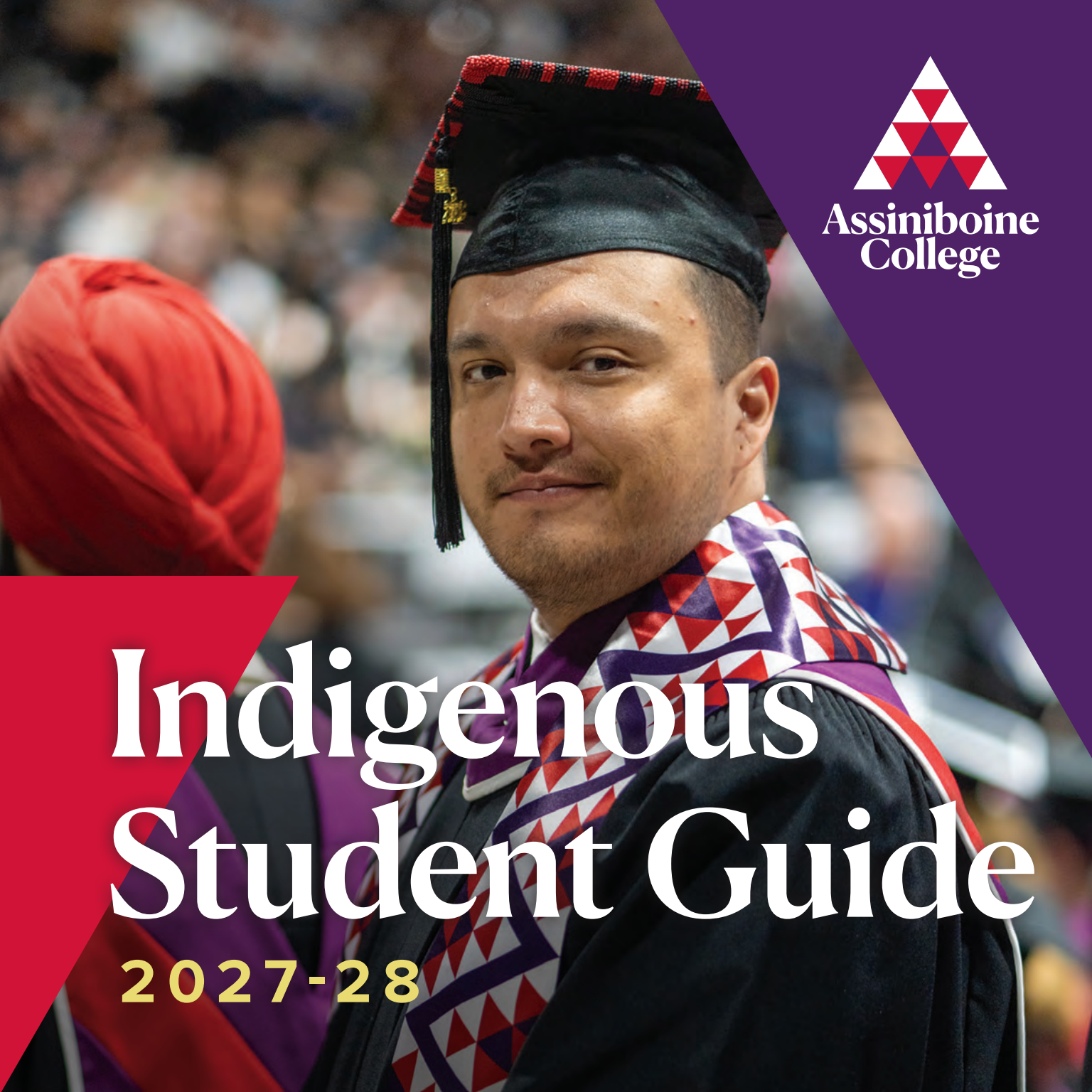


Assiniboine College

Indigenous Student Guide

2027-28



Assiniboine College is privileged to provide learning opportunities on the lands of the Dakota Oyate, Nakoda Oyate, Ininiwak, Nehethowak, Nehiyawak, Anishininewuk, Denesuline, Anishinaabeg, and the National Homeland of the Red River Métis.



Welcome
TO ASSINIBOINE!

Welcome • Bienvenue • Tawów • Hau/Han
Masih Nenudeli • Tungahogiti • Piihtikway
Kiwiishaamikoo • Miigwech Bi-Izhaayeg

We are honoured to welcome students from many nations across the province and around the country, strengthening our wealth of First Nations, Métis and Inuit knowledge at Assiniboine. We aim to infuse cultural teachings into curriculum to ensure that Indigenous students see themselves and their realities reflected in the learning process. Our goal is that all students will acquire the knowledge and skills to be culturally competent and gain a true understanding of Indigenous affairs, past and present, in Canada.

