

WESTERN UNIVERSITY  
**INDIGENOUS  
VIEWBOOK**  
2020





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# Acknowledging Traditional Territory

Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Aanishinabek, Haudenosaunee, Lunaapéewak, and Attawandaron people, on lands connected to the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and with the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. The three closest First Nations communities to the University are:

- Chippewas of the Thames First Nation (part of the Anishinaabe Nation)
- Oneida Nation of the Thames (part of the Haudenosaunee Six Nations)
- Munsee Delaware Nation (part of the Leni-Lunaape Nation)

London is also home to a diverse Indigenous urban community. Western recognizes Indigenous peoples in the area as the contemporary stewards of the land and as vital contributors of our society.

A growing Indigenous presence with **500+ Indigenous students**

**400+** different specializations, majors and minors

Indigenous student and ally **Living-Learning** community in residence

Situated on 1,200 acres of land along **Deshkaan Ziibing** (Antler River)



# Welcome to Western

## Ahnee, She:koli, Kihaa koola, Kwe Kwe, Wachay, Tansi

We are thrilled you are considering Western University to be part of your postsecondary education experience.

Western is home to a vibrant campus community which includes a growing Indigenous student population that has surpassed the 500-student mark.

Every year, we welcome a large number of Indigenous students from across Turtle Island who are pursuing diverse fields of study at the undergraduate and graduate level.

Over the years, I have had the distinct privilege of witnessing countless Indigenous students come to Western courageously embarking on a new learning journey. Through time and hard work, these students have enjoyed transformative experiences, where they complete their studies with clearer and stronger voices and visions for change. Many times, these students go on to become powerful change agents in their communities and society.

We would love to welcome you into this dynamic, forward thinking group of people. You would join us at an exciting time in postsecondary education as Western is working hard to advance Indigenization, decolonization and reconciliation across teaching, research and service areas.

In 2016, Western released an Indigenous Strategic Plan that guides our efforts. The plan includes eight broad strategic goals that will support you during your time at Western:

- Strengthen and build **relationships** with Indigenous communities.
- Nurture an **inclusive campus culture** that values Indigenous peoples, perspectives and ways of knowing.
- **Enhance** Indigenous students' experiences at Western.
- Achieve excellence in Indigenous **research and scholarship**.
- Excel in Indigenous **teaching and learning**.
- **Indigenize** Western's institutional practices and spaces.
- Become a **university of choice** for Indigenous students.
- Increase **Indigenous representation** of staff and faculty.

As Special Advisor to the Provost (Indigenous Initiatives), I am honoured to help lead Indigenous change processes at Western. One of the most exciting projects I am involved in is the creation of a new Indigenous learning space. This facility will be a dynamic learning space for Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples to learn Indigenous ways of knowing.

We also have an Indigenous Student Centre (ISC) that plays a critical role on our campus. ISC will be a vital touchstone for you as a prospective or incoming student. The ISC team is deeply committed to building relationships, fostering community and supporting you through culturally responsive programs and services that encourage wholistic and strength-based approaches to learning.

I encourage you to read through this Viewbook to see if Western is a good fit for you. Connect with us on social media, by phone (519.661.4095) or email ([is.staff@uwo.ca](mailto:is.staff@uwo.ca)).

We are here to support you every step of the way.

All the best,

*Candace Brunette*

Candace Brunette-Debassige  
Special Advisor to the Provost (Indigenous Initiatives)

# Indigenous Learning Space

## Opening Soon

The Indigenous Learning Space will act as a home for Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples to gather and learn together, building relationships in the spirit of reconciliation, decolonization and Indigenization.

The standalone building is located adjacent to the Faculty of Education and features a unique circular structure with three levels, and more than 10,000 square feet of indoor space. The Centre will have a gathering area, mezzanine area and teaching/classroom spaces. It will also include outdoor space to support the Indigenous food and medicine garden and ceremonial space.





# Guiding Principles for the Indigenous Student Centre

## An Indigenous Approach to Self-Determination

- Indigenous students wanted to revitalize the longstanding practice of creating and using a Wampum agreement when creating a new logo design for the Indigenous Student Centre.
- Wampum Belts are traditionally made of quahog shells and have been used by the Haudenosaunee since time immemorial.
- Represent shared values and understandings ranging from the simplest agreement between two people to more complicated agreements between Nations.
- The Indigenous Student Centre Wampum exemplifies the guiding principles necessary to uphold the Indigenous Student Centre's vision, purpose and goals through an Indigenous approach.

### About the creators

Lori and Jason George are Western Alumni from the Indigenous Studies Program in the Faculty of Social Science. Lori is Haudenosaunee from Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Jason is Pottawatomi from Aazhoođenong (Stony Point). They are loving parents to two beautiful daughters, and are both active in the local Indigenous community.

# Indigenous Student Centre Staff [is.staff@uwo.ca](mailto:is.staff@uwo.ca)

The Indigenous Student Centre's (ISC) friendly and welcoming staff pride themselves on offering wholistic student support based on the values of helping and serving through Indigenous ways of knowing. The ISC is located on the second floor of the **Western Student Services Building (WSS)** in **Room 2100** (across from the elevators).



**Amanda Myers**

Anishinaabe/Bodewadomi/Métis from Blenheim

Director | [amanda.myers@uwo.ca](mailto:amanda.myers@uwo.ca)



**Mandy Bragg**

Lunaapaew from Munsee-Delaware Nation

Academic Advisor | [is.advising@uwo.ca](mailto:is.advising@uwo.ca)



**Ashley Kewayosh Samuel**

Anishinaabe of Bkejwanong Unceded Territory

Program Coordinator | [is.events@uwo.ca](mailto:is.events@uwo.ca)



**Zeeta Lazore-Cayuga**

Onondaga from Six Nations of the Grand River  
Indigenous Liaison Admissions Coordinator | [is.access@uwo.ca](mailto:is.access@uwo.ca)



**Kelly Nicholas**

Ukwehu•wé from Oneida Nation  
Administrative Assistant | [kjnichol@uwo.ca](mailto:kjnichol@uwo.ca)



