

Office of Aboriginal Initiatives



Aboriginal Student Services 2014



LAURIER 
Inspiring Lives.

Mino-kummik Community Garden
Waterloo campus



SGENO
SHE:KON
AANII
BOOZHOO
KWEY
SHEKOLI
BOO JOO
TUNNAGASUGIT
TANSI
WELCOME



Jean Becker, MA: *Senior Advisor: Aboriginal Initiatives*

Jean is Innu, Inuit, and English and comes from Nunatsiavut (Labrador). She has lived, studied and worked in the Waterloo region for 35 years and has worked at Laurier for six years. She welcomes Aboriginal students to Laurier.

The Office of Aboriginal Initiatives is **committed** to having Laurier be an **extraordinary** and **empowering** experience for all Aboriginal students. We believe that education, in a **welcoming** environment, that honours Indigenous people, is the path for our people to be all that we can be. We are here to assist you in all areas of life as students and to ensure you have **the best student experience** that university can offer. – Jean Becker



SELF-DECLARATION OF ABORIGINAL ANCESTRY

Why Self-Identify?

At Laurier we want to understand more about what is important to our students, in order to provide better programming and services tailored to meet your needs. Self-identifying helps us with planning, implementing programs and providing you with information. Please contact the Aboriginal Students Centre at your campus to self-identify so that we can contact you to provide you with relevant information.

empowering

Laurier Aboriginal Admissions Policy

Applicants who identify as Aboriginal will be given consideration for admission to Laurier programs if they fall within 5% of the established cut-off during each phase of the admissions cycle to a minimum of 70%. In order to be considered within the 5% window, applicants must provide a written statement outlining any work experience, achievements, educational goals and why they believe they will be successful at post-secondary studies. Students admitted under this policy will be expected to maintain the minimum final average set for the program into which they have been admitted.

Aboriginal Students Recruitment and Retention Officer

The Aboriginal Student Recruitment and Retention Officer assists prospective and incoming students with admission questions, program information and Ontario University Application Centre (OUAC) information in addition to taking on a busy recruitment schedule in Ontario Aboriginal communities. In her role, Kandice Baptiste plans and develops retention programming (SEEDS Program) and assists students with the transition to post-secondary education. Her mission is to ensure that current and prospective students are supported and welcomed throughout their journey to and during their university career.

Aboriginal Education Council

The AEC first met in 2010. The council is comprised of university administrators, faculty, students and Aboriginal community members. The council provides guidance and direction to Laurier in the development of Aboriginal services and curriculum in the institution.

A FRIENDLY FACE IN THE CROWD

welcoming



Pictured above: back row, left to right: Bonnie Whitlow, Jean Becker, Kandice Baptiste. Front: Laurie Minor, left and Melissa Ireland, right.

Above: students at the Aboriginal Student Centre, Brantford Campus.

HERE TO HELP

How can we make your experience extraordinary?

Kandice Baptiste: *Aboriginal Students Recruitment and Retention Officer*

Kandice, a Mohawk from the Tyendingaga Mohawk Territory, holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Laurier. Kandice played on Laurier's varsity basketball team from 2006-2010 and was the Founder and President of the Waterloo Aboriginal Students' Association in 2010-2011 and served on Laurier's Aboriginal Education Council. She recently received an Alumni Award of Excellence as the Young Alumna of the Year (2013). Kandice is currently an assistant coach for the KW Lightning Juel Girl's basketball team.

Melissa Ireland: *Waterloo Aboriginal Student Support Coordinator*

A Mississauga Ojibway with heritage from Curve Lake First Nation, Melissa is the Aboriginal Student Support Coordinator for the Waterloo campus. Melissa has over eight years experience working at Wilfrid Laurier University in various roles and capacities. She is a graduate of the University of Waterloo, having obtained an Honours BA in English Rhetoric and Professional Writing. Her interests include digital design, writing, hand-drumming, and Aboriginal education.

Bonnie Whitlow: *Brantford Aboriginal Student Support Coordinator*

Bonnie is a Mohawk woman, Bear Clan who was born and raised on the Six Nations reserve. A fluent Mohawk speaker and student of traditional onkwehon:we ancestral knowledge, she received her BA in Anthropology from McMaster University in 1996. She has specialized training and experience in Mohawk language education.

