

## // FROM THE PRESIDENT

**As we embark on a new academic year, it gives me great pleasure to welcome all of our new and returning students to Great Plains College. This is an exciting time in our region of the province and for Great Plains. We are continuing to place an increasing emphasis on student success and programs that suit local labour market demand. This is reflected in the new strategic plan currently being put together.**

The college's refined strategic plan respects and builds on the integrity of our previous plan and provides more accountability through clearly defined goals, objectives and key performance indicators. This plan also considers the provincial government's overall strategy for economic growth and prosperity to the year 2020; our goals and objectives aim to assist the province in meeting its goals through education and training initiatives.

Much of the plan is focused on the college's people and programs, our two most important assets. Our people—students and employees—are at the heart of our business and we aim to optimize student and employee success, resulting in the long term success of Great Plains College as a whole. In addition to this, our program pillars—building partnerships and responding to labour market demands—fulfil our mandate and our passion for providing valuable education and training programs to meet student needs and the needs of business and industry for qualified, skilled labour.

The college is also placing increased emphasis on fundraising and alumni involvement. Over the years, thanks to the generous support of our many donors, we have experienced tremendous success with our scholarship program. The funds raised for scholarships, which are matched by provincial funding, provide financial assistance to most students and help ease the cost of tuition, books and living expenses while they attend Great Plains College.

Over the years, a number of dedicated donors have contributed to our scholarship fund and we can't thank them enough for the impact they have on our students. As such, we are working to identify more meaningful ways to have donors interact and be involved with students and the college. If you are interested in learning more about giving to the Great Plains College Scholarship fund, please contact our development unit for more information. Your donation could have a life altering impact for one of our students.



President & CEO, Dr. David Keast.

## MBA IN COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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**Join the fourth cohort  
starting January 2016.**

### SPECIALIZATIONS

Strategic Leadership • First Nations  
Peace - Building • International  
Business • Public Administration

## INFORMATION SESSIONS

**Tuesday, Nov. 24 at 5 & 7 PM**

Ramada Hotel, Saskatoon, 806 Idywyld Drive North

**Wednesday, Nov. 25 at 5 & 7 PM**

Ramada Hotel, Saskatoon, 806 Idywyld Drive North

For more information contact:

George at (902) 563-1467 or email: [mba@cbru.ca](mailto:mba@cbru.ca)

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# // NATIONAL PHILANTHROPY DAY NOVEMBER 12, 2015

***“PHILANTHROPY IS GENEROSITY AND GOOD WILL IN ACTION.”***

MANUEL ARANGO

*Founder, Mexican Center for Philanthropy*

**What is National Philanthropy Day®(NPD)? It is a day that celebrates the charitable work that everyone does to make a difference and create impact in our communities. Whether you're a donor, volunteer or both and no matter how much you give or what causes you support, what you do from the heart makes a difference.**

NPD provides an opportunity to reflect and celebrate the meaning of giving and all that it has made possible through the endless daily contributions of individuals and organizations across the world.

Both an official day and a grassroots movement since 1986, communities across the globe have joined the celebration to increase public interest and awareness of the importance of philanthropy, the knowledge on giving, volunteering and engagement at the charitable level. In 2012, NPD was officially recognized in Canada. Thousands of people around the world come together every year to put philanthropy into action and recognize the change it has made to our communities.

While many people show interest in giving or getting involved, they often need a little reminder about needs and inspiration through goals and dreams. Many events are to recognize activities of donors, volunteers, foundations, leaders, corporations and others engaged in philanthropy.

At Great Plains College we would like to honour and show appreciation for all that has been accomplished in the name of giving. On November 12 Great Plains College will set aside the day to recognize the countless ways giving has made a difference to our college's students in the communities we serve. Watch our local newspapers and celebrate with us as we thank our donors, business leaders and those who support the college with their generous contributions.

You make a difference every day. Your generosity and commitment doesn't take time off. Thank you to all who help us by donating their money and time as we celebrate philanthropy and everything you have done to make our corner of the world a little better every day!

## // DONOR PROFILE WITH THE BIGGAR & DISTRICT CREDIT UNION

**Colleen Ostoforoff, Great Plains College development officer, had a chance to talk with Diane Larouche-Ellard, Biggar and District Credit Union marketing assistant, about why the Biggar and District Credit Union (BDCU) gives to the Great Plains College (GPC) Entrance Scholarship program.**

**CO:** Since 2008, the Biggar & District Credit Union has contributed to the GPC Scholarship program. Why did you first give to the college?

