

September 24, 2009

Grant MacEwan University celebrates new name

Edmonton... Students from across the province can now attend Grant MacEwan University, as the institution has been formally renamed by the Alberta government.

"The needs of Alberta students are changing and our world-class post-secondary institutions are ahead of the curve in terms of providing the best educational opportunities anywhere," said Premier Ed Stelmach. "Grant MacEwan University is an outstanding institution that has shown there is an exciting alternative for undergraduate studies."

"Dr. MacEwan was famous for saying, 'leave the garden better than you found it' and I believe that by renaming the institution a university we are enhancing and confirming the influential role that Grant MacEwan University has on Campus Alberta, the province and on generations of Albertans," added Stelmach.

Grant MacEwan University's mandate will continue as a Baccalaureate and Applied Studies Institution under Campus Alberta's six-sector post-secondary model. The institution provides a broad array of programs, including certificates, diplomas, applied degrees, and baccalaureate degrees.

"Grant MacEwan University's commitment to affordable, accessible and quality education mirrors the goals of Campus Alberta, which is to provide the right programs to learners where and when they need them," said Doug Horner, Minister of Advanced Education and Technology. "Over the past few years, it has been offering high calibre and innovative bachelor degrees, as part of the educational choices available, in an intimate and comfortable learning environment."

Using the term 'university' recognizes the high level of baccalaureate degree programs that students receive at Grant MacEwan University. Students will have better opportunities to transition to higher learning in graduate programming and into the workforce. Grant MacEwan University is a teaching-focused institution, as compared to Alberta's Comprehensive Academic Research Institutions (University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, the University of Lethbridge and Athabasca University), which have the mandate to conduct pure research and, therefore, have a higher degree of research intensity.

"To have MacEwan named as a university enhances the public perspective on what this institution offers," said Dr. Paul Byrne, President and CEO at MacEwan. "The most significant benefit of the new name will be experienced by our students, whether on a résumé or a graduate school application, because of the global recognition of what the name 'university' means."

Upon its establishment in 1971, Grant MacEwan College was named in honour of Dr. J.W. (Grant) MacEwan a former Lieutenant Governor, MLA and Mayor of Calgary. Dr. MacEwan was also a noted author, historian, environmentalist and educator.

For information on Grant MacEwan University, visit: macewan.ca.

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Backgrounder: Overview of Grant MacEwan University

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Grant MacEwan was established as a college in 1971 and was named for Dr. J.W. (Grant) MacEwan, the former Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, former MLA and Mayor of Calgary, and post-secondary educator. Grant MacEwan remains a distinct institution by offering a full range of learning opportunities, from diplomas and certificates to applied degrees, university transfer and baccalaureate degrees, as required within Campus Alberta. Grant MacEwan became the first public college in Alberta to receive degree-granting status. In 2007-08, Grant MacEwan had 10,204 FLEs (full-load equivalent) students.

Programs offered

A range of programs are offered at Grant MacEwan University, including:

- five baccalaureate degree programs
 - Bachelor of Child and Youth Care
 - Bachelor of Science in Nursing
 - Bachelor of Commerce degree (with three majors)
 - Bachelor of Arts (with eight majors)
 - Bachelor of Science (with six majors)
- three applied degrees
- four university transfer programs
- 38 diploma and certificate programs

Campus Alberta

- Alberta's publicly funded post-secondary system is based on a Campus Alberta approach that enables Albertans to participate in quality and innovative learning opportunities - where and when they need them - to enhance their social, cultural and economic well-being.
- To further Campus Alberta, the Government of Alberta, working in consultation with post-secondary institutions, developed a Roles and Mandates Policy Framework to meet the needs of learners, society and taxpayers, making the system more collaborative than ever.
- The framework identifies six types of institutions based on programs offered, type of research conducted, and geographic area served.
- The framework also proposes better planning mechanisms that are based on demand forecasting and regional coordination.
- For more information on Campus Alberta, visit www.advancededandtech.alberta.ca

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