Laurie Minor: *Administrative Assistant for the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives*

Laurie has been with Wilfrid Laurier University for 11 years as an administrative assistant for many different areas across campus, giving her a broad understanding of the university as a whole. She has extensive background in customer service, graphic design, painting, and making Aboriginal regalia. She is an avid beader and moccasin-maker, running regalia workshops for families in the tri-city area for the past 10 years. She is currently a part-time student pursuing an undergrad degree in Anthropology.

CULTIVATED EDUCATIONAL APPROACH



Above: Aboriginal Medicine Walk with Dr. Kathy Absolon.

BE A PART OF SOMETHING SPECIAL

committed

LAURIER'S ABORIGINAL STUDENT CENTRES at the Waterloo and Brantford campuses offer a broad range of supportive, holistic, cultural and academic programming. We are committed to fostering a positive student experience for all Aboriginal Students: First Nations (Status and Non-Status), Inuit and Métis persons. Our services assist Aboriginal students from the application process through to graduation. We also provide education, awareness resources and training regarding Aboriginal culture to all students, faculty and staff.

Aboriginal Student Support Services:

- Academic and personal counseling
- Funding, scholarship and bursary assistance
- Community outreach
- Resource library
- Computer and wi-fi access
- Quiet Study room
- Access to traditional medicines
- Admissions assistance
- Aboriginal Awareness Week
- Visiting Elders program
- Aboriginal Academic Success Program and access to peer tutoring
- Aboriginal craft workshops
- Advocacy and referrals
- Special Indigenous Convocation recognition:
 - Brantford: Indigenous Studies Convocation Stole
 - Waterloo/Kitchener: Joint KW Aboriginal Convocation Ceremony
- Aboriginal alumni networking
- Mino-kummik Community Garden



For more information, come and see us or check out our website to view our monthly schedule of events!

BRANTFORD CAMPUS: brantford.mylaurier.ca/aboriginal-services

WATERLOO CAMPUS: waterloo.mylaurier.ca/aboriginal/

TAKING ON THE CHALLENGE OF A NEW LIFE

extraordinary



FINDING FAMILIARITY, FRIENDS IN WATERLOO

Elizabeth McLeod

Elizabeth McLeod is a member of the Moose Cree First Nation of Moose Factory, Ontario. She moved away from Moose Factory at the age of three to Timmins, where she has since resided. Liz is a fourth year Honours Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology student at Laurier and a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) undergraduate award recipient.

Liz has been volunteering at the Aboriginal Student Centre for about a year. She has and continues to establish many strong connections and relationships with new peers while at Laurier. While living nine hours south of home, Liz feels, “the ASC has given me a sense of community with open arms to help me adapt to my new, but temporary, surroundings while achieving my academic goals away from familiarity, friends, and family.” She plans to pursue a Master’s Degree in Physiotherapy and return to Timmins to work within the Northern Health Care System.

PURSUING PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL GROWTH IN BRANTFORD

Shawntelle Clarke

Shawntelle Clarke is a member of Eagle Village First Nation and part of the Algonquin Nation. Although she has not lived on a reserve, it is through her education that she learns the many truths of reserve life and seeks for a better tomorrow. Despite growing up in an urban atmosphere, Shawntelle enjoys participating in various traditional activities on campus as they enrich her educational experience. “Attending Laurier was one of the best decisions I’ve made over the course of my life, not only have I explored my heritage, but I have also embraced an aspect of me that otherwise may have remained hidden.”

Shawntelle is entering her fourth and final year at the Brantford campus, where she has been studying Criminology. After obtaining her Honours Bachelor of Arts in Criminology, Shawntelle plans to pursue a career in law enforcement. It is with hope that one day both her education and skills acquired through working at the Brantford Aboriginal Student Centre will enable her to make a difference in the Aboriginal community.



THE PATH FOR OUR PEOPLE
TO BE ALL THAT WE CAN BE

honouring our Indigenous cultures



ABORIGINAL STUDENT CENTRES

Know where to find us?

WATERLOO 187 Albert Street, Waterloo BRANTFORD 111 Darling Street, Brantford

FINDING A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

the best student experience



Aboriginal Awareness Week

Aboriginal Awareness Week is an annual celebration of Aboriginal cultures that takes place on both campuses. Aboriginal Awareness Week is an opportunity for students, staff, faculty and the community at large to participate and learn about Aboriginal cultures. Events range from round-table discussions, craft workshops and lectures, traditional teachings and cultural exchange.

