



Victoria Avenue East Campus

1430 Victoria Avenue East Brandon, Manitoba R7A 2A9 Canada Ph: 204.725.8701 | TF: 800.862.6307 F: 204.725.8740 | assiniboine.net

December 17, 2021

The Honourable Wayne Ewasko Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Immigration 450 Broadway Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Dear Minister Ewasko:

It is our pleasure to submit Assiniboine Community College's 2020-21 Academic Report. This annual publication answers key questions around enrolment, attrition, number of graduates, graduate employment placement, graduate satisfaction, and highlights Assiniboine's successes in the areas of Indigenization, internationalization, providing students with exceptional learning experiences, and enrolment growth.

The past year, Assiniboine offered the majority of programs in a blended delivery model. Students studied at a distance or online for portions of their program and on campus (in-person) for other portions of their coursework that required access to college facilities and equipments; still allowing them to complete their courses on time. Information contained in this report illustrates our success in doing so, and contributing important graduates successfully to the labour market.

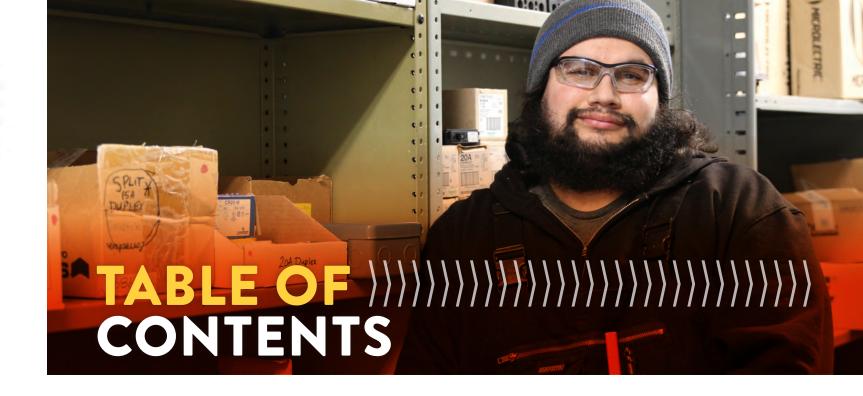
Why Blended?

- Campus Capacity Some program curriculum lends itself well to online, distance, or alternative delivery methods. As such, taking advantage of this helped to limit students' time on campus, as well as the number of students on campuses and in spaces at any given time.
- Learn by Doing College programs require hands-on learning. When students graduate, they need to be prepared and confident to work in their chosen occupation.
- Preparing for Industry For the portions of each program that were delivered in-person, environments were designed to conform with personal protective equipment (PPE) and safety requirements in those industries, thus replicating the conditions for post-graduation employment.
- Physical Distancing Practices Assiniboine is fortunate to benefit from small class sizes and multiple campuses across communities. In addition to fewer total hours on campus, the college was able to make use of alternative times and days of delivery to accommodate physical and social distancing requirements for each program and the campus as a whole.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Deanna Rexe,

Vice-President, Academic



About Assiniboine4
Enrolments 6
Enrolment Distribution & Salaries8
Indigenous Enrolment 9
Delivery Locations10
Student Profile
International Student Enrolment12
Campuses & Centres

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

Assiniboine Community College campuses are located on the traditional territories of Treaty No. 1 and Treaty No. 2, and the shared traditional lands of Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, Dene and Anishinabek/Ojibwe peoples, and the homeland of the Métis nation. We also recognize other Treaty territories where our community-based training takes place. We welcome students who seek knowledge here.

Note: All unmasked imagery used in this publication was taken pre-pandemic.



Assiniboine Community College first opened its doors in February 1961 as the Brandon Vocational Training Centre. Shops and classrooms were located in several buildings throughout the city. The Centre was soon renamed the Manitoba Vocational Training Centre and in 1966 students moved into a new building at 1430 Victoria Avenue East. In December 1969, the Centre became Assiniboine Community College when Manitoba's three technical vocational schools were made community colleges.