**BDCU:** We want to show that it is very important to give to the community, it is part of our mandate. Credit unions focus on giving back.

**CO:** Why do you continue to support GPC?

**BDCU:** We think about the futures of our local youth. We want to show them that the BDCU is engaged and we're there for them and their important financial decisions. When we talk to community stakeholders, the college is often an important part of the discussion. It seems that so many businesses are centralizing their services and moving away from smaller locations throughout Saskatchewan. It is important to have the young people understand we have products that can help them grow right through college into their professional career.

**CO:** What do you tell others about GPC?

**BDCU:** Personally, I have seen my own children go through our school system. There is a need for scholarships not only to help monetarily, but because it helps bring value to the students and offers encouragement. It is an advantage for living in a smaller community and we can see the impact our donation is having locally.

**CO:** How would you compare your giving to GPC with your charitable giving to other organizations?

**BDCU:** The BDCU receives a sizable number of requests each year and sees the College as having substantial value in the education system, as it engages employees, and is visible and sizable in the community. The Biggar & District Credit Union contributed over \$1 million in monetary donations, sponsorships and promotional gifts to local organizations over the past 15 years. I see how rewarding it is when students succeed. It is important to keep the funds within the community.

**CO:** Anything else you would like to add about your experiences with us?

**BDCU:** We are in a position to help draw from new GPC students; not only potential employees but some of these new graduates go on to become business owners, and we want them to remember the BDCU. It is a win-win situation as it helps us strengthen our community together.

**Students at Great Plains College are fortunate to have a supportive and caring business like Biggar & District Credit Union contributing to the Scholarship Program. Great Plains College wants to thank the Biggar & District Credit Union for supporting all of their past and current students.**



# // DECADE OF DOGS

**This year the Great Plains College SunDogs varsity athletics program will celebrate 10 years of competitive sports. The year has been coined a Decade of Dogs.**

The past 10 years have brought together almost 40 men's and women's volleyball and basketball teams. They have earned three provincial championships, four league and provincial awards, five Coach of the Year awards, five Battle of the Southwest Cups and sixteen provincial All-Star awards. This is a very impressive list of accomplishments. However, the greatest accomplishment is the positive impact SunDogs Athletics has had on student-athletes. This program has also attracted phenomenal coaches over the past decade and continues to do so.

As part of this year's anniversary celebration, the SunDogs will host two prominent league events. The Western Canadian College Open Volleyball Championship, November 27-28, 2015, and the Provincial Basketball Championship scheduled for March 18-19, 2016, will both take place in Swift Current.

On October 21, 2015, the SunDogs will also host the annual Battle of the Southwest. Then, accompanied by our furry friends from the Swift Current SPCA, we will cut cake, play games and sing Happy Birthday at the SunDogs Mascot's tenth birthday party on October 24, 2015.

**Everyone is welcome to join us at all of our celebrations throughout the year. Please visit [greatplainscollege.ca/sundogs-schedule](http://greatplainscollege.ca/sundogs-schedule) for more event details. This is going to be a great year. GO DOGS!**



2015-16 SunDogs men's volleyball team



2015-16 SunDogs women's volleyball team



**"The athletics program has impacted me in a great way. Playing sports gave me the opportunity to meet a lot of new people, it was a positive outlet for stress, helped me improve my skills and was a ton of fun!"**

**Christina Gerlach**

*Great Plains College  
SunDogs Athletics Alumna*

*Practical Nursing – Swift Current*



## SKILLS & SAFETY TRAINING

### MS EXCEL 2013 LEVEL I

**Date:** Oct 26, 28, Nov 2, 4 (12 hours total)

**Time:** 6:30 pm—9:30 pm

**Location:** Great Plains College, Swift Current Campus

**Cost:** \$215

### MS EXCEL 2013 LEVEL II

**Date:** Nov 16, 18, 23, 25 (12 hours total)

**Time:** 6:30 pm—9:30 pm

**Location:** Great Plains College, Swift Current Campus

**Cost:** \$215

### BASIC BOOKKEEPING

**Date:** Nov 4—Dec 9 (18 hours total)

**Time:** 6:30 pm—9:30 pm

**Location:** Great Plains College, Swift Current Campus

**Cost:** \$296

**TO REGISTER PLEASE CALL 306-773-1531**

**or email: [Angela at \[angela@greatplainscollege.ca\]\(mailto:Angela@greatplainscollege.ca\)](mailto:Angela@greatplainscollege.ca)**

**or Judy at [judyg@greatplainscollege.ca](mailto:judyg@greatplainscollege.ca)**

Black Friday. Cyber Monday.