FOLLOW US:

ASSINIBOINEINDIGENOUS

assiniboinecollege

assiniboinecollege

assiniboine_mb

assiniboinecollege

CONTACT US:

Indigenous Affairs: **indigenousaffairs@assiniboine.net**
Learn more about Indigenous Affairs by visiting **assiniboine.net/indigenous**

This publication is available in alternate formats.
Please contact accessibility@assiniboine.net or 204.725.8700 (ext. 6052).

Get to Know Us

Connecting with someone at Assiniboine is a great way to start your educational journey. Meet the team that will help you explore programs and assist with your education plan.

INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS



KRIS DESJARLAIS, NEHIYAW/MÉTIS
Director, Indigenous Education
desjarlaisk4@assiniboine.net



CRYSTAL BUNN, DAKOTA
Indigenous Services Officer
204.573.3690 | bunnc@assiniboine.net



CECIL ROULETTE, ANISHINAABE
Indigenous Student Success Advisor
204.725.8700 ext. 7181
roulettc@assiniboine.net

Our team offers a wide-range of support and services to assist students along their post-secondary journey. We liaise with academic advisors, connect you with important community resources and provide guidance to First Nation, Métis and Inuit students from a holistic perspective to support your academic goals. We act as a resource for all faculty and students, including those in community-based programs, in their efforts to acquire a true understanding of Indigenous cultures and ways of knowing.

RECRUITMENT

Our student recruitment specialists visit numerous communities throughout the year. For many of our students, Assiniboine's recruiters are the first point of college contact. We provide opportunities to learn about the college through presentations, campus tours and one-on-one appointments. We can help you explore programs, match you with the ones that are right for you, and introduce you to the Assiniboine experience. We are more than happy to meet to discuss program options, what life at Assiniboine is like, and answer any questions you may have!

204.725.8750 | Toll free: 800.862.6307 ext. 8750
recruit@assiniboine.net



STUDENT SUCCESS ADVISORS & LEARNING STRATEGISTS

Our student success advisors and learning strategists meet with prospective and current students of Assiniboine to ensure you are on the right path to achieving academic success. We are available to meet with you in-person or over the phone to answer questions about the college's programs and services.

We can provide guidance on funding, housing and childcare, as well as help you with program planning, academic assessment for admissions, and understanding college policies and procedures.

204.725.8723 | **studentservices@assininboine.net**



EXPERIENCE Assiniboine

YOUR COLLEGE JOURNEY STARTS HERE.

Explore programs, connect with a recruiter and access helpful resources—all in one place.

LEARN MORE!
assiniboine.net/experience

Visiting Elders & KNOWLEDGE KEEPERS

Visiting Elders and Knowledge Keepers are available at all campuses for cultural knowledge and teachings.

They represent Dakota, Anishinaabek, Nehiyaw, St'at'imc and Métis Nations, and provide guidance, teachings, historical information, cultural knowledge and support to all students.

The visiting Elders program offers Assiniboine students an opportunity to interact with Elders and Knowledge Keepers in an informal setting, with the ability to request one-on-one spiritual and cultural guidance.