Assiniboine offers unparalleled learning environments and responds well to the demands and requirements of the Manitoba labour market. Instructors follow the philosophy of 'learn by doing', combining theory with hands-on learning inside classrooms, labs, kitchens, shops, fields and the sustainable greenhouse. Assiniboine is an accredited college with the Government of Manitoba.

With campuses in Brandon, Dauphin and Winnipeg, Assiniboine provides comprehensive education opportunities throughout Manitoba. The college also partners with many communities and organizations across the province to deliver customized and community-based education and training.

Students may choose to study full-time, part-time or by distance. Assiniboine offers apprenticeship programs, certificates, diplomas, mature student high school, continuing studies and contract training. The college's educational delivery is offered through a variety of approaches, including face-to-face, distance and online, blended learning and integrated programs. Over 1,300 students graduated this past academic year.

In September of 2007, Assiniboine began the first phase of its move to the former Brandon Mental Health Centre site on the north hill in Brandon, as Culinary Arts and Hotel and Restaurant Management programs moved into state-of-the-art facilities in the Manitoba Institute of Culinary Arts (MICA). The college continued its relocation in 2008, with the construction of the \$45 million Len Evans Centre for Trades and Technology. That facility opened to students and staff in September 2010. A sustainable greenhouse, which serves as a hub for applied education research, opened in spring 2013.

In 2014, Assiniboine embarked on an exciting journey to develop a campus master plan. After many months of consultation, workshops and open houses with the community, the finished plan was presented to the college's Board of Governors in early 2015. It was unanimously adopted. The campus master plan sets the stage and direction for our college's future growth over the next several decades.

The plan conceptually outlines the physical structure of the future campus' built form, open space, and circulation network—all with the aim of providing opportunities to bring out the strengths and values that define our college as a place that provides an unparalleled student experience and engages students, staff, faculty and our community.

1,300-PLUS GRADUATES FROM ASSINIBOINE, INCLUDING 220 NEW NURSES

Walkthrough ceremonies give graduates, families an opportunity to celebrate.

A series of walkthrough graduation events were held in Winnipeg, Dauphin and Brandon. Together, these events celebrated the accomplishments of 1,322 graduates from the 2020-21 academic year in addition to some recent fall graduates.

"There is no doubt that the grads walking this year's modified stage have had a unique college experience, contending with a pandemic for most of their time as students. The efforts of these grads to pursue and complete their education at this time is remarkable, and this resiliency will serve them well in their personal and professional lives to come," said Mark Frison, president of Assiniboine.

Among the grads invited to these events were 220 nursing diploma graduates.

"Nursing is our largest single program of study, and we are proud to see so many nursing and comprehensive health care aid graduates going to work immediately in the health care field throughout the province. Their drive to choose a career where they help and serve others is commendable and comes at a time when the pandemic has shown us exactly how important these front-line roles are to Manitobans," added Frison.

This number of nursing grads includes 172 grads from the 2020-21 academic year and another 48 since July.

"I wish great success to the graduates of Assiniboine, as they play a crucial role in moving Manitoba forward," said Hon. Wayne Ewasko, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Immigration. "These grads have much to be proud of, and in taking the steps to build a better life for themselves and their families, they have also made a tremendous contribution to the future of our province. Assiniboine Community College graduates continue to meet the goals of our Skills, Talent and Knowledge Strategy, which guides post-secondary institutions to prepare students with the right skills at the right time and support economic recovery and growth in Manitoba."

This is the second consecutive year that the college has had modified ceremonies to provide graduates and families with the opportunity to celebrate the completion of their studies. The public health environment earlier this year prevented traditional June graduation ceremonies from taking place.