**GIVINGTUESDAY™**

[www.GivingTuesday.ca](http://www.GivingTuesday.ca) | December 1st, 2015 | #GivingTuesdayCA

**There is a day dedicated to giving thanks, there are two days dedicated to getting great deals—Black Friday and Cyber Monday—now, there is a groundswell of support for GivingTuesday, a global day dedicated to giving back.**

On Tuesday, December 1, 2015, Great Plains College will join charities, families, businesses, community centres and students across Canada and around the world as they come together to celebrate generosity, to give and to volunteer.

The opening day of the giving season is a day where charitable organizations, companies and individuals join together to share their commitments, support their favourite causes and think about others.

"Our Canadian economy does well on Black Friday and Cyber Monday. Now we have a day that is a great way to give to our region's college," said Colleen Ostoforoff, Great Plains College development officer.

Whether it is \$5, \$10, \$20 or more, we want to start the season of giving by helping students. We are raising funds this GivingTuesday for our scholarship program. Make someone happy and feel great giving through Great Plains College's "Give where you live" campaign.

**If you would like to give to the college's GivingTuesday campaign please visit [greatplainscollege.ca/give](http://greatplainscollege.ca/give) or contact the development office at 306-778-5482.**

## // NEW PROGRAMS DEVELOPED FOR 2015-16

**Great Plains College is dedicated to its mission of building careers, partnerships and communities. This mission is exemplified, in part, by the delivery of new programs in response to community needs and student demand. As a result, Great Plains College has launched five new programs in 2015-16. Each has been well received by students on the various campuses.**

On our Warman campus, two new programs have been introduced. Announced earlier this year, the Business Certificate program began on September 1. New to the college's overall list of programs, a pilot offering of The Certificate in Management Essentials, a part-time 16 week program that provides practical and theoretical training to aspiring managers

in the trades and industry, was launched on September 11. Both these programs were met with strong student interest and enrolment.

At the Rosetown Program Centre, the Primary Care Paramedic program will be offered on weekends beginning in November. The part-time, industry-recognized program is fully accredited by the Canadian Medical Association. Furthermore, the curriculum aligns with primary care paramedic roles and responsibilities outlined in the National Occupational Competency Profiles for the Paramedic Practitioner of Canada.

Building upon the outstanding welding program that has emerged in recent years, the Swift Current campus is pleased to introduce a Welding Upgrader program that will allow employed welders to challenge the journeyman certification.

Throughout recent years, the demand for utilizing the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) as a benchmark for evidence of English speaking, listening, reading and writing skills has increased significantly. In response to the demand, Great Plains College is offering IELTS prep courses and exams at its Swift Current Campus.

Finally, although the Skills and Safety Training program is not new, there has been a significant expansion of training dedicated to the development of productive and safe employees. This initiative has helped place Great Plains College at the forefront in providing on-site training in Saskatchewan.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Scholarship Reception**  
Swift Current, October 14
- **Anti-oppressive Education**  
Workshop Warman, October 14
- **Business Networking Breakfast**  
Warman, October 15
- **Prince Albert Volleyball Tournament**  
October 16-17
- **Open House**  
Kindersley, October 20
- **Battle of the Southwest**  
Swift Current, October 21
- **Sundogs Birthday Party**  
Swift Current, October 24
- **Moose Jaw Volleyball Tournament**  
October 30-31
- **Spend-A-Day**  
Swift Current, November 5
- **National Philanthropy Day**  
November 12
- **Volleyball Provincials**  
Pamburn, November 20-21
- **Spend-A-Day**  
Rosetown, November 25
- **Volleyball Westerns**  
Swift Current, November 27 & 28
- **GivingTuesday**  
December 1
- **Basketball try-outs**  
Swift Current, January 6
- **Millar Alumni Basketball Tournament**  
Pamburn, January 15 & 16
- **Saskatoon Basketball Tournament**  
January 29 & 30
- **Open House**  
Swift Current, January 20

## CONNECT WITH US

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