EUGENE ROSS, DAKOTA



VERNA DEMONTIGNY, MÉTIS



GERRY OLEMAN, ST'AT'IMC



REG NEPINAK, ANISHINAABE
Parkland campus



HARVEY PELLETIER, MÉTIS



LORRAINE POMPANA, DAKOTA



FRANK TACAN, DAKOTA



GRACE MASSE, WOODLAND CREE



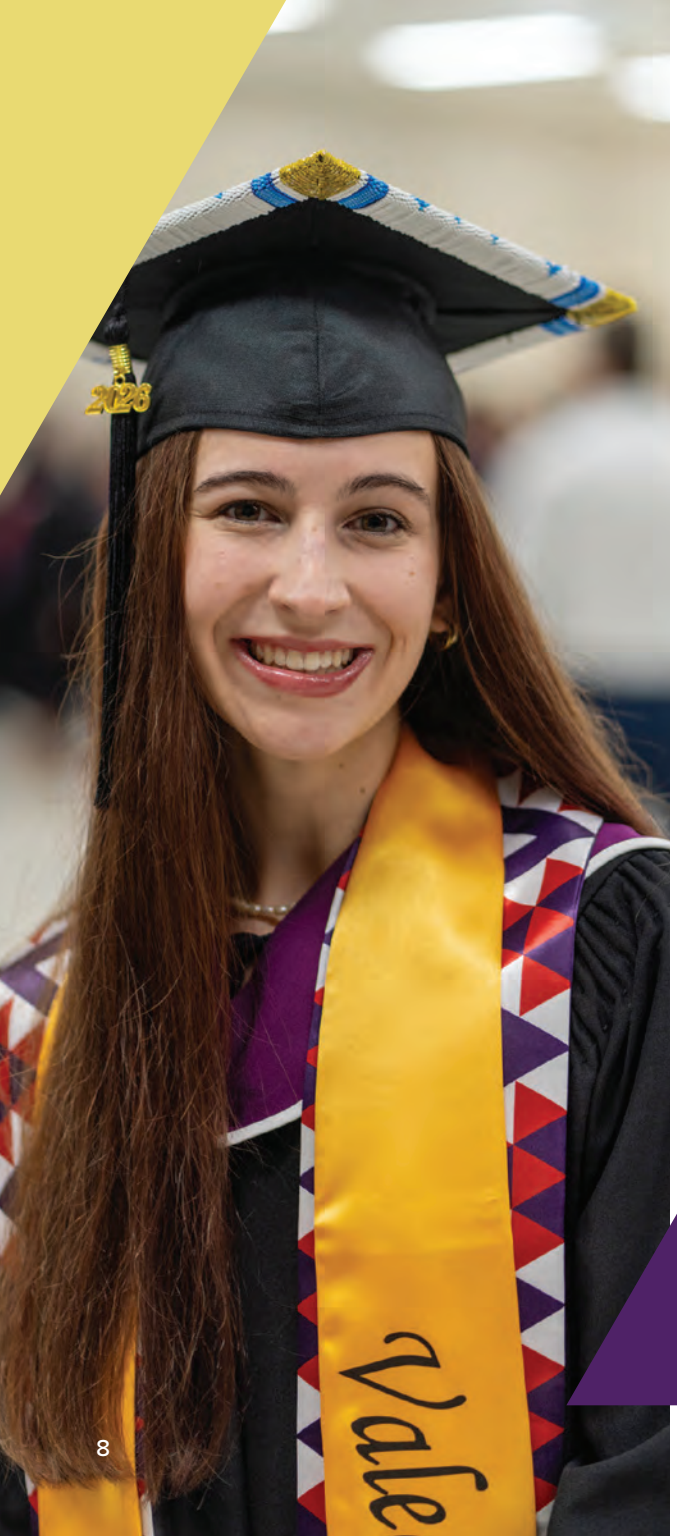
ALLEN SUTHERLAND, ANISHINAABE



DEBORAH TACAN, CREE/MÉTIS



SUSIE MCPHERSON-DERENDY, NEHIYAW (PLAINS CREE)



Our Commitment

Assiniboine College recognizes the unique history of Indigenous peoples and is committed to playing an active role in reconciliation. Indigenous learners and communities are an important consideration in senior-level decision making and organizational planning.

We believe strongly in strengthening our partnerships with First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples through continued collaboration. Our college has a proud history of working with Indigenous communities and organizations across the province and this will continue to flourish. By making positive changes to reduce barriers to education and educational supports, we can empower Indigenous students to succeed.

Assiniboine has an important role in helping to reducing the educational attainment and employment gaps that currently exist between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. Increasing pathways for Indigenous learners will contribute to the success and prosperity of individuals, families, and communities while also addressing labour market demand and Manitoba's economic growth. With the support of provincial and federal governments, additional education opportunities extend beyond our campuses to training sites both on- and off-reserve.

In 2024-25, Assiniboine delivered programs in 46 communities, including many rural, remote and First Nations communities.