Academic Report Program Table

Accounting Accounting and Finance Agribusiness Applied Electrical Installation Automotive Technician Business Administration Carpentry and Woodworking Civil Technician Communications Engineering Technology Comprehensive Health Care Aide Comprehensive Health Care Aide Challenge Construction Electrician Culinary Arts Early Childhood Education Early Childhood Program Management	Advanced Diploma Advanced Diploma Diploma Certificate Certificate Diploma Certificate Certificate Certificate Certificate Certificate Certificate Certificate Certificate Certificate	2 1 56 12 12 145 29 15 4	1 6 62 0 0 148 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 12	3 7 118 12	0% 14% 11% 50%	3 4 51 0	- 75% 68%	67%	\$ 29,328
Agribusiness Applied Electrical Installation Automotive Technician Business Administration Carpentry and Woodworking Civil Technician Communications Engineering Technology Comprehensive Health Care Aide Comprehensive Health Care Aide Challenge Construction Electrician Culinary Arts Early Childhood Education	Diploma Certificate Certificate Diploma Certificate Certificate Diploma Certificate Diploma Certificate Certificate	56 12 12 145 29 15	62 0 0 148 0 2	0 0 0 0	118 12	11%	51			
Applied Electrical Installation Automotive Technician Business Administration Carpentry and Woodworking Civil Technician Communications Engineering Technology Comprehensive Health Care Aide Comprehensive Health Care Aide Challenge Construction Electrician Culinary Arts Early Childhood Education	Certificate Certificate Diploma Certificate Certificate Diploma Certificate Certificate Certificate	12 12 145 29 15 4	0 0 148 0 2	0 0 12	12		-	68%	050/	† .
Automotive Technician Business Administration Carpentry and Woodworking Civil Technician Communications Engineering Technology Comprehensive Health Care Aide Comprehensive Health Care Aide Challenge Construction Electrician Culinary Arts Early Childhood Education	Certificate Diploma Certificate Certificate Diploma Certificate Certificate	12 145 29 15 4	0 148 0 2	0 12		50%	0		95%	\$ 52,388
Business Administration Carpentry and Woodworking Civil Technician Communications Engineering Technology Comprehensive Health Care Aide Comprehensive Health Care Aide Challenge Construction Electrician Culinary Arts Early Childhood Education	Diploma Certificate Certificate Diploma Certificate Certificate	145 29 15 4	148 0 2	12	12		ı U	-	-	-
Business Administration Carpentry and Woodworking Civil Technician Communications Engineering Technology Comprehensive Health Care Aide Comprehensive Health Care Aide Challenge Construction Electrician Culinary Arts Early Childhood Education	Diploma Certificate Certificate Diploma Certificate Certificate	145 29 15 4	0 2	+		17%	10	60%	80%	-
Civil Technician Communications Engineering Technology Comprehensive Health Care Aide Comprehensive Health Care Aide Challenge Construction Electrician Culinary Arts Early Childhood Education	Certificate Diploma Certificate Certificate	15 4	2	0	305	16%	104	88%	88%	\$ 38,856
