

Guy, Kassidy

From: Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies <university.announcements@usask.ca>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2026 8:50 AM
Subject: Maar (March, Michif) Newsletter



Maar (March, Michif)

Tansi, Cousins!

Happy Indigenous Achievement Week!

The team at the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies is immensely proud of each and every one of you! You are all doing exceptional work and the impact is felt in our communities and families. There are some really great events across campus this week, you can find them [here](#).

Congratulations to all our master's and PhD students who received Indigenous Achievement Awards this week:

Sara Arial

Brendon Demerais

Erica Diehl

Jordyn Burnouf

Zenon Walsh

Gabrielle Doreen

Camiryn Kardal

Dessa Gotfriedson

As usual, if you are having trouble registering for any programming, you can contact me at aurora.wolfe@usask.ca and I can input the registration manually.

- Aurora

COUSINS Programming

COUSINS AES Information Session

When: March 17th, 12PM - 1PM

Special guest Kristin Collevy will go through the supports Access and Equity Services (AES) can offer you throughout your graduate studies and answer any questions you have about accommodations.

[Register here.](#)

COUSINS Virtual Beadhive

When: March 20th, 10AM - 1PM

All levels welcome, beginner beading kits available for pick-up at the CGPS office or delivery by post.

This is a closed circle for Indigenous graduate students at USask. [Register now.](#)

Sponsored through the ojateki partnership.

Script Writing with Ryan Moccasin!

Ryan is this year's Indigenous Storyteller in Residence (ISIR).

Curious about what it is like to work in a writer's room? Join Ryan Moccasin on March 18th for a workshop on Script Writing! Learn how to develop characters, pitch ideas and finalize scripts; all without the use of AI. Participants will get the chance to pitch real ideas for an episode of *The Feather News*.

And just like a real writer's room; there will be snacks and coffee! Please register at this link: <https://libcal.usask.ca/event/4003627>

Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre

For registration or questions about Gordon Oakes programming, please contact rebecca.tootosis@usask.ca or tianna.sangwais@usask.ca.

Creativi-Tea

When: March 24th, 1PM - 3PM

Where: Gordon Oakes

Indigenous USask students are invited to relax, create, and connect through arts and crafts, tea, and light refreshments in a welcoming community space.

Intro to Powwow

When: March 25th, 5PM - 6:30PM

Where: Gordon Oakes, main space

This session offers an introductory powwow dance class for all Indigenous students and their families. The session also offers the opportunity to learn from guest dancers as they share their powwow teachings. A student assistant is available to engage with young children.

Snacks and refreshments provided.

Matriarchs in the Making

When: March 17th, 4PM - 6PM

Where: Gordon Oakes, second floor

This drop-in program is open to all Indigenous women, 2-spirit students, staff, and faculty at USask. Join us as we share a meal and support individual and collective journeys of healing, cultural renewal, and kinship care.

Men's Healing Circle

When: March 12th & 26th, 4:30PM - 6:30PM

Protocol 101

When: March 16th, 1PM - 3PM

Dakota Language

When: March 27th, 1PM - 4PM

Belt Making

When: March 28th & 29th

Professional Development

Effective Interview Skills

When: March 18th, 10AM - 12PM AND March 19th, 1PM - 3PM

Polish your interview skills in this two-day virtual workshop series. Participants must attend BOTH days of the workshop to receive a certificate of completion. [Register now.](#)

Beyond Graduate School: Gain access now

Our campus now has access to [Beyond Graduate School](#)'s master's career training platform, a powerful resource designed specifically for master's students.

Through this platform, you'll find:

- On-demand career training
- A master's-level career interview library
- Job search strategies tailored to master's students.

Check out these upcoming Beyond Grad School workshops to learn more:

How To Maintain Your Network During Your Job Search and Beyond

Date: March 18, 2026

Time: 1PM - 1:30PM ET

What to Do if You Are Getting Interviews but No Job Offers

Date: April 1, 2026

Time: 2PM - 2:30PM ET

Master's students are highly encouraged to [log in via our institutional account](#), explore the platform, and register for the webinar to start building a stronger, more effective job search.

Falling Walls Lab Edmonton | Now accepting submissions

[Falling Walls Lab Edmonton](#) is an opportunity for students and early-career research professionals to pitch innovative research that has the potential for major impact. The winner will represent our region on the world stage at Falling Walls in Berlin.

Application Deadline: April 27, 2026

Event Date: May 27, 2026

Contact kenisha.blair@usask.ca for more information.

Indigenous Achievement Week 2026

Congratulations to Dessa Gottfriedson, CGPS Nominee | Indigenous Achievement Award Winner

Dessa Gottfriedson is Secwépemc with Syilx ancestry and is from T'kemplúps te Secwépemc in Kamloops, BC, one of the 17 communities of the Secwépemc Nation within Secwépemcúlecw (Secwépemc territory). She was born and raised in her community, where her family has called T'kemplúps home for generations, and where she continues to live and work in service to her people. Guided by the teachings of her t's wí7emc (ancestors), Dessa carries forward the responsibility to work hard for the tellqélmucw (those yet to be born).

For 26 years, Dessa has dedicated her work to advancing Indigenous education and advocating for the rights of First Nations communities to strengthen and lead their own education systems. Dessa works for her T'kemplúps te Secwépemc community, where she

provides leadership in the planning and direction of education systems that support community members across the lifespan.

As Education Manager, she oversees and directs programs that support early childhood learning, kindergarten to grade twelve education, post-secondary education, trades training, and employment readiness for community members both on and off reserve. Her work focuses on strengthening opportunities for learners while ensuring that education systems remain grounded in Secwépemc culture, language, and community priorities. Through her leadership, Dessa works closely with community members, educational institutions, and government partners to advocate for equitable access to education while supporting programs that strengthen Secwépemc language, culture, and lifelong learning.

Dessa Gottfriedson is the founder of the Le7 te Melámen (Good Medicine) cohort, a community led Secwépemc research and wellness initiative developed in partnership with the University of Saskatchewan and Thompson Rivers University. The program was created in response to the need for culturally grounded healing following the discovery of Le Estcwicwéy (the Missing), the 215+ children at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School, and the ongoing impacts of intergenerational trauma. The initiative brings together Secwépemc scholars and community members as a doctoral research cohort focused on Indigenous wellness and the development of Indigenous counsellors and researchers who will support healing within their own communities. Dessa is both the founder of the initiative and a member of the Le7 te Melámen cohort, where she is currently pursuing her PhD in Indigenous counselling at the University of Saskatchewan.

Dessa's work reflects a commitment to honouring the interconnectedness of mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual health, and the deep relationships between people, community, and land. Through both her leadership in education and her work in counselling, she remains dedicated to strengthening community wellbeing and supporting future generations of Indigenous learners and leaders

Congratulations, Dessa!

*This newsletter is distributed to Indigenous graduate students. Don't want to receive this newsletter? **Contact cgps.comms@usask.ca with your NSID to unsubscribe.***



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