Strengthening
OUR COMMUNITY

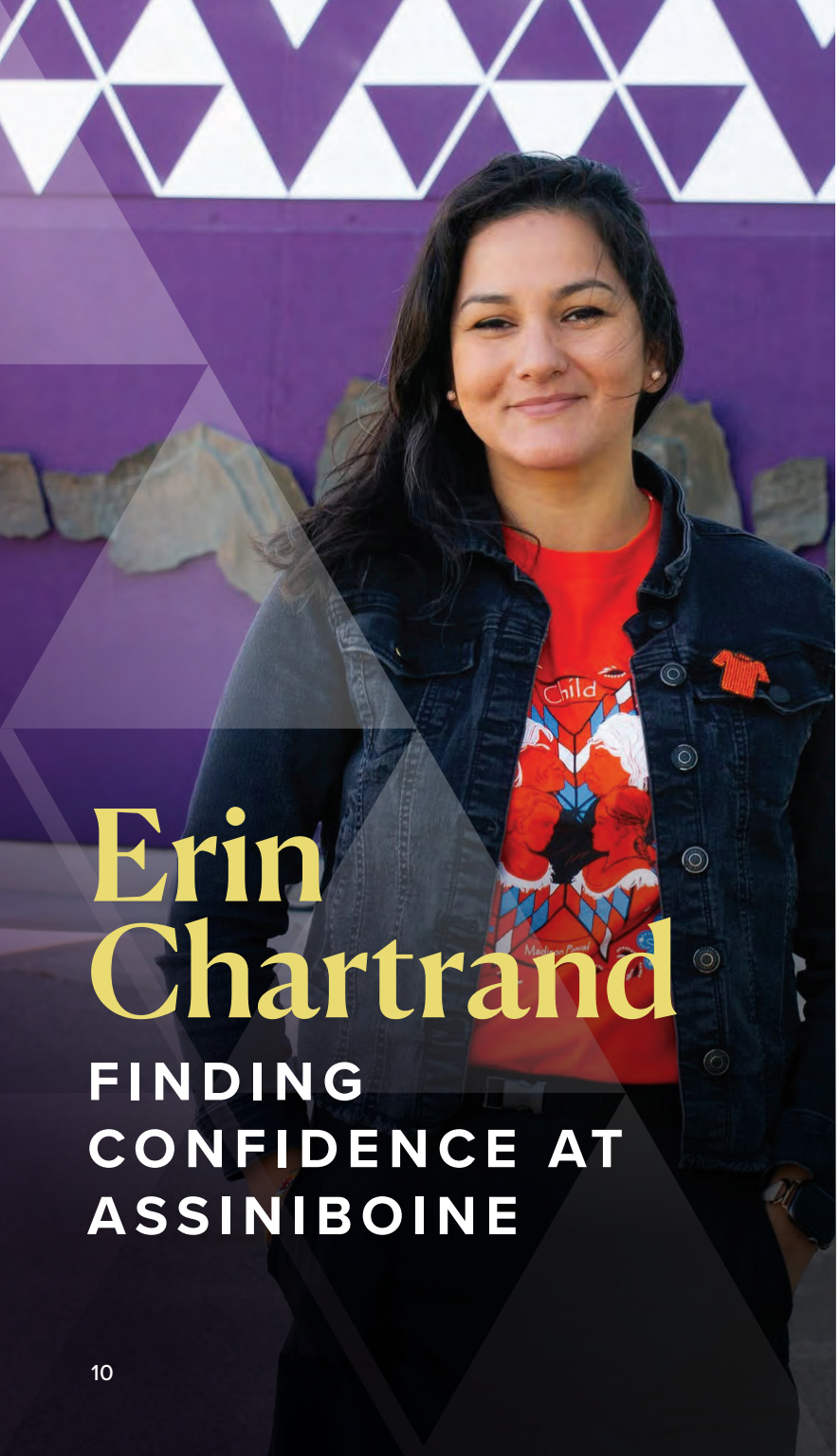


Assiniboine strives to celebrate Indigenous cultures, develop strong ties, improve access to study opportunities and bring learning options directly to those who prefer to learn closer to home.

Community-based training is one of the strengths of Assiniboine; in locations where we don't have a permanent campus, we deliver training and programs so students can live and study where you have strong ties and roots. In the past several years, we've partnered with a variety of communities across Manitoba, including:

- Sandy Bay First Nation
- God's Lake First Nation
- Peguis First Nation
- Pine Creek First Nation
- Tootinaowaziibeeng First Nation
- Rolling River First Nation
- Swan Lake First Nation
- Ebb and Flow First Nation
- Birdtail Sioux First Nation
- Sioux Valley Dakota Nation

If you're looking for educational opportunities close to where you live, connect with your counselor. If you're enrolled in a community-based Assiniboine program, you have access to all of the student supports that on-campus students have—reach out to our Indigenous Affairs team at **indigenousaffairs@assiniboine.net** if you'd like to learn more, need support, or would like to get involved.



Erin Chartrand

FINDING CONFIDENCE AT ASSINIBOINE

When Erin Chartrand decided to pursue post-secondary education, it was a turning point that would shape her future.

Chartrand grew up in Skownan First Nation, a small community just north of Dauphin. The word skownan translates to “turning point,” a meaning derived from the two large bodies of water on either side of the community; when you reach them, you must turn around. The word skownan has also become a metaphor for much of Chartrand’s journey—a collection of turning points that allowed her to focus on her next goal.