Communications Engineering Technology Comprehensive Health Care Aide Comprehensive Health Care Aide Challenge Construction Electrician Culinary Arts Early Childhood Education	Diploma Certificate Certificate	4		ı	29	52%	11	100%	100%	-
Communications Engineering Technology Comprehensive Health Care Aide Comprehensive Health Care Aide Challenge Construction Electrician Culinary Arts Early Childhood Education	Diploma Certificate Certificate	4	_	0	17	12%	2	100%	75%	-
Comprehensive Health Care Aide Comprehensive Health Care Aide Challenge Construction Electrician Culinary Arts Early Childhood Education	Certificate Certificate	62	7	0	11	9%	2	-	-	-
Comprehensive Health Care Aide Challenge Construction Electrician Culinary Arts Early Childhood Education	Certificate		39	23	124	12%	79	90%	100%	\$ 33,765
Construction Electrician Culinary Arts Early Childhood Education	Certificate	0	0	49	49	12%	14	-	-	-
Early Childhood Education		15	0	0	15	27%	10	71%	86%	-
Early Childhood Education	Diploma	14	13	0	27	7%	14	83%	100%	\$ 39,264
,	Diploma	44	27	79	150	11%	27	92%	100%	\$ 36,746
<u> </u>	Advanced Diploma	0	0	82	82	4%	15	90%	100%	\$ 58,743
Education Assistant	Certificate	13	0	40	53	8%	34	-	100%	\$ 22,823
Electronic Technician ³	Certificate	1	3	0	4	0%	3	-	-	-
Land and Water Management	Diploma	11	19	0	30	7%	15	86%	50%	-
Finance	Advanced Diploma	3	1	0	4	25%	3	-	-	-
General Business	Certificate	2	10	0	12	25%	6	82%	100%	\$ 40,526
Geographic Information Systems	Advanced Diploma	6	1	2	9	0%	8	88%	100%	\$ 29,882
Heavy Duty Equipment Technician	Certificate	0	2	0	2	0%	2	100%	80%	-
Heavy Duty Equipment Technician	Diploma	0	3	0	3	0%	0	-	-	_
Heavy Equipment Technician	Certificate	27	0	0	27	0%	23	_	-	_
Horticultural Production	Certificate	9	2	0	11	27%	8	-	-	-
Hotel and Restaurant Management	Certificate	15	2	0	17	0%	17	-	-	_
Hotel and Restaurant Management	Diploma	16	10	0	26	0%	8	-	-	-
Human Resource Management	Advanced Diploma	4	1	0	5	0%	5	-	-	-
Industrial Metals Fabrication	Certificate	26	0	0	26	12%	18	86%	86%	_
Interactive Media Arts	Certificate	0	1	0	1	0%	1	-	-	_
Interactive Media Arts	Diploma	26	21	0	47	23%	18	64%	89%	\$ 20,025
Legal Administration	Diploma	14	6	0	20	35%	4	-	-	-
Marketing	Advanced Diploma	6	0	0	6	0%	5	-	-	-
Medical Administration	Diploma	17	19	0	36	6%	14	_	_	_
Network Administration Technician	Certificate	0	1	0	1	0%	1	_	-	_
Network Administration Technology	Diploma	17	16	0	33	33%	7	100%	100%	_
Office Management	Diploma	7	7	0	14	14%	5	-	-	_
Office Skills	Certificate	33	22	0	55	18%	30	80%	78%	\$ 23,853
Piping Trades	Certificate	10	2	0	12	25%	9	-	-	-
Police Studies	Certificate	18	1	0	19	37%	11	100%	86%	\$ 43,457
Power Engineering	Certificate	16	0	0	16	6%	11	-	-	-
Practical Nursing	Diploma	227	202	0	429	10%	154	71%	98%	\$ 52,349
Professional Cooking ²	Certificate	5	0	0	5	0%	3	-	-	-
Social Service Worker	Diploma	28	23	0	51	14%	19	75%	92%	\$ 32,498
Sustainable Food Systems	Advanced Diploma	4	13	0	17	0%	17	88%	100%	\$ 29,910
Apprenticehsip	a.tacca Dipionid	687	9	0	696	270	147	3370	23070	- 25,510
Contract Training		811	484	0	1295		276			
Cost Recovery ⁵		2345	508	342	3195		56			
Mature Student High School		179	39	0	218		35			
Undeclared		0	0	40	40		0			
College Total ¹		4994	1733	669	7396		1319			

