

The purpose of this monthly communication is to share items of interest related to admissions and transfer in Alberta. All issues of *Spotlight* are posted at www.acat.gov.ab.ca/.

ACAT HIGHLIGHTS

Approved Action Plan: ACAT's new [2013–2016 Action Plan](#) has been approved by Council. This plan outlines key strategic initiatives with a focus on leadership, collaboration, research, technology, learner pathways and mobility. ACAT has identified five goals (Articulation Committee Model, Admissions Practices, Learning Outcomes, Communication, Governance) and priority initiatives that will guide this work through the Council's and Secretariat's activities over the next three years.

Articulation Committees: Two new [ACAT Articulation Committees](#) held their inaugural meetings in November: Studio-Based on Nov. 19 and Mathematics and Statistical Sciences on Nov. 22. Ongoing Articulation Committees that met this fall include Business (Oct. 17), Sociology (Nov. 1), Aboriginal Education (Nov. 26), Languages (Oct. 25 and Nov. 29), and Engineering (Dec. 6). For further meeting dates or information, please visit the [website](#).

Non-Alberta Transfer System Member Agreements: ACAT is pleased to announce the activation of the first non-Alberta transfer system member agreements in Transfer Alberta between The King's University College and Vanguard College.

LEARNER PATHWAYS

Dual Credit: Opportunities to submit applications for the second/remaining intake for the Provincial Dual Credit Strategy are now scheduled. Application package information will be available January 7, 2014, with details about information sessions, application workshops, the online submission process, and the deadline for applications of April 8, 2014 (5:00 p.m. MST). Please see the [provincial website](#) for more information, including details regarding the completion of the first intake (available soon).

CAPLA Workshops and Panel: The ACAT Secretariat and interested Alberta transfer system institutions recently (November 17–19) participated in the [Canadian Association for Prior Learning Assessment \(CAPLA\)](#) workshops and conference with a focus on competencies. Post-conference videos and information are available on CAPLA's site. Alberta is also participating on CAPLA's Pan-Canadian Recognition of Prior Learning Quality Assurance Project Advisory Committee, which met on November 20. The project is funded by the Government of Canada and its purpose is to create Pan-Canadian Quality Assurance Guidelines for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) to guide assessment of immigrants through RPL across contexts, contribute to organizational effectiveness, and promote labour force development. For more information visit the [RPL website](#).

Unique Indigenous Pathways and Initiatives:

- [University of Alberta \(U of A\) Joint Degree with Blue Quills First Nations College](#). The collaborative efforts of the U of A and Blue Quills First Nations College created a Partnership program for students to receive a Master of Education (MEd) degree with both institution's names on the parchment. The MEd program focuses on sharing and understanding Indigenous knowledge systems, histories and experiences, and requires students to complete, within a two-year period, 12 courses (7 from the U of A and 5 from the College). Twenty of the 22 graduates from this Partnership program are Indigenous, representing the largest cohort of Indigenous graduates from the Faculty of Education and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research.
- [Bow Valley College Iniiikokaan's \(Buffalo Lodge\) Aboriginal Centre](#). The Centre, which opened November 15, 2013, is a dedicated special place for Aboriginal learners, faculty and staff. For the 400 Bow Valley Aboriginal students, this Centre is a place to share ideas and experiences, utilize their languages, and share their cultures and spiritual ways. Education is the 'new buffalo' that offers the promise of students engaging in lifelong learning while gaining a shared understanding of Aboriginal teachings and ways of life.
- [Connecting the Dots: Progress Highlights: Aboriginal Workforce and Economic Development in Alberta \(2013\)](#). This progress report is a follow-up to the 2011 *Government of Alberta Response to Connecting the Dots*. The progress highlights of the nine strategic priorities include information about the Aboriginal Workforce Strategy, which is targeted for release in 2014, and the Northeast Alberta Apprenticeship Initiative (a Treaty 6-led initiative delivered by the Tribal Chiefs Employment and Training Services Association (TCETSA)).

RESOURCE LINKS

The [Blackfoot and First Nations Métis and Inuit Protocol Handbook](#) provides information and serves as a guideline for University of Lethbridge faculty and staff regarding recognition of Blackfoot and First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) cultures.

[Walking Together: First Nations, Métis and Inuit Perspectives in Curriculum](#). This digital resource from Alberta Education provides authentic information in 12 topic areas identified in the circle of stones, featuring interviews with well-respected and knowledgeable Elders, cultural experts and educators. Links to additional resources are located in the weblinks in the Exploring Connections section of each of the 12 topic areas.