“Skownan will always be home to me,” she says. “Growing up in a small community, we spent much of our time outdoors. That’s where I learned to explore, take risks, stay humble with what we had, respect the land, and appreciate the beauty of our surroundings.”

Leaving those surroundings in search of new opportunities in 2007 was a difficult step, but one of necessity.

“As a new parent and recent high school graduate, I needed both a job and childcare. Since employment opportunities in my community were limited, I travelled to Waterhen, where I was hired as a Child Care Assistant and given a daycare spot. If you had asked me in high school whether I liked kids and wanted to work with them, my answer would have been a hard no,” she said with a chuckle. “But I learned quickly and was encouraged by many former colleagues to pursue Early Childhood Education.”

Her experience in early childhood education also gave her a firsthand understanding of the important role educators play in building a foundation for success in school and beyond. It showed her how meaningful it can be for children to see themselves reflected in the people who care for, teach and guide them.

She initially moved to Winnipeg but found the city to be too much of a culture shock compared to her community of roughly 300 residents. That's when she decided to pursue her Early Childhood Education studies at Assiniboine College in Brandon.

"Being at Assiniboine gave me confidence. It wasn't just about the program I was taking, it was the people, the support, and the feeling that I was part of something bigger."

Her connection to Assiniboine extended beyond the classroom. Classmates became bridesmaids, her children attended Assiniboine's daycare, while she attended school there. The relationships and connections she built during that time became part of a much larger sense of belonging.

Her time at the college also taught her that representation matters. She remembers how impactful it was to see Indigenous staff, students and supports on campus, and how much it reassured her to know she wasn't alone.

"When students see themselves reflected in the college, in the staff, the programming and the culture, it builds trust. It shows them they belong here."

Her own experience also reinforced the importance of having more Indigenous Early Childhood Educators bring their culture, experiences and perspectives into these spaces. For Indigenous children, seeing themselves represented in the people who care for, teach and guide them can help create that same sense of trust and belonging.

For Chartrand, that message of belonging is one she carries forward from her own educational journey—a reminder that sometimes a single turning point can open the door to many more.

"Sabe teaches us to be honest with ourselves and with others," she explains. "It's what grounds me. It helped me when I was a student."

Her years in early childhood education remain an important part of her journey. What began as an unexpected opportunity after high school became an experience that shaped how she understood education, relationships and the importance of creating spaces where children and students feel they belong.

Looking back, Chartrand knows firsthand what it feels like to sit in the classroom, balance hope with uncertainty and wonder if you're making the right choices. Her experience at Assiniboine gave her the confidence to move forward, reminding her that education can be a powerful turning point and that every student deserves to feel they belong.

INDIGENOUS STUDENT AWARDS

- **Assiniboine College Foundation Indigenous Bursary** (x2) - $3,000
  Entrance or bridging (between first and second year); based on financial need
- **Assiniboine College Indigenous Achievement Award** - $2,000
  Bridging (between first and second year); based on demonstrated college/community involvement, leadership and GPA
- **Vickar Automotive Group Southern Chiefs' Organization Education Scholarship** - $1,250
  Entrance; based on demonstrated school/community involvement, leadership and high school marks
- **The D.R. Nankar Bursary for Indigenous Education** - $1,000
  Entrance; based on financial need
- **Assiniboine College Indigenous Leadership Entrance Award** - $2,000
  Entrance; based on demonstrated school/community involvement, leadership and high school marks
- **Louis Riel Institute Bursary** (multiple) - up to $5,000
  Entrance or bridging; for Métis students; based on financial need
- **Tundra Oil and Gas Indigenous Award** (x2) - $4,000)
  Bridging; based on demonstrated school/community involvement and leadership

For a full list of student awards, visit **assiniboine.net/awards**.

EXPERIENCE THE

Difference

Assiniboine's friendly and welcoming attitude is simply who we are. Small class sizes mean your instructors know your name and want to get to know you. Our campuses are easy to find and navigate, which means you can move between classes quickly, see friends every day and access any supports you need.