^{*}Attrition rates exclude distance education statistics

¹Due to program exclusions, college totals are different from published statistics

 $^{^{2}\}mbox{Professional Cooking}$ is the exit certificate of the Culinary Arts diploma program

 $^{^3} Electronic \, {\sf Technician} \, is \, the \, {\sf exit} \, {\sf certificate} \, {\sf of} \, the \, {\sf Communications} \, {\sf Engineering} \, {\sf Technology} \, diploma \, {\sf program}$

⁴Represents enrolment from July 1 to December 31, 2020

⁵Effective January 1, 2021, distance education enrolment is reported under Cost-Recovery

⁻ Survey samples less than 5 are reported as null



Enrolment Distribution

Funding Source	2019-20¹	2020-21	
Apprenticeship	588	590	
Contract Training	1570	1258	
Cost Recovery	2567	3065	
Mature Student High School	330	212	
Regular Program	2581	1945	
Grand Total	7636	7070	

¹Data for 2019-20 as reported in the 2019-20 Academic Report.

Top 10 Average Salaries for our 2020-21 Grads*

Program	Salary
Early Childhood Program Management	\$58,743
Agribusiness	\$52,387
Practical Nursing	\$52,348
Police Studies	\$43,456
Business Administration	\$39,291
Early Childhood Education	\$36,745
Culinary Arts	36,329
Network Administration Technology	\$36,306
Land and Water Management	\$36,013
Comprehensive Health Care Aide	\$33,764

^{*}Interpret with caution; salaries are as reported in our grad survey results of base funded programs.

ASSINIBOINE LAUNCHES NEW PUBLIC SAFETY ADVANCED DIPLOMA

Assiniboine Community College has launched a new, one-year Public Safety advanced diploma. The immersive, full-time program is designed to prepare graduates for a range of careers in the public safety sector including municipal, regional and Indigenous police services, corrections and security.

"This new post-graduate credential allows us to better meet the needs of students and employers, preparing graduates for a range of community-focused careers in public safety organizations," said Ian Grant, Special Advisor, Public Safety at Assiniboine. "The growth and expansion of our public safety programming is something we continue to put a great deal of our focus and energy behind." Grant spent 38 years working in public safety and retired as Chief of the Brandon Police Service in 2017.

The program centres around hands-on learning environments and scenario training that features a problem-based learning approach.

"Critical thinking, cross-cultural understanding, and emotional intelligence are all skills we focus on developing as graduates are entering into careers that serve communities," said Jack Ewatski, Assiniboine's Chair of Public Safety.

"The college environment offers career-specific education and training, and so this program provides a terrific pathway for those with undergraduate degrees in disciplines such as criminology or sociology," he added.

INDIGENOUS ENROLMENT

Assiniboine believes strongly in strengthening its partnerships with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples through continued collaboration.

2016-17 to 2020-21 Indigenous Enrolments

Funding Source	2016-17 ¹	2017-18 ¹	2018-19 ¹	2019-20 ¹	2020-21
Apprenticeship	20	24	25	30	28
Contract Training	362	406	535	413	310
Cost Recovery	179	213	209	183	172
Mature Student High School	207	221	252	189	97
Regular Program	397	408	425	462	372
Grand Total*	1165	1272	1446	1277	979

¹Data for 2016-17 to 2019-20 as reported in the 2019-20 Academic Report.

2016-17 to 2020-21 Indigenous Graduates

Funding Source	2016-2017 ¹	2017-2018 ¹	2018-2019 ¹	2019-20 ¹	2020-21
Apprenticeship	7	2	6	3	6
Contract Training	68	147	125	134	98
Cost Recovery	6	28	4	2	8
Mature Student High School	38	23	36	33	18
Regular Program	103	96	114	132	138
Grand Total*	222	296	285	304	268

¹Data for 2016-17 to 2019-20 as reported in the 2019-20 Academic Report.

A PRAIRIE INNOVATION CENTRE CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF WITH A \$1M DONATION FROM SUNRISE CREDIT UNION

Assiniboine has received a major donation of \$1 million from Sunrise Credit Union, the largest philanthropic donation in the college's history, to support agricultural training opportunities at the college.

The vision for expanding agriculture at Assiniboine comes in the form of the Prairie Innovation Centre for Sustainable Agriculture. This facility is Assiniboine's response to labour market demands in agriculture and will enable the agriculture sector to continue to be an economic driver in the Canadian and Manitoban economy.

"The college has long focused on providing leadership in agriculture and this donation is a significant step toward this major undertaking in expanding training to meet current and emerging labour demands," said

Mark Frison, president at Assiniboine. "The Prairie Innovation Centre brings the next generation of ag, environment and technology forward."