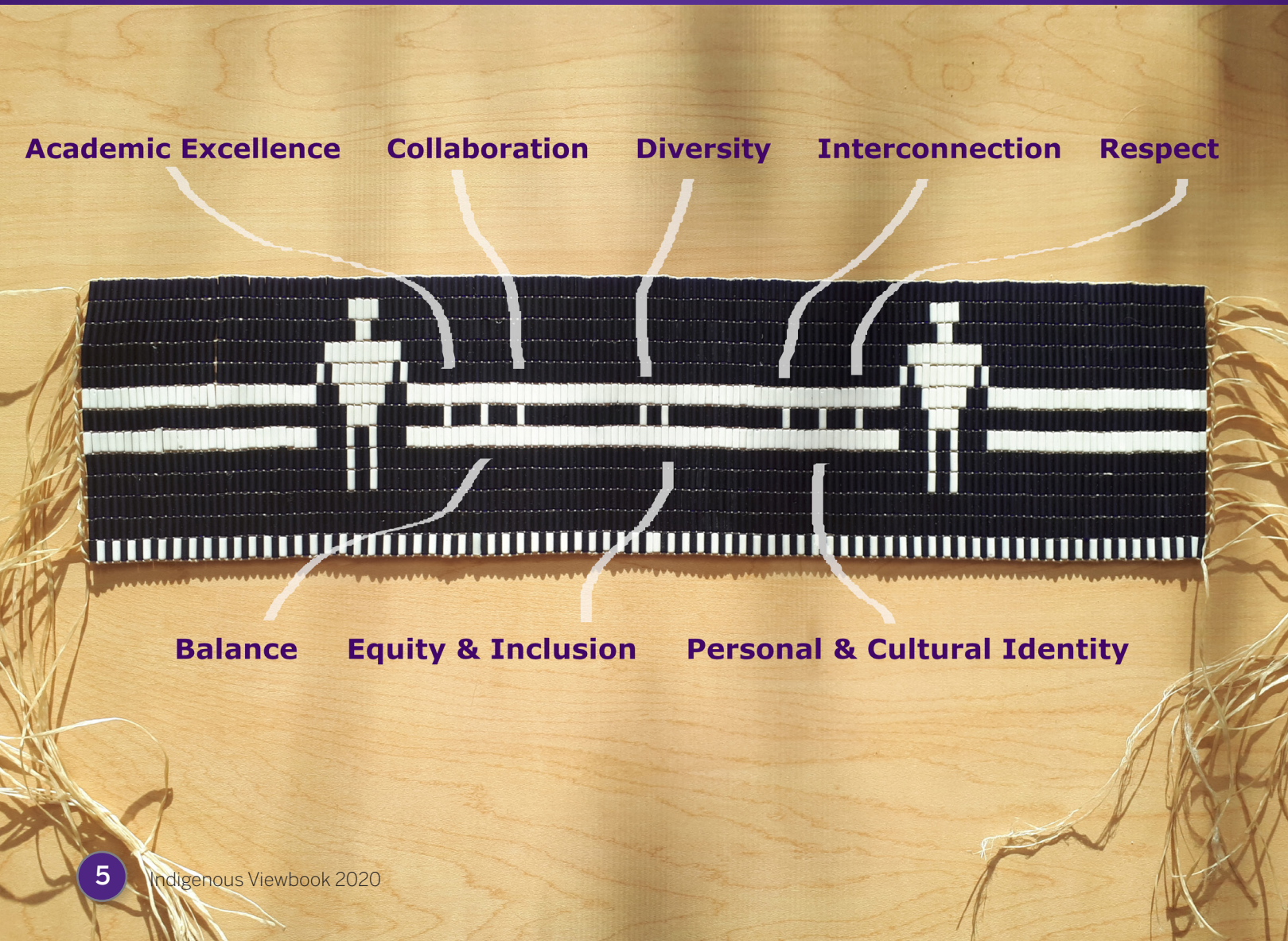
**Donna Noah**

Lunaapaew from Munsee-Delaware Nation  
Academic Transition Opportunities Coordinator | [is.ato@uwo.ca](mailto:is.ato@uwo.ca)



**Joy Spearchief-Morris**

Blackfoot of Kanai Nation  
Program Coordinator Assistant | [is.events@uwo.ca](mailto:is.events@uwo.ca)



# Visiting Elders

**Myrna Kicknosway**

Anishinaabe from Walpole Island First Nation

**Liz Akiwenzie**

Anishinaabe from Chippewas of Nawash

**Irene Peters**

Lunaapew from Moraviantown First Nation





## Our Campus Space

The Indigenous Student Centre is the central hub for our students, staff, faculty and communities to gather and find a sense of belonging at Western. Self-identifying Indigenous students at Western, King's, Brescia and Huron can register with the Indigenous Student Centre to receive after-hour access to our space and complimentary printing. Visit [indigenous.uwo.ca](http://indigenous.uwo.ca) to register.

STUDENT LOUNGE

QUIET STUDY SPACE

MEDICINES AVAILABLE

10 STATION COMPUTER LAB

FULLY EQUIPPED & STOCKED COMMUNAL KITCHEN

Designed by Brian Porter at *Two Row Architects* from Six Nations of the Grand River.

# Programs & Events

Offered by the Indigenous Student Centre

## Recruitment, Admission and Transition

- Pre-application and admissions support for prospective students
- Customized campus tours
- Community visits and school presentations to learners at all levels
- Support for second-entry programs and Graduate School admissions

## Indigenous Food and Medicine Garden

- Growing Indigenous organic and sustainable foods, plants and medicines for future generations

## Visiting Elders

- Visiting Elders provide cultural supports and teaching
- Available by drop-in or appointment

## Current Student Support

- Tutors
- Financial Aid Advising
- Childcare referrals
- Employment listings
- Beading Circle

## Indigenous Awareness Week

- Week-long event for students, staff and faculty to celebrate Indigenous peoples' contributions to postsecondary learning through cultures, arts and scholarship

## Annual Events

- Indigenous Student Graduation Celebration
- REDress Project
- Orange Shirt Day

# Academic Transition Opportunities (ATO) Program

The ATO program is designed to assist first- and second-year undergraduate Indigenous students through intensive academic, cultural, and personal support. The goal of the ATO program is to ensure successful transition and completion of your degree.

Academic	Cultural	Personal Supports
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One-on-one meetings with our Academic Advisor</li> <li>• Academic workshops, information and training sessions</li> <li>• Tutors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visiting Elders and Traditional Helper supports</li> <li>• Cultural programming (e.g., drum making, drumming/singing, beading, language classes and cooking)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indigenous Student Centre and Kitchen Facilities</li> <li>• Leadership Certificate Program</li> <li>• Circles of Support Program</li> <li>• Orientation Events</li> </ul>

**Why:** Ensure the successful transition and completion of your degree

**How:** Apply as a first-year student in the summer before you start at Western

For more information contact:  
**Donna Noah | [is.ato@uwo.ca](mailto:is.ato@uwo.ca)**



# Student Experience at Western

The student experience at Western University is a complex ecosystem of individual stories that shape what we all believe about the university's purpose and impact. Western's Student Experience divisional mission is to foster equitable learning environments in which all students can thrive to their full potential. This intent is not the only part of our story. We invite new students into the university community with a hope to continually co-create our community as a space where everyone finds a place to belong.

## Indigenous Student Association

[indigenoustudent.club@westernusc.ca](mailto:indigenoustudent.club@westernusc.ca)

Instagram: isa.westernu

Facebook: Indigenous Student Association WesternU

- University Students' Council Club
- Create Community
- Pow Wow
- Haudenosaunee Social
- Awareness Days
- Cultural Workshops

## University Students' Council – Indigenous Relations Coordinator

[indigenousrelations@westernusc.ca](mailto:indigenousrelations@westernusc.ca)

Facebook: Indigenous Relations USC

Create and promote Indigenous programming on campus through the University Students' Council.

## Infinite Reach: Métis Student Solidarity Network

[infinitereach@metisnation.org](mailto:infinitereach@metisnation.org)

Works to enrich and enhance Métis' postsecondary experience.

## Supporting Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement (SAGE)

[sagewestern@uwo.ca](mailto:sagewestern@uwo.ca)

Culturally appropriate and supportive peer mentoring and networking group for Indigenous Graduate students.