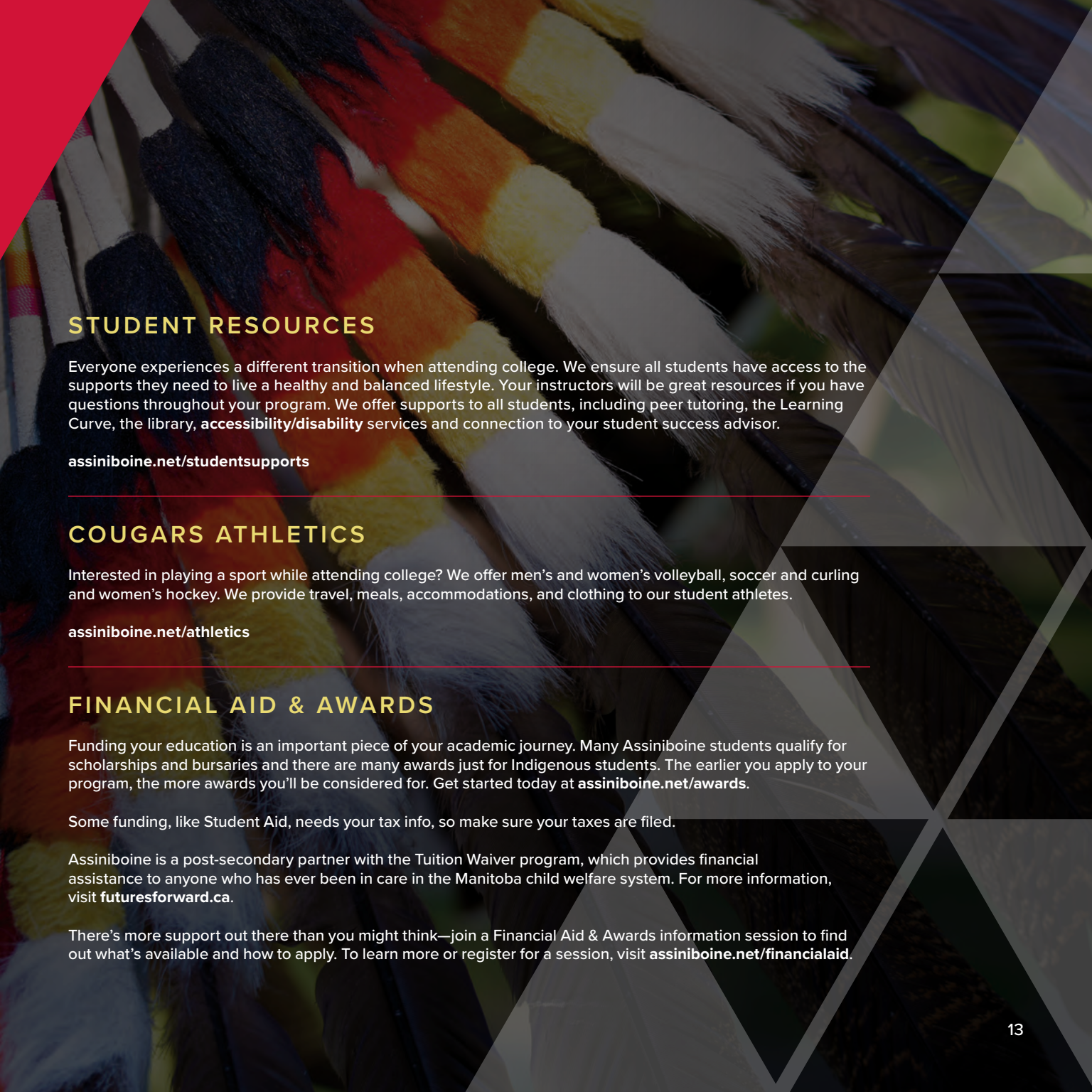
INDIGENOUS STUDENT SUPPORTS

Our team offers a variety of services and events throughout the year that are available to Indigenous students studying on campus, online or through community-based programs. All students are encouraged to access our services and participate in the following:

- Indigenous Student Welcome
- Fall Feast
- Holistic, proactive advising and support
- Elder and Knowledge Keepers' program
- Family events
- Cultural celebrations, activities and teachings
- Peer mentoring and role models
- Our Journey: Student Success Celebration
- Traditional Knowledge and Teachings

The Cultural Centres, located at the Victoria Avenue East and North Hill campuses in Brandon, are dedicated and welcoming Indigenous spaces to relax, visit, learn or study. Crystal and Cecil are available to meet with students at the Brandon centres from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday to Friday.

92% of Indigenous graduates from the 2024–25 graduating class were employed within nine months of graduation, according to the 2026 Graduate Follow-Up Survey.



STUDENT RESOURCES

Everyone experiences a different transition when attending college. We ensure all students have access to the supports they need to live a healthy and balanced lifestyle. Your instructors will be great resources if you have questions throughout your program. We offer supports to all students, including peer tutoring, the Learning Curve, the library, **accessibility/disability** services and connection to your student success advisor.

assiniboine.net/studentsupports

COUGARS ATHLETICS

Interested in playing a sport while attending college? We offer men's and women's volleyball, soccer and curling and women's hockey. We provide travel, meals, accommodations, and clothing to our student athletes.

assiniboine.net/athletics

FINANCIAL AID & AWARDS

Funding your education is an important piece of your academic journey. Many Assiniboine students qualify for scholarships and bursaries and there are many awards just for Indigenous students. The earlier you apply to your program, the more awards you'll be considered for. Get started today at **assiniboine.net/awards**.