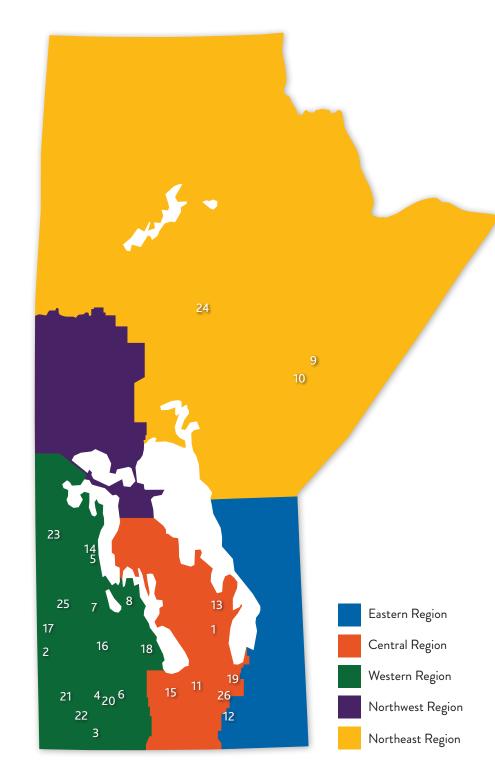
The Prairie Innovation Centre will combine indoor and outdoor learning spaces for seamless, hands-on training experiences and aims to expand seats from less than 300 to more than 800 students in agriculture, environment and related technology programs.

^{*}Unique headcount by program.

^{*}Unique headcount by program.

^{*}Unique headcount by program.

DELIVERY LOCATIONS



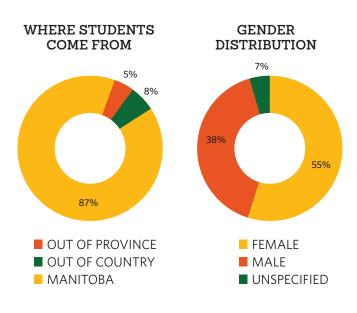
Assiniboine plays an important role in economic development by producing highly regarded graduates for an increasingly diversified mix of urban, rural and remote communities. Key contributors to this ongoing success are the multiple campuses and training sites throughout Manitoba.

*includes all contract training through Continuing Studies.

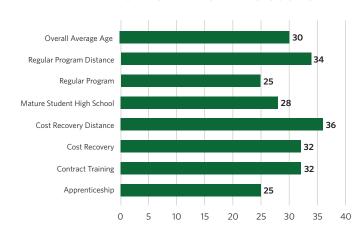
Assiniboine Permanent and Temporary Sites*

- 1. Arborg
- 2. Binscarth
- 3. Boissevain
- l. Brandon
- 5. Camperville
- 6. Carberry
- 7. Dauphin
- 8. Ebb and Flow First Nation
- 9. Gods Lake First Nation
- 10. Gods Lake Narrows First Nation
- 11. Long Plain First Nation
- 12. Niverville
- 13. Peguis First Nation
- 14. Pine Creek First Nation
- 15. Portage la Prairie
- 16. Rolling River First Nation
- 17. Russell
- 18. Sandy Bay First Nation
- 19. Selkirk
- 20. Shilo
- 21. Sioux Valley Dakota Nation
- 22. Souris
- 23. Swan River
- 24. Thompson
- 25. Tootinaowaziibeeng
- 26. Winnipeg





AVERAGE AGE BY FUNDING SOURCE



RENOVATIONS AT VICTORIA AVENUE EAST SUPPORT COLLEGE'S CONTINUED GROWTH

Renovations at Assiniboine Community College's Victoria Avenue East campus see the college's Adult Collegiate relocated and a new Centre for Creative Media, which houses three new creative media diploma programs.

"In 2016, we welcomed an offer from the provincial government to put unused space at our Victoria Avenue East to use," said Mark Frison, president at Assiniboine. This has allowed us to better serve learners, industry, and the community during a time of immense growth.

Assiniboine's growth strategy has resulted in a 58 percent increase in the number of graduates since 2013. The college's strategic direction has a stated goal of 2,028 graduates by 2028.

"Bringing our Adult Collegiate into the fold at the Victoria Avenue East campus allows us to collocate services for students, allow adult learners to access the full range of supports easily in one place," said Kate Pelletier, Dean of Trades and Access Programs at Assiniboine.

Innovative new learning spaces are home to Assiniboine's three new creative media programs—Digital Art and Design; Media and Communications; and Web and Interactive Development—inside a 10,050-square-foot facility.