## The Society of Graduate Students Indigenous Commissioner (SOGS)

[indigenous@sogs.ca](mailto:indigenous@sogs.ca)

SOGS holds an Indigenous commissioner role to ensure that Indigenous voices are included in the Graduate student experiences.

## Head and Heart Undergraduate Research Program

Research Western and Western Student Experience, in partnership with the Indigenous Student Centre, has created a unique summer research program for Indigenous undergraduate students. Indigenous students will be given bursaries to complete 14 weeks of research with a designated faculty member and will be encouraged to bring ways of learning that respect both the head and the heart within their research projects.

**Joanne Mitchell**  
Head and Heart Research Fellow 2018

"My research included being an intern on the Mohawk Seedkeepers Six Nations Food Security Education Earthship Centre build. I learned firsthand what's involved in the construction of an eco-friendly, off-grid building specifically, an Earthship home. As well, I planted an urban Indigenous food garden in East London. I was able to learn about growing old Haudenosaunee varieties and increase my seed inventory. I also was a presenter on food sovereignty at the Oneida Deaf Indigenous Gathering. I have already shared my project with Chief Jessica Hill and the Grand Chief Joel Abram. They both had positive reactions to my research project. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for this experience. It was a dream come true."





# Undergraduate Admissions

Interested in applying to Western? Here is your step-by-step application guide.

## 1. Determine your applicant type.

See chart below.

## 2. Find the program that is right for you.

Visit [welcome.uwo.ca](http://welcome.uwo.ca) for program information.

## 3. Determine if you have the course requirements for your program.

Visit [welcome.uwo.ca/requirements](http://welcome.uwo.ca/requirements) for a full listing.

## 4. Mark important dates and deadlines in your calendar.

**October 1:** Applications available at [ouac.on.ca](http://ouac.on.ca)

**January 15:** OUAC 101 application deadline

**March 1:** OUAC 105 Early Consideration application deadline for full-time, first-year studies

**June 1:** Full-time application deadline. See more dates and details online: [welcome.uwo.ca/deadlines](http://welcome.uwo.ca/deadlines)

## 5. Apply!

Submit your application via [ouac.on.ca](http://ouac.on.ca)

High School	College Transfer	University Transfer	Mature/Senior
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit your application via the Ontario University Application Centre: <a href="http://ouac.on.ca">ouac.on.ca</a></li> <li>Admission requirements can be found: <a href="http://welcome.uwo.ca/admissions/admission_requirements">welcome.uwo.ca/admissions/admission_requirements</a></li> </ul>	<p>Students attending College in Ontario can apply based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A one-year General Arts and Science or Pre-Health Certificate</li> <li>A two- or three-year diploma</li> <li>Transfer credits are available for diploma applicants up to a maximum of 5.0 credits</li> <li>Articulation agreements are formal pathways from specific college programs to Western. Use <a href="http://ONTransfer.ca">ONTransfer.ca</a> to explore</li> </ul>	<p>If you are in first-year university, you can be considered based on strong first year, first semester results and a strong final high school average. If you are in second year or higher, you will be considered on the basis of a mid-year transcript.</p> <p>Transfer credits are available, a maximum of 10.0 credits can be received.</p>	<p>If you are over the age of 21 and do not meet the minimum academic requirements for any other applicant type you may be considered as a mature student.</p> <p>High school prerequisites may be required for some programs.</p> <p>We strongly encourage you to reach out to our Liaison Admissions Coordinator for individual support with navigating the application process.</p>

## Aboriginal Admission Access Category

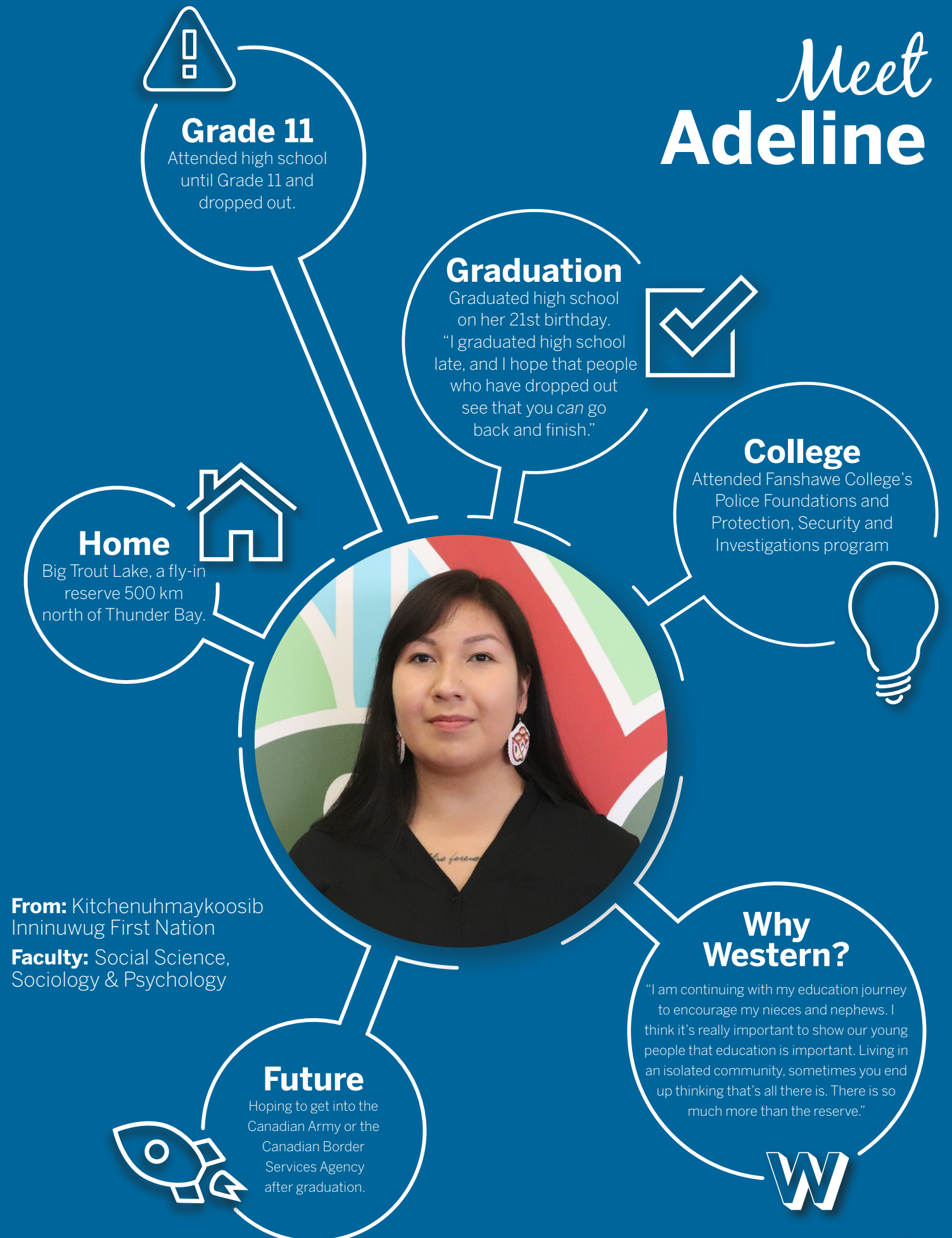
Western University is committed to increasing access to postsecondary education for Aboriginal learners. This commitment involves offering accessible admission pathways for Aboriginal applicants. The purpose of the Aboriginal Admission Access Category is to encourage undergraduate applications from Aboriginal\* individuals while offering these individuals, once they become students with extended academic, personal and cultural support necessary for transition and success. If you wish to be considered under this admission category, complete the requirements listed at [indigenous.uwo.ca/admissions](http://indigenous.uwo.ca/admissions)

\* Aboriginal as defined based on the *Canadian Constitution Act 1982* as First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people in Canada.