Some funding, like Student Aid, needs your tax info, so make sure your taxes are filed.

Assiniboine is a post-secondary partner with the Tuition Waiver program, which provides financial assistance to anyone who has ever been in care in the Manitoba child welfare system. For more information, visit **futuresforward.ca**.

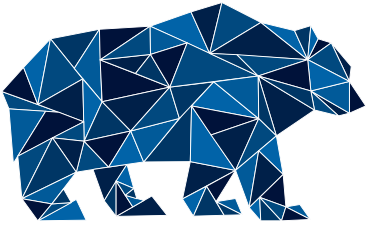
There's more support out there than you might think—join a Financial Aid & Awards information session to find out what's available and how to apply. To learn more or register for a session, visit **assiniboine.net/financialaid**.

Seven Teachings

FROM A STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

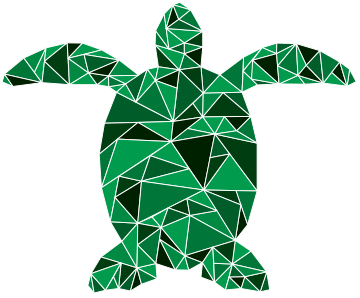
The Seven Teachings form the foundation of a full and healthy life. Traditionally, they were taught through the story of an innocent child who received these gifts from Seven Grandparents (powerful spirits). Nations and communities may use differing stories to impart these teachings, but the same guiding principles and morals are found in all. Over time, Indigenous peoples used animals to embody the spirit and intent of the teachings, and the animals are now the symbolic representations. The teachings remind us of the way to live a good life and carry ourselves in relation to all others. Their origin dates back to the beginning of time, and they have been embraced by Indigenous cultures across Turtle Island.

The write-ups included here have been written by the Indigenous Affairs team at Assiniboine to help guide you during your student journey.



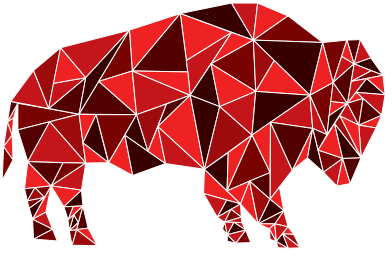
COURAGE

Venture out. Push yourself.
Do the right thing. Stay strong.
Live a health life—mind, body and spirit.



TRUTH

Do not lie to yourself or to others. Speak truthfully. Do what you say, honourably and truthfully.



RESPECT

Respect others in and out of school. Treat others the way you would like to be treated. Respect rules. Show up on time. Hand in work and listen. Respect yourself.



HONESTY

Be honest with yourself and others. Do what you say you are going to do; keep your word. Be realistic with time, money, school work and life.



HUMILITY

Life is sacred. Everyone is a human being; no one is better than another. Have compassion; do not say “I know”—you stop yourself from learning when you do. Be selfless, not selfish.



WISDOM

Be open-minded. Use your gifts to create a healthy lifestyle. Listen. Be observant. Make wise decisions. Live and learn.



LOVE

There is no shortcut to achieving love. Learn to love yourself so you can learn to love others.

STEPS TO Success

Track your progress to becoming an Assiniboine student with this check list!

Part 1 SECURE A SPOT IN YOUR PROGRAM

☐ Find a program that interests you

- See what program may interest you by searching our program pages.
- Attend a program information session. To register, visit assiniboine.net/infosession.
- Contact our recruitment team at recruit@assiniboine.net or 204.725.8750 or 800.862.6307 ext. 8750.

☐ Take upgrading courses (if applicable)

- We offer high school upgrading courses for students in four locations: Brandon, Dauphin, Minnedosa, and Neepawa. Check out the details at **assiniboine.net/adultlearning**.

☐ Submit your application

- Visit **assiniboine.net/apply** to get started on your online application. For most programs at Assiniboine (those that are not competitive entry), qualified applicants are admitted on a first-qualified, first-served basis.
- You will need to submit the following (at minimum) to apply:
  - Online application
  - $95 application fee
  - Official transcripts
- Certain programs, such as our competitive entry programs, require additional documentation. Check out the admission requirements on your program's webpage for full details.
- Receive an automatic follow-up email from Assiniboine stating we have received your application.