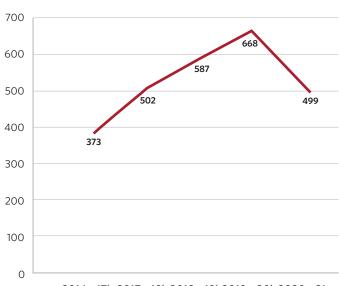
These rejuvenation and expansion projects follow on the heels of other renovations the college has undertaken in the past several years including the Public Safety Training Centre (2016), Food Processing Centre (2019) and Assiniboine Early Learning Centre (2019).



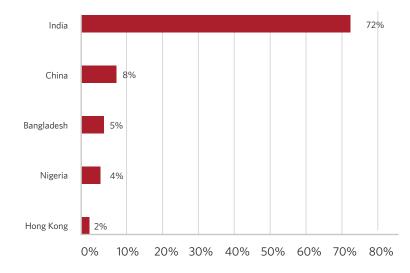
WHY INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION?

- » Contributes to Assiniboine growth
- » Contributes to population, immigration and labour market development strategies of Manitoba and Canada
- » Contributes to enrolment and sustainability of programsat Assiniboine
- » Can assist in program innovation and faculty development
- » Contributes cultural diversity and international perspectives to student experience
- » Contributes opportunity to develop cross cultural competencies and instruction

INTERNATIONAL ENROLMENT*



TOP 5 COUNTRIES



 $2016 - 17^1 \ \ 2017 - 18^1 \ \ 2018 - 19^1 \ \ 2019 - 20^1 \ \ 2020 - 21$

¹Data for 2016-17 to 2019-20 as reported in the 2019-20 Academic Report.

2021 marks two large milestones for Assiniboine: 60 years offering post-secondary education as a leading educational institution and 35 years as the Parkland campus.

Throughout the decades, this not-so-small college on the Prairies has gone through many transformations to become what it is today—a cutting-edge post-secondary educational facility. From its humble beginnings as The Brandon Vocational Training Centre, the college has always been hailed as being not only on top of things, but also remaining ahead of the curve.

The College's dedication to providing something more, something extra, something special—evidenced by its pledge to deliver "exceptional learning experiences"—was as true in yesteryear as it is today.

Highlights by decade:

1960s

- » The Brandon Vocational Training Centre began operations in portions of the Agricultural Extension Centre building on February 1, 1961. Five preemployment courses were offered: Automotive Mechanics, Electrical Construction, Architectural Drafting, Plumbing, and Commercial and General Office Practice.
- » In 1969, the Manitoba Vocational Centre was dedicated and renamed Assiniboine Community College.

1970s

- » The college grew its program offerings and locations. The Applied Arts department delivered a Canadian Job Strategy-sponsored Licensed Practical Nursing course in Killarney. The CJS program on Developmental Studies was taught in seven First Nation communities.
- » New programs related to technology and computerization were introduced.

1980s

- » New wing at Victoria Avenue East campus was opened on November 30, 1982
- Introduction of the Practical Nursing program, one of the college's largest offering today, was delivered in communities across the province.
- » In 1986, Assiniboine's Parkland campus was established.

1990s

- » The college's Great Grey Owl restaurant started in the late 1980s, providing hands-on learning opportunities to culinary and hospitality students. The restaurant continues as an annual event to this day.
- » In 1995, the college's Adult Collegiate opened in downtown Brandon.
- » In 1998, the Winnipeg campus opened and is now home to nursing education.

2000

- » Grand opening of MICA (Manitoba Institute of Culinary Arts) in October 2007.
- » The college's radio station, CJ-106, received approval from the CRTC in 2003 to hit the public airwaves.
- » In 2007, the college introduced its unique-to-Canada Police Studies program (now called Public Safety) in partnership with the Brandon Police Service.

2010s

- » Grand opening of LECTT (Len Evans Centre for Training and Technology) in October 2010.
- » Grand opening of the Sustainable Greenhouse in March 2013.
- » Cougars' Women's Hockey team goes undefeated in the 2019-20 season after winning the ACHA championship the previous year.