## Native American Students from the United States

Western University honours the Jay Treaty 1794 by offering domestic tuition rates to Native American students from the United States. For more information contact, the Indigenous Student Centre at **519-661-4095** or [is.staff@uwo.ca](mailto:is.staff@uwo.ca). You can also consult the fees section of the Registrar's web site at [registrar.uwo.ca/student\\_finances](http://registrar.uwo.ca/student_finances)

# Meet Adeline



**From:** Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation

**Faculty:** Social Science, Sociology & Psychology





# Indigenous Studies – Faculty of Social Science

Indigenous Studies is an interdisciplinary program of study, examining topics relevant to Indigenous peoples' realities. The program allows students to either specifically focus on Indigenous issues or to combine their program with any other undergraduate degrees.

As an interdisciplinary program, it provides scholars with multiple points of reference to examine key issues such as history, language, politics, psychology, cultural studies, health, environment, sociology, arts, economics and education. This approach attempts to reach a greater wholistic understanding of the factors that impact local and global Indigenous peoples. At Western, we utilize a model that focuses on the local communities as the main point of reference to better understand the world.

## Indigenous Studies Courses

### IS 1020E: Introduction to Indigenous Studies

First Nations issues will be examined from academic and community perspectives. Students will learn key terms, facts, events, issues, world views and lifestyles of First Nations peoples in Canada. Students will be introduced to current Indigenous scholarship, cultural experts, Elders and researchers.

### IS 2218F/G: Contemporary Indigenous Issues: From the 1969 White Paper to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

This course explores the critical challenges still faced by Indigenous peoples in Canada. The material covered will be timely and relevant, including discussions and explorations of Indigenous legal and political mobilization; jurisdictional authority and self-determination; land rights and treaty relationships; the Truth and Reconciliation Commission; and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls inquiry.

### IS 2700A/B: Tsi niyakwaton – Tsi niyakwenton (What we say – What we mean): Mohawk Metaphors

This course, designed for a general audience, explores the Mohawk vocabulary in everyday situations. Students will learn the vocabulary to discover its underlying cultural references and how this reflects the values and world view of its speakers. This course will appeal to anyone who is interested in how speakers of a language use it to define the world they live in, and how they deal with intrusions from outside that world view as they adapt to a changing culture. It will also appeal to anyone who is curious about how a people adapt their language to changing times.

### IS 3142G: Doing Research with Indigenous Communities (In a Good Way)

In this interactive course students will learn the theoretical and practical foundations for conducting research with Indigenous communities. Discussions will focus on the history of research with Indigenous peoples; ethics, especially as it relates to protocols for using Indigenous knowledge(s); Indigenous research models; research agreements; and data governance.

## Instructors

**Janice Forsyth**  
Fisher River Cree Nation, Manitoba  
Director, Indigenous Studies  
Associate Professor, Department of Sociology

"Indigenous Studies has a lively interdisciplinary culture that has been carefully fostered over the years. In my short time here, I can see that the program offers exciting opportunities to engage in important and meaningful dialogues about a whole host of issues that are important to Indigenous people locally and throughout the country, and to do that in a structured environment that leads to better understandings of how to work together in a more responsible and ethical way. I grew up in small towns and cities in northern Ontario, and at one point, Alberta, which means I bring a rural and urban perspective with me wherever I go. I mesh that perspective with my ties to my home communities, the Fisher River and Pequis Cree Nations in Manitoba, creating for me a breadth of lived experience that allows me to identify with student experiences on a number of levels. I am also a former Western graduate, having completed all three degrees here (BA, MA, PhD), as well as a former varsity athlete (badminton, cross-country running, track and field). I aim to help students see their potential at Western so they can enjoy their experience as much as I did."

**David Kanatawakhon**  
Mohawk  
Lecturer, Indigenous Studies

"I am a Mohawk. I am Turtle Clan. I speak, read, and write the Mohawk language. I have a fairly good knowledge of the history and traditions of my own people and I have a strong belief in its spiritual traditions. I was born David Brant, registered as David Maracle, and for the last twenty years or so I have used my Mohawk name, Kanatawakhon, as my surname rather than the one chosen by the colonists.

Over the years I have written numerous dictionaries, language learning textbooks, and a variety of pedagogical materials for the Mohawk language, and some for the Oneida language as well. I devised a method for teaching the Mohawk language which would facilitate learning it more efficiently. I have also learned the Oneida language along the way and presently teach that language as well. During a 12-year period I taught Mohawk language courses, as well as other Indigenous studies courses, for the Aboriginal Studies Program at Brock University. I am presently actively engaged in teaching language and Indigenous courses for the Indigenous Studies program at Western."

# Affiliated University Colleges

Western's three Affiliated University Colleges are smaller institutions with their own campuses near Western and differing programs from what Western's main campus offers. Students attending any one of our Affiliates also have access to Western's facilities and the Indigenous Student Centre, and receive their degree from Western University.



### Brescia University College

Brescia.uwo.ca | Population 1,500  
Canada's only women's only university

#### Programs Offered:

- Community Development
- Criminal Justice
- Foods & Nutrition (BSc)
- University Preparatory Program, Preliminary Year (senior academic qualifications for first-year university entrance)



### Huron University College

huronatwestern.ca | Average class size of 30  
Liberal Arts focus

#### Programs Offered:

- Centre for Global Studies
- Management & Organizational Studies
- Governance, Leadership and Ethics



### King's University College

kings.uwo.ca | Population 3,500  
Gaudium Award for first-year  
Indigenous Students

#### Programs Offered:

- Social Justice and Peace Studies
- Childhood & Social Institutions
- Social Work (BSW – third-year entry only)

# Western Continuing Studies

wcs.uwo.ca

Western Continuing Studies offers a wide variety of personal and professional development courses, post-degree diplomas and French immersion opportunities.

## Post-Degree Diploma Programs

In partnership with several Western faculties, Western Continuing Studies offers one-year diploma and certificate programs to complement your degree. Post-Degree Diploma Programs are designed for university students and graduates wanting specific knowledge, skills and experience that today's employers demand. These programs receive a Western University Diploma and include hands-on work placements that add valuable experience to your degree.