☐ Receive your acceptance email

- This email will inform you of your acceptance and will ask you to pay your tuition deposit to hold a spot in the program It will also contain your start date and any conditions of your acceptance.

☐ Apply for sponsorship (if applicable)

- Contact your sponsor (by April for a September start and October for a January start) and ensure they complete a sponsorship authorization form to send to Assiniboine as soon as your sponsorship is confirmed. Visit **assiniboine.net/sponsorship** to download the form.

☐ Pay your tuition deposit

- This deposit secures your spot in your program. If you cannot pay your tuition deposit on time, call the Admissions Office toll-free at 800.862.6307 ext. 4036.

Congratulations
on securing a spot in your program!

Part 2 PREPARING FOR COLLEGE

☐ Communicate with your supports

- Identify supports that will help you through your educational journey. Feel free to contact the member of your team at Assiniboine who has been assisting you so far. They will set up an appointment with your student success advisor for program information or can connect you with cultural supports.

☐ Apply for housing (if applicable)

- Apply for housing early! Some options for housing include Brandon University residence (brandonu.ca/residence), but be sure to visit **assiniboine.net/housing** for more information.

☐ Apply for childcare (if applicable)

- The Assiniboine Early Learning Centre is located at the Victoria Avenue East campus in Brandon. Parkland Campus Kids Inc. is located at the Parkland Campus in Dauphin. Call 204.725.8713 (Brandon), 204.622.2222 ext. 6557 (Dauphin) or visit **assiniboine.net/childcare** for more information.

☐ Find your mode of transportation

- Students enrolled in eligible programs at our Brandon campuses receive a transit bus pass (U-Pass) as part of their Students' Association fees. U-Passes are available through the Registrar's Office. Students attending our Winnipeg campus may be eligible for a discounted Peggo card, providing 20% off regular Winnipeg Transit fares. For more information, visit **assiniboine.net/parking**.

☐ Balance your finances

- After your accepted, apply for Assiniboine scholarships—you'll also be considered for bursaries. Visit **assinboine.net/awards**.
- Apply for provincial and federal student aid programs which offer loans, grants and bursaries. Visit **assiniboine.net/financialaid** for more information.

☐ Receive your registration package

- This package will be emailed to you approximately 6-8 weeks before your start date. It will have information on registering for courses, parking and other campus supports.

☐ Pay your tuition fees

- Information on how and when to pay these fees will be delivered to you from our registrar's office.

☐ Indigenous Student Welcome

- Attend this orientation and you will meet your instructors, fellow students, peer mentors, knowledge keepers, elders, academic supports, find your classes, get your locker and much more. Get to know your campus and feel like a part of the community!

☐ Attend class

- Enjoy your first day of classes! Be sure to keep any course outlines and descriptions, as they may be important further along your educational journey.

Need help with anything on this checklist?

Contact Cecil Roulette, Indigenous Student Success Advisor, at 204.725.8700 ext. 7181 or **roulettc@assiniboine.net**

Indigenous Centred

EVENTS AND PROGRAMMING

It's important that you receive a warm welcome, are supported throughout your journey, and are celebrated when you achieve success. Assiniboine has developed many activities, events and programs where you can experience what the college has to offer. We hope to see you at as many as possible!

INDIGENOUS STUDENT WELCOME

We know many students will be nervous as they make their transition to college. Each year, we like to welcome new and returning students with a day filled with food, fun, prizes, entertainment and ceremony. This event gives students an opportunity to meet peer mentors, advisors, Elders and Knowledge Keepers, as well as other supports available on campus and in the community. It is a great way to get to know other students, make important connections, and helps ensure students are ready to go on the first day of class.

PEER MENTORING PROGRAM

The Indigenous Peer Mentoring Program pairs new and returning Indigenous students to meet for a few hours each month to support positive connections and student success.

Participate in activities such as one-on-one and group mentoring sessions, cultural events, study groups, and sharing circles.

Meet new people, navigate and access college and community supports, build communication and relationship skills, and help other students embrace their culture!

OUR JOURNEY: END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

In May, Assiniboine College, Brandon University, Brandon School Division and our Indigenous education partners in the Westman area hold a joint celebration of Indigenous student success. It is a chance to honour our graduates together and celebrate Indigenous students in ceremony.

You Belong Here

















Assiniboine College



recruit@assiniboine.net
204.725.8750 | 800.862.6307 ext. 8750

assiniboine.net

ASSINIBOINEINDIGENOUS

assiniboinecollege

assiniboinecollege

assiniboine_mb

assiniboinecollege