg Helwer, MLA Brandon West, Derrick Turner, Director of Advancement & External Relations, Kim McConnell



Ralph Eichler, Minister of Agriculture, Province of Manitoba

Thank you to our 2019 Ag Partnership Breakfast Sponsors

Assiniboine Community College is proud of its partnerships with organizations throughout Manitoba, and we thank the sponsors and guests who support our students and programs.



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Your support allows us to deliver responsive programming, resulting in highly-trained employees who are ready to contribute to the industry. Over the years, Assiniboine has graduated well over 1,000 students from our agricultural programs including Agribusiness, Land & Water Management, Geographical Information Systems, Horticultural Production, Sustainable Food Systems and our Ag Equipment Technician apprenticeship program. 100 per cent of our recent Agribusiness alumni surveyed have secured employment within nine months of graduation.

Erin Lambert, Recruitment Manager, kicks off the bell-ringer information sessions at PCI

ACC DAY IN PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE A SUCCESS

Assiniboine Community College hosted a full day of activities and events in Portage la Prairie on February 27, as part of the college's ongoing ACC Day series.

"Assiniboine has a history of offering programs in Portage la Prairie and surrounding areas. We are proud of our graduates in the region," said Assiniboine President Mark Frison.

A recent review of the college system in Manitoba suggested that Assiniboine should play a more active role in assessing training needs in the Portage la Prairie region. "We recognize there is a lot of growth in the region and we know more college training opportunities will be required to support that growth," said Frison.

ACC Day kicked off bright and early at the McDonald's on the highway where President Mark Frison was joined by Portage la Prairie Mayor Irvine Ferris, and Derrick Turner, Director of Advancement and External Relations, to officially open the day's festivities.

Some of the offerings included the college's Continuing Studies department hosting a free Lunch & Learn on the topic of Global Citizenship in a Changing Community. Participants broadened their understanding of cultures from around the world and had a chance to reflect on their own culture to reveal the similarities we share.

Meanwhile, Grade 10 and 11 students at Portage Collegiate Institute had opportunities to participate in the day. An afternoon of hands-on bell-ringer sessions gave students a chance to experience what college programs have to offer.

"The bell-ringer sessions are a fun, fast-paced way for students to explore college programs that they may already have an interest in or perhaps have never thought about," said Erin Lambert, Assiniboine's manager of recruitment. "They can ask instructors specific questions about their programs and job opportunities after graduation."

Later that day, Assiniboine welcomed alumni and their friends to gather in the Portage Daily Graphic Room at Stride Place before attending the Portage Terriers game. The Terrier's wrapped up ACC Day in style, defeating the Steinbach Pistons 4-3 in overtime.

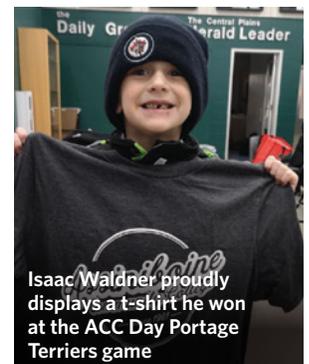
For more information on the ACC Day experience, visit assiniboine.net/accday.



Gerry Rocan talks with prospective students about athletic programs at Assiniboine



Assiniboine president Mark Frison and Portage la Prairie Mayor Irvine Ferris



Isaac Waldner proudly displays a t-shirt he won at the ACC Day Portage Terriers game

COUGARS WIN 2019 ACHA CHAMPIONSHIP

The Assiniboine Cougars women's hockey team was named 2019 ACHA Division II National Champions after an incredible win against the Minot State University Beavers in the finals. The Cougars returned to Manitoba from the ACHA Championship held this year in Texas, following a string of five games over five days where they went undefeated.

The Cougars spent most of the final game clinging to a slim lead against Minot State, a team highly favoured to win. The Cougars were defeated in six previous games against the Beavers last season, the team ranked first in the ACHA Western Region. As the final game unfolded, the Beavers were never able to recover from a first-period goal by Simone Turner-Cummer, with assist from team captain Mariah McCue, and ended up narrowly losing 1-0.

A major part of the Cougars ultimate victory was the strength of goalie Marley Quesnel. From puck drop to final

buzzer, Quesnel was steady, agile and almost technically perfect with only one exception midway through the first period when a fumbled puck almost leaked past.

Students from the college's Interactive Media Arts program travelled with the team to Texas and provided game day recaps, including coverage following the championship win. Visit [youtube.com/user/ACCManitoba](https://www.youtube.com/user/ACCManitoba) for complete game coverage.

2019 LEGACY GALA DINNER

Thank You to Our Supporters

Proceeds from the Legacy Gala Dinner will support the building blocks of life, our Early Childhood Education (ECE) program, by providing more than 20 students in the ECE program over five years with \$2,000 entrance scholarships.

Acquiring child care knowledge through enhanced learning experiences includes collaborating with community partners, industry field trips, guest speakers, and four practicum placements. Supporting our ECE students with scholarships in turn supports high quality, licensed child care leading to multiple benefits throughout the community.

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To update your contact information with the Alumni Association,
visit **assiniboine.net/stayconnected**

The views and opinions expressed in Alumni in ACtion do not necessarily reflect an official position of Assiniboine Community College or the Assiniboine Alumni Association.