#### Programs offered:

- Diploma Programs
- Clinical Trials Management
- Human Resources
- Marketing
- Not-for-Profit Management
- Occupational Health and Safety Management
- Pedorthics
- Public Relations



# Meet Vanessa

From: Nêhiyaw-Métis, Thunderbird Clan

Faculty: PhD Student, Faculty of Social Sciences, Geography

Vanessa Ambtman-Smith is of Nêhiyaw-Métis ancestry and mother of two, living on the traditional territory of the Anishnaabe, Haudenosaunee and Leni-Lenaape peoples in London, Ontario. Vanessa is a PhD student at Western University, studying the geographies of Indigenous Health. Throughout her 17-year career in the Indigenous health field, Vanessa has sought ways to redesign health systems to enable access to culturally safe care, and to innovate and advance models of care that go beyond the traditional view of healthcare. Her research includes examining and evaluating traditional healing spaces within hospital contexts as a form of reconciliation. In 2018, Vanessa was the recipient of an Ontario Indigenous Mentorship Network Scholarship, awarded to emerging Indigenous health scholars who are engaged in community-based health research. In 2017 she was appointed by the province of Ontario as a board member of the civilian-led Police Services oversight body for the City of London.



# Meet Paula

From: Oneida Nation of the Thames  
Projects Coordinator, Indigenous Initiatives

"Western's Master of Professional Education Program (MPEd) gave me the tools and knowledge in Indigenous Education to move forward on a path to empower not only myself, but also future students and colleagues I work with. Western offers this program with our Indigenous values and world views at the core of the learning. This comprehensive understanding of Indigenous Education and pedagogy has solidified my foundational constructs and philosophies so that I can move forward and work within our communities with those values and intrinsic knowledge in mind."



# Meet Joette

From: Weenusk First Nation | Peawanuck, Ontario

Faculty: PhD Student, Faculty of Education, Field of Critical Policy, Equity, and Leadership Studies

Joette is Mushkego Inninu (Swampy Cree) originally from the fly-in community of Peawanuck, Ontario. She is a PhD student in the Faculty of Education at Western. Her research focus involves working with Mushkego Inninu Elders, fluent language speakers, and knowledge holders to investigate an Inninu pedagogical model within Inninu world view derived from informal learning in community-based settings. Specific aspects of her research focus will be on Mushkegowuk Aski-based knowledge conveyed through Omushkegomowin. It is her hope that this research will foster intergenerational teachings of Mushkegowuk Aski-based knowledge conveyed through Omushkegomowin and intervene in the formal education system in support of Inninu students and their families. Joette completed a BA, Honours Specialization in Sociology at Western and a Master of Teaching (Primary/Junior Division) at OISE/UofT. She taught one year in her home community prior to pursuing a PhD degree. She is a mother of four children, a daughter and three sons.





# Second-Entry Undergraduate Programs

Some specialized programs at Western do not begin in first year and require two to four years of university study prior to entry. These programs require certain university prerequisites, admission or aptitude tests, interviews and supplementary information depending on the program. Once admitted, the length of study for second-entry professional undergraduate programs may take anywhere from one to four years of additional university study depending on the program. The following second-entry programs are dedicated to encouraging Indigenous students to apply by creating Indigenous Specific Pathways and supports.

**Ivey Business School | [ivey.uwo.ca](http://ivey.uwo.ca)**

**Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry | [schulich.uwo.ca](http://schulich.uwo.ca)**

Self ID applicants are considered wholistically through academics, community contribution and personal motivations.

- 5 designated seats in the Medicine Program
- 2 designated seats in the Dentistry Program

**Faculty of Education | [edu.uwo.ca](http://edu.uwo.ca)**

For a designated number of places in the BEd program, preference will be given to members of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples. Those wishing consideration under the equity admissions process must submit an equity admissions application to the Teacher Education office.

**Western Law | [law.uwo.ca](http://law.uwo.ca)**

An overall average of B+ (78%/3.3 GPA) and an LSAT score above the 60th percentile. Free LSAT prep course offered through Indigenous Student Centre in the summer.

**School of Social Work, King's University College | [socialwork.kings.uwo.ca](http://socialwork.kings.uwo.ca)**

There are two designated seats for Indigenous Learners who meet the admission requirements for the program.

# Graduate Programs

Western is one of Canada's leading research-intensive universities. Boasting researchers, teachers and graduate students who are leaders in their fields and conduct innovative research in exciting and emerging areas. For more information, visit [grad.uwo.ca](http://grad.uwo.ca). Through the School of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, Western offers more than **70 Graduate** and **50 Doctoral programs**, a range of professional master's and interdisciplinary programs, and endless opportunities to expand knowledge and push the boundaries of discovery.

## Faculty of Education [edu.uwo.ca](http://edu.uwo.ca)

In its five-year strategic vision (2018-2023), the Faculty of Education is prioritizing Indigenization that includes three broad action items:

- 1)** Strengthen and build relationships with communities and organizations that serve Indigenous populations.
- 2)** Become a destination of choice for Indigenous students, staff and faculty members.
- 3)** Excel in Indigenous teaching, learning, research and programming.

## Graduate Programs with Indigenous Admissions Pathways

### School of Physical Therapy – Masters of Physical Therapy

Applicants who self identify may be considered for designated seats if they have a GPA over 3.4 over their last full-time credits, have earned a grade of 70% or higher in the prerequisite courses, are ranked above average on the CASPer situational judgement test and are ranked highly by reviewers.

# Meet Ryan

From: Ojibwe from Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory  
Faculty: Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Medicine

"Aanii, my name is Ryan Brooks and I am a first-year medical student at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry here at Western University. I am from Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory but grew up in a small community in southwestern Ontario called Norfolk County. I also did my undergraduate degree here at Western; where I graduated with a Bachelor of Medical Science degree in 2018. In my free time I love to do anything outdoors in the summer including kayaking, hiking and mountain biking. I have also recently taken up indoor rock climbing! My hopes for the future are to practice rural Family Medicine and become an advocate for Indigenous people's mental, physical and spiritual health."



# Master of Professional Education (MPEd) Program

## Aboriginal Educational Leadership

This course-based master's program prepares educators for a range of leadership roles in schools, school systems, colleges, adult learning settings and related agencies. In addition to a thorough grounding in the theories and practices of leadership, graduates of the program will have a comprehensive understanding of Indigenous knowledge and pedagogy and the historical and contemporary conditions of Aboriginal education in Canada. A specific emphasis on organizational and pedagogical strategies to improve Aboriginal student success is included as part of a broader consideration of the social, political and economic context of education.

The Leadership in Aboriginal Education master's program brings together students from a diverse range of ancestries and workplace backgrounds to critically engage with relevant issues in Indigenous Education. The program is designed around a cohort model that promotes peer support, class cohesion, high completion rates and a continuity of learning from one course to the other.

All courses will be held onsite at Six Nations Polytechnic located in Ohsweken, Ontario, Six Nations of the Grand River. Priority will be given to Indigenous applicants.



# Indigenous Faculty Members



**Chantelle Richmond, PhD**  
Biigtigong Anishinaabe

Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair, Department of Geography

"As an Anishinaabe scholar, I am very privileged to work at Western University. I have been here for 12 years, and I truly love my job. I am especially energized by my work with our students. My research and teaching is focused on understanding how processes of environmental change relate to contemporary patterns of Indigenous health and well-being. These are complex issues, with many political, social and economic dimensions. In doing this work, I see that my role as a teacher is as much about helping to refine attitudes, ideas and beliefs as it is about creating space for new relationships and understanding. I am very proud of our Indigenous students. I am dedicated to making this University one where our Indigenous students can be as successful as they want to be. My research lab is located in Room 3107 of the Social Science Centre (next to the First Nation Studies Library) – drop by some time for a chat and to make some new friends!"