Soup and Fry Bread Lunches

Both Brantford and Waterloo campuses host weekly soup lunches (sometimes traditional food) for students, staff and faculty. All are encouraged to come, enjoy a lunch and get to know each other. See our website for upcoming dates and times.

Aboriginal Students' Association

The Aboriginal Students' Association (ASA) is an inclusive and official campus club at Laurier's Brantford and Waterloo campuses. The ASA provides Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students a safe environment to express themselves, make friends, work and play together and learn more about Aboriginal cultures. With events ranging from cultural/spiritual activities to bingo and movie nights, the ASA creates community among Laurier's Aboriginal student body and other interested students.

Aboriginal Academic Success Program

The purpose of this program is to provide Aboriginal students with academic assistance regarding learning strategies and study skills in a culturally sensitive manner and in a safe and comfortable environment so that they can achieve their full academic potential. The program services range from Learning Circles, individual learning consultations, peer tutoring and learning strategies and study skills workshops.

Visiting Elders Program

Elders and Traditional Teachers share their knowledge and teachings with students, staff and faculty. Monthly sessions include sharing circles, workshops and one-on-one counseling.

SEEDS Program

The SEEDS Program is designed to increase the retention of first-year Aboriginal students by providing a fund to those who engage in a wide variety of support services and activities to increase their connection to Laurier. All incoming students can find the information to apply online.



Author Joseph Boyden, Laurier 2012 Writer-in-Residence



Family, friends and graduates attend the K-W Honouring Aboriginal Academic Achievement Ceremony, an event hosted on the Waterloo campus.



VISITING LAURIER?

Call our centres to arrange tour bookings, meet with the Aboriginal Student Support Coordinators or our Recruitment and Retention Officer.

WATERLOO CAMPUS: 519.884.0710 x4190 or x4312

BRANTFORD CAMPUS: 519.756.8228 x5884

EMAIL US: kbaptiste@wlu.ca

stay connected



A UNIQUE REPRESENTATION OF
OUR PLACE IN THE COMMUNITY

actively nurturing our environment



Mino-kummik Community Garden

Mino-kummik, good bountiful earth in Ojibway, is the name of the garden that is located behind the Aboriginal Student Centre on the Waterloo campus. This innovative outdoor ceremonial and teaching space features a landscaped seating area, a fire pit, a fruit and vegetable garden, access to wi-fi, and an Aboriginal medicine garden.

The garden was made possible by a large donation from Laurier's Student Life Levy, and was created through a partnership between Laurier's Office of Aboriginal Initiatives, the Sustainability Office, Physical Resources, and REEP Green Solutions, a non-profit organization that promotes sustainable living.

The aim of the garden is to create a campus green space for the entire Laurier community while showcasing Aboriginal culture with activities such as elder teachings, sunrise ceremonies, drum birthings and circle teachings.

Find out more online at wlu.ca/aboriginal/minokummik, where you can also book the space, and discover ways to get involved or volunteer.



Ceremonial opening of Mino-kummik Community Garden on National Aboriginal Day.



Our Visual Symbol

The Office of Aboriginal Initiatives emblem was designed by our own Aboriginal Student Support Coordinator, Bonnie Whitlow, who is a Mohawk woman, Bear Clan, from Six Nations. She gives this explanation of the meaning behind the design.

“The symbol is based on the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Celestial Skydome beadwork designs primarily found on women's leggings and skirts. The design reminds us of the Haudenosaunee creation story and how the first seeds of life on Earth were planted on the back of the turtle. The turtle is both our foundation for life and our teacher.

The seven inner segments of the dome represent the Anishnabee (Ojibway) Seven Grandfather Teachings which are: love, respect, wisdom, bravery, truth, honesty and humility.

The golden rays of the sun symbolize enlightenment, learning and new beginnings.

The beaded purple flower evokes the Métis Nations beadwork designs and includes three lines representing our sustenance, the gifts of plant life from the Skyworld, which encourage and sustain life. The entire design rests on the waters of life which is also consistent with the Celestial Skydome designs.



Honouring our traditions and generational growth



Connect with us on

 [wlu.aboriginal.waterloo](https://www.facebook.com/wlu.aboriginal.waterloo)   [WLUAboriginal](https://www.youtube.com/WLUAboriginal)
[wlu.aboriginal.brantford](https://www.facebook.com/wlu.aboriginal.brantford)



[wlu.ca/aboriginal](https://www.wlu.ca/aboriginal)

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