2020s

» In 2020, the college delivered programs in 37 communities across Manitoba and celebrated 1,514 graduates, the largest in Assiniboine history.

13

^{*} Unduplicated headcount.



While Assiniboine Community College has offered agriculture programming for the past several decades, a renewed focus has the college investing big into agriculture and food. While maintaining a sharp focus on applied research and providing agricultural programming that is responsive to industry needs, the college is ready to take the next step.

This step—the Prairie Innovation Centre for Sustainable Agriculture. Uniting agricultural education, innovation and collaboration, and applied research, the Centre is Assiniboine's vision for the future of agriculture in Manitoba, addressing industry and economic needs in this important and growing sector.

In 2018, Assiniboine's strategic direction, with an emphasis on leadership in agriculture, led to the separation of the School of Agriculture and Environment into its own school. This change brought traditional agriculture programs like Agribusiness and Environmental Technologies, under an umbrella alongside programs like Culinary Arts. The realignment also brought technology programs, like Communications Engineering Technology (CET) and Civil Technician, into the fold. With the shift to a focus on digital and precision agriculture along with the technology revolution, programs like CET are increasingly benefitting from exposure to agricultural systems.

"Creating a school that provides a cohesive and holistic approach to agriculture is important, because the agriculture industry is evolving to a place where technology and food innovations are fundamental to things like agronomy, farming or land management." said Tim Hore, Dean of the School of Agriculture and Environment at Assiniboine. "You can't do one without having knowledge of the other parts."

The Prairie Innovation Centre, located at the college's historic North Hill campus, will combine indoor and outdoor learning spaces for seamless, hands-on training experiences and aims to expand seats from less than 300 to more than 800 students in agriculture, environment and related

ag-adjacent technology programs. It's a Manitoba-made response to labour market gaps in the agriculture industry and that in itself is an advantage.

The college launched the fundraising campaign for the Centre with a \$1 million donation from Sunrise Credit Union in fall 2020 and by March 2021, had revealed more support from local industry, including Guild Insurance (\$10k), Mid-Plains Implements (\$50k), Wawanesa Insurance (\$100k), Compass Credit Union (\$25k) and The Brandon Sun (\$50k).

"There has been such significant investment in the ag sector in Manitoba in recent years, and that will inevitably lead to other investors being interested in setting up shop here, which brings with it the need for skilled, trained talent," said Hore.

And not only will the Prairie Innovation Centre help keep up with these labour needs, it will give back to industry through collaborative opportunities and continued applied research.

"The emphasis that the college has on the future of agriculture means that now is a great time to be an ag student. Agriculture is evolving—it no longer depends solely on mother nature and the application of fertilizers and pesticides uniformly across entire fields," said Hore. "Agriculture is a business and operations will need to be run differently in the future to meet advances in technology."

The Prairie Innovation Centre will be at the forefront of this advancing industry, bringing the next generation of agriculture, environment and technology forward.

CAMPUSES & CENTRES

Victoria Avenue East Campus

Adult Collegiate

North Hill Campus

Winnipeg Campus

Parkland Campus

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Jeffery Harwood (Chair)

Carla Milne

Kelly Wilson

Dale McKay (Vice-Chair)

Jack Ewatski

Lori Dangerfield

Harvey Laluk

Johanne Ross

Shawn Larway (student representative)

Lloyd Carey (staff representative)

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Mark Frison

President

Deanna Rexe

Vice-President, Academic

Danielle Adriaansen

Acting Vice-President, International Director, Public Affairs

Karen Hargreaves

Dean, School of Health & **Human Services**

Kate Pelletier

Dean, School of Trades and Access Programs

Bobbie Robertson

Dean, School of Business

Dean, School of Agriculture & Environment

Suzanne Nicolas

Dean, School of Nursing

Michael Cameron

Dean, Community Development

Gabriel Toichoa

Chief Information Officer

Derrick Turner

Director, External Relations

Shannon Brichon

Chief Financial Officer

As of June 30, 2021 15 14



1430 VICTORIA AVENUE EAST BRANDON, MB 800.862.6307 | INFO@ASSINIBOINE.NET ASSINIBOINE.NET