**Lina Sunseri, PhD**  
Onyota'o:ka of Oneida Nation of the Thames, Turtle Clan

Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Brescia University College

Dr. Sunseri received her PhD at York University in Toronto. She teaches various courses such as Sociological Theory, Sociology of Gender, Sociological Perspectives of Indigenous Women and also teaches in the Community Development Program at Brescia University College. Her research interests deal with Indigenous issues and more specifically the intersectionality of Indigeneity, nationalisms, and gender, and Indigenous young women's experiences in family and intimate relationships. Her Longhouse name is Yeliwi:saks.



**Diana Lewis**  
Mi'kmaw of Sipekne'katik First Nation

Assistant Professor, Department of Indigenous Studies and the Department of Geography

"Kwe. I am Mi'kmaq from the Sipekne'katik First Nation in Nova Scotia. I am excited to be teaching at Western University, and offering courses in Indigenous history, contemporary Indigenous issues, and Indigenous research practices. I hold a Master of Resource and Environmental Management degree from Dalhousie University, where my focus was on environmental assessment and how our communities could more effectively participate in this process. My doctoral research has developed this expertise further, focusing on environmental health, specifically as it concerns the impacts from resource or industrial development. I look forward to being able to share the experiences I have had with the students I meet. Wela'lin."



**Erica Neeganagwedgin**  
Taino

Assistant Professor, Indigenous Education, Critical Policy, Equity and Leadership Studies

Erica's areas of teaching and research interests include Indigenous knowledge systems and intellectual traditions; Indigenous epistemologies; Indigenous history and educational policies; history of Indigenous Education in North American contexts, and comparative historical race/cultural relations in the North American context. Erica has taught and engaged in curriculum design and program development at a number of higher education institutions in Canada including Athabasca University, University of Toronto, George Brown Community College, Ryerson University, and Humber College.



**Brent [Ahnungoonhs] Debassige, PhD**  
Anishinaabe of M'Chigeeng First Nation, Caribou Clan

Director of Indigenous Education and Associate Professor, Faculty of Education

"My experiences as an Ojibwe-Anishinaabe faculty member and applied Indigenous scholar have centered on developing specializations in the areas of Indigenous education, Indigenous research methodologies, and Indigenous knowledge. Collectively, these sources of knowledge provide a foundation for the decolonizing, anti-oppressive, and critically engaged approaches used in my teaching and research. The learning I gleaned over my lifetime as an Anishinaabe has helped me understand and nurture a deeply felt responsibility to Indigenous nationhood and resurgence movements in Indigenous education. My teaching within schooling environments often focuses on the themes of Indigenous well-being and explicating and deconstructing colonial systems of power and oppression, primarily as it occurs in North America. In my recent research and scholarship, I am engaged in supporting First Nations control of First Nations Education and, in 2016, I became one of the original contributors to the First Nations with Schools Collective."



**Frankie Young**  
Mi'kmaw

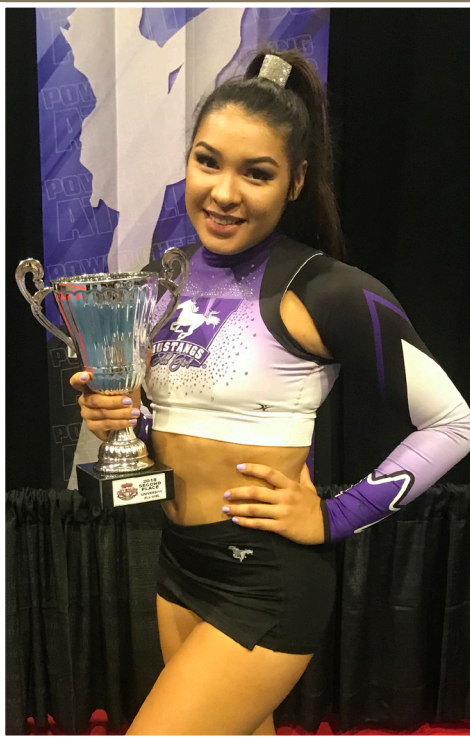
Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law

"Kwe, I am a Mi'kmaw woman from the western coast of Ktaqmkuk in Atlantic Canada. It is my passion to bring to the legal academy important and critical legal research and teaching areas related to Indigenous economic development and self-government. My life's work involves finding ways to improve the economic position of Indigenous peoples in Canada and, in my view, this is a critical time for this to happen. As an educator I love to teach students about the first inhabitants and guardians of the land and resources in Canada and how Indigenous peoples are a critical part of the economic fabric in the Canadian market economy. Indigenous entrepreneurs bring unique perspectives and creative talent and products to the market and coming generations will be important contributors to this end. I choose legal education as the avenue to impart critical legal knowledge to our communities, scholars and policy makers on the ways in which the law either supports or inhibits Indigenous economic development."



# Indigenous Student Leaders

Our amazing undergraduate Indigenous student leaders are here to answer your questions about life at Western. Curious about what the student experience could be like for you? Connect with them anytime via [is.studentleaders@uwo.ca](mailto:is.studentleaders@uwo.ca)



## Paul

From: Six Nations of the Grand River  
Faculty: Health Sciences, Health Studies

"Sge:no! My name is Paul Porter, and I am Mohawk Bear Clan from Six Nations of the Grand River. I am the second oldest of eight boys and have many nieces and nephews. I graduated from Fanshawe College with General Arts and Sciences, and I am now in the third year of my undergraduate studies at Western. I am currently working with Norman Huner and Beth Szyszka in the Biology Department, conducting research on psychrophilic algae – plant life that grows optimally in very cold conditions. I have recently been co-authored on my very first publication ever! Other than my academics, I am a Youth Mentor with the Mini University Program and an executive member with the Indigenous Student Association. Without support from the Indigenous Student Centre I would not have been as successful in my transition to Western from Fanshawe or have been introduced to my fantastic supervisor. I want to create more safe spaces on campus for future Indigenous students to come and be successful in research and academics. My biggest goal is to be a good role model for my younger brothers and the rest of my family, and I plan to continue my research hopefully and also study law or health policy in the future."

## Angela

From: Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory  
Faculty: Health Sciences, Kinesiology

"Hi! My name is Angela. I am from Wikwemikong First Nation. I hope to apply to the Northern Ontario School of Medicine after I graduate. I haven't decided what area in the medical field I want to pursue, although, I am leaning towards a Surgeon or a General Practitioner. One of my biggest recommendations for incoming first-year students is to get involved in as much as you can. This is a great way to make friends and de-stress. I am on the Western All-Girl Cheerleading team and I played Intramural hockey which have made my university experience much more enjoyable. If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact me!"

## Laney

From: Métis, Fort Resolution Métis Council  
Faculty: Science, Genetics and Biochemistry

"My name is Laney Beaulieu and I am a Métis student from Fort Resolution, which is a small and isolated Indigenous community of 500 in the Northwest Territories. As someone coming from a very small community, I found the Western community to be very welcoming and easy to navigate, making the hard transition from home to university much easier. I am currently in my third year of undergrad and am pursuing an Honours Specialization in Genetics and Biochemistry. Outside of academics, I am also an executive member of the Indigenous Student Association here at Western. In addition, I am currently working at the Indigenous Mentorship Network of Ontario as an Undergraduate Researcher and volunteer at Robarts Research Institute in Dr. Hegele's cardiovascular genetics lab. After graduation I hope to pursue graduate studies and become a medical researcher."

## Elissa

From: Eelunáapeewi Lahkéewiit – Delaware Nation  
Faculty: Health Sciences, Kinesiology

My name is Elissa Noah, and I am Turtle Clan from Eelunáapeewi Lahkéewiit (Delaware Nation). My program (Kinesiology) has helped broaden my understanding of living an active and healthy lifestyle. I aspire to bring my knowledge – from university, as well as my Indigenous knowledge – back to my community to assist in the health and rehabilitation of Indigenous people. As an active member in my home community, this is important to me. While I knew university was my next step in my education journey, moving away from my small and rural community was a huge adjustment for me. Indigenous Student Centre (ISC) was a home away from home for me. I have met so many new people and was given opportunities, including work-study jobs, volunteering and networking, that I am very thankful for. I also had the opportunity to be an executive member on the Indigenous Student Association and believe that I would not have gotten this opportunity if it wasn't for ISC. The endless support, counselling and opportunities through ISC and Western have made my university experience memorable and rewarding. It makes me look forward to the future and the endless possibilities.



## Nathaniel

From: Oneida Nation of the Thames  
Faculty: Don Wright Faculty of Music – Bachelor of Music and Film Studies

My name is Nathaniel Ninham. I'm from London, Ontario and the Oneida Nation. I'm going into my second year, majoring in Music and Minor in Film Studies. Being from London, I was able to transition into Western easily as I already knew the campus and city well. Academics weren't my strong suit in high school as procrastination and mental health were negative factors, but after a year at Western, academics became less of an issue due to loving each of my professors and enjoying my courses. While making close friends and being social has continued to be challenging both in high school and University, the Indigenous Student Centre students and staff have been endlessly kind and welcoming. I spent a lot of time there and I highly recommend incoming students consider doing the same. Outside of University, I have interests in economics, technology and video games.



## Sasha

From: Oneida Nation of the Thames  
Faculty: Social Sciences, Indigenous Studies

Shekoli swakweku Tsitsyakaht niyukyats Othahyuni niwakitalot^ On^yota'a:ka niwakuhtsyot^ My name is Sasha Doxtator and I'm Wolf Clan from the Oneida Nation. 2018 was my first year as an undergraduate student at Western. I wanted to further my education so that I had more employment opportunities. At age 37, I decided to go to university. The Indigenous Student Centre really helped with the transition. I met a group of friends there that support me through this new journey. The experiences I've had and people I've met over the past year have made my time here amazing. I'm currently a research assistant collecting Indigenous Astronomy stories. My astronomy professor and I hope to turn it into its own class. My future goals are to Major in First Nation Studies and Minor in Astronomy. I also have plans of studying law, becoming a lawyer and fighting for Indigenous rights. The sky is the limit!





# Community Outreach

The Indigenous Student Centre hosts proactive outreach initiatives for Indigenous youth held on-campus including leadership and culture-based teachings at local First Nations community schools.

## Mini University 2020: Year of Fire

Indigenous youth are encouraged to apply to our summer Mini University Program! Youth get the full university experience for a week, living at the Ontario Hall residence, meeting with different faculty partners, and exploring Western's campus. Each year the youth participate in a Water Walk along the river and in a Haudenosaunee social.

Age groups: Otters (12-14), Cranes (14-17)



## Annual Indigenous Track and Field Day

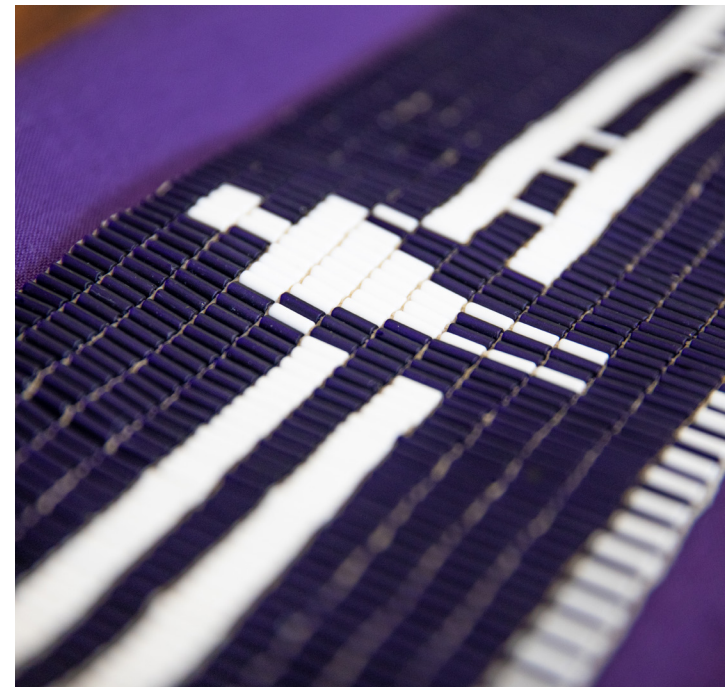
Every year, the Indigenous Student Centre collaborates with Western's Track and Field Team to welcome Grade 7 and Grade 8 Indigenous students from across southwestern Ontario to Western's campus to enjoy an exciting day of athletic activity. Activities include:

- Long jump
- High jump
- Shot put
- Sprints and relay races
- Mentorship

## Ontario's Indigenous Mentorship Network (IMN-Ontario)

[imnp.uwo.ca](http://imnp.uwo.ca)

With its home base in the Indigenous Health Lab at Western University, IMN-Ontario is an interdisciplinary collaboration involving 13 research institutions in Ontario, including the province's leading Indigenous health scholars and research centres. Inspired by an Anishinaabe concept, Mno Nimkodadding Geegi (translation: "we are all connected"), IMN-Ontario is committed to growing and supporting community-based health and well-being research and training opportunities for Indigenous trainees and researchers in Ontario. The overarching goal is to support and grow the next generation of Indigenous health scholars.





# Housing and Financial Aid

## Ayukwanaktiyóhake' Indigenous & Ally Community In Residence

[residence.uwo.ca](https://residence.uwo.ca)

Ayukwanaktiyóhake' is from the Oneida language and means "a safe place where we can find rest and security".

The Indigenous Student Centre has collaborated with Western Residence to create Ayukwanaktiyóhake' Living-Learning Community. Members of First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities as well as their Allies are invited to apply to live on this floor in Delaware Hall.

- Visiting Elder Program
- Indigenous Cuisine Night
- Beading Circle and more

### How do I apply?

Indicate your preference and fill out the questionnaire in your online residence application.

## Housing for Families

Platt's Lane Estates offers conveniently located, affordable accommodations to Western's upper-year, graduate, and students with families.

Townhouses and three-storey walk up apartment buildings near University Heights Public School and on-campus childcare.

## Off-Campus Housing

[offcampus.uwo.ca](https://offcampus.uwo.ca)

- Rental Listings
- Mediation Services
- Off-Campus Advisors
- Lease Review

# Indigenous Achievements and Awards

## Dr. Valio Markkanen Aboriginal Award of Excellence

Two awards of \$1,000 each, awarded annually to one Indigenous undergraduate and one graduate student who has achieved excellence in academics and has actively contributed to the Indigenous community. This award was established thanks to a generous gift from the estate of Dr. Valio Markkanen.

### 2018-2019 Award Recipients

- David Monture (Undergraduate)
- Melissa Raechelle Schnarr (Graduate)

## Financial Aid

[is.advising@uwo.ca](mailto:is.advising@uwo.ca)

We provide up-to-date information on local and popular scholarships, bursaries and funding available to Indigenous students here at Western. These include but not limited to:

- Individual Band funding
- Métis Nations of Ontario
- Indspire Scholarship and Bursaries
- National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund
- Western Applied Indigenous Scholarship
- Ontario Student Assistant Program (OSAP)
- Western Graduate Research Scholarship
- Ontario Graduate Scholarship

## Work Study Opportunities with the Indigenous Student Centre

Western's Work Study program offers an opportunity for students to work part-time on campus while accommodating their studies. The Indigenous Student Centre provides Work Study placements throughout the year in our Indigenous Student Centre.



# Fall in love with Western

*Join us* for an open house or campus tour.

### Fall Preview Day

November 17, 2019

### March Break Open House

March 14, 2020

### Fall/Winter Campus and Residence Tours

Available weekdays at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and select Saturdays during the academic year.

### Spring/Summer Campus and Residence Tours

Available weekdays at 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and select Saturdays in May.

Reserve your tour well in advance at [welcome.uwo.ca/visit](https://welcome.uwo.ca/visit) or by phone **519.661.2100**.

**Personalized** campus tours with **Indigenous Student Centre** staff are available by e-mailing [is.tours@uwo.ca](mailto:is.tours@uwo.ca)

**Follow us on social!**



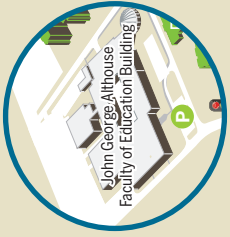
[westernuIS](https://www.facebook.com/westernuIS)



[westernu\\_indigenous](https://www.instagram.com/westernu_indigenous)

[#westernuIS](https://twitter.com/westernuIS)

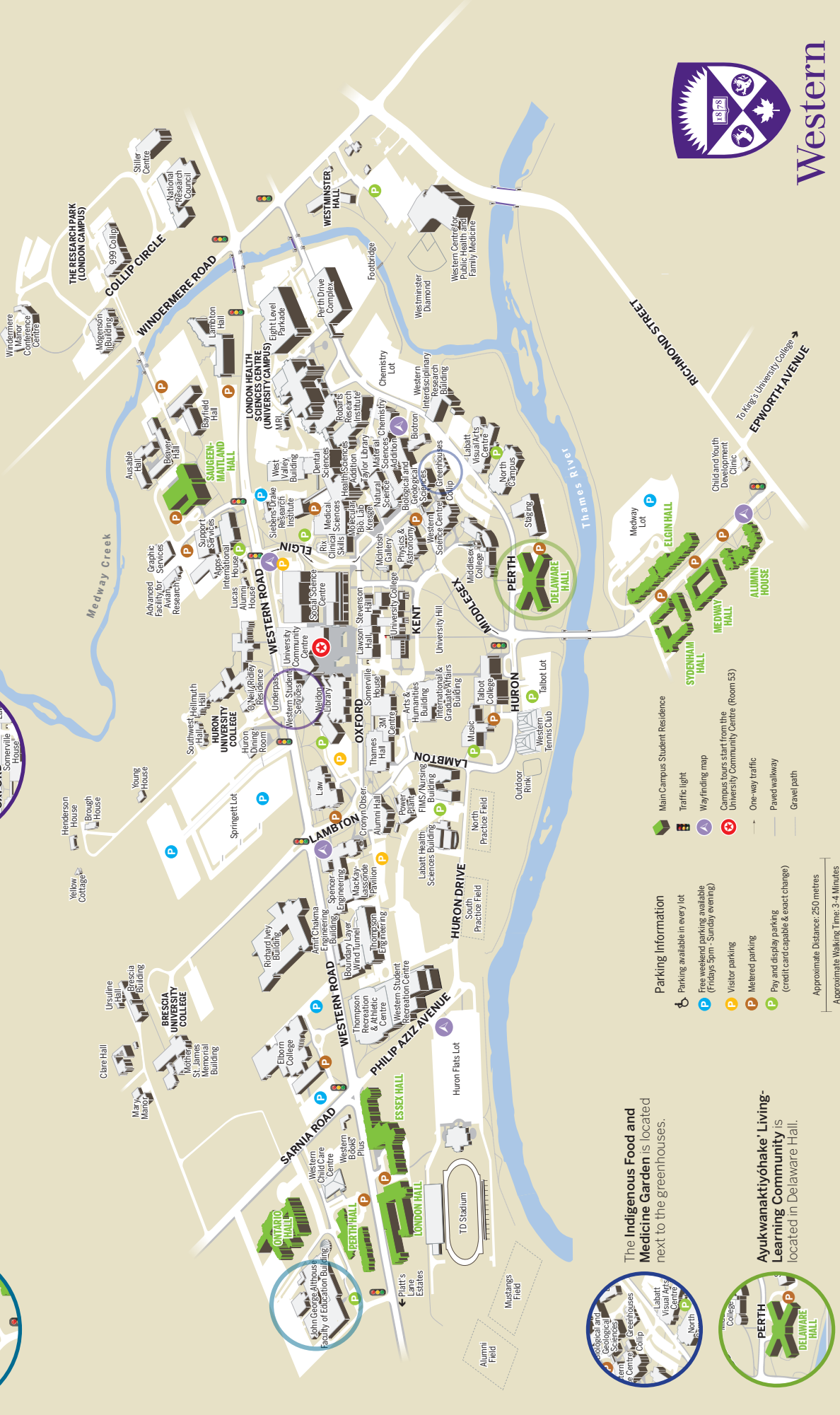




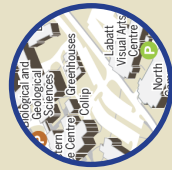
The Indigenous Learning Space, set to open in summer 2020, will act as a home-place for Indigenous learning initiatives at Western, and as a touchstone for Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples to gather and learn together, building relationships in the spirit of reconciliation, decolonization and indigenization. Learn more at [indigenouslylearningspace.uwo.ca](http://indigenouslylearningspace.uwo.ca)



Indigenous Student Centre is located in Room 2100, on the second floor of Western Student Services building.



The Indigenous Food and Medicine Garden is located next to the greenhouses.



Ayukwanaktyohake 'Living-Learning Community' is located in Delaware Hall.



Western