

David T. Barnard, President and Vice Chancellor
ABEP Informal Gathering
November 4, 2014 11:30 am – 12:30 pm
Asper School of Business, Student Lounge, Main Floor (outside Fishbowl)

Other speakers:

- **Dr. Wanda Wuttunee**, Director, ABEP will introduce you.
 - **M. Benarroch**, Dean of Asper School of Business
 - **TBD**, ABEP Alum
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Suggested Speaking Notes:

- Good Morning. Thank you, Wanda.
- The University of Manitoba campuses are located on the original lands of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation.
- We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

- Our vibrant and welcoming community is home to more than 2,000 First Nations, Metis and Inuit students, staff, and faculty.
- We have made it a clear priority to offer opportunities for our students to connect with supportive, understanding communities on all of our campuses.
- The Aboriginal Business Education Partners (ABEP) is a perfect example of such a community.
- Since 1995, ABEP has worked with First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students to offer a vibrant community, academic support, financial aid, and employment opportunities.
- Made up of Indigenous students in pursuit of a Bachelor of Commerce at the Asper School of Business, this program supports its students from application to graduation and beyond.
- This is an incredibly valuable resource to our students, our university and our province.

- Indigenous youth are the fastest growing population group in Manitoba and are the key to the future of this province.
- Young Indigenous professionals are going to be critical in helping our province to reach its full potential.
- ABEP develops the innovators, challengers and defenders who do just that.
- Indeed, ABEP graduates are employed in important positions at major corporations and in non-profit organizations, and have started their own businesses across Manitoba, Canada, and the world.
- Some have gone back home to their communities, others have chosen a new home, but all stand as examples of how education can lead to a life of success and significance.
- ABEP alumni (some of you are with us today) represent our university with distinction.

- We are truly proud of these leaders and grateful for their immeasurable contributions to our university community.
- It is impossible to know exactly where these graduates would be today if it was not for ABEP, but we do know that none of us can achieve our dreams without people around us who believe in us and invest in our futures.
- One of the greatest opportunities in this province is fuelling the potential of First Nations, Metis and Inuit youth.
- I truly believe that Manitoba can and will become a centre of excellence for Indigenous achievement, and the University of Manitoba will be a driving force of that success.
- The leaders represented here today are a very important part of that.
- Thank you to everyone who works to ensure the success of ABEP and its members.
- This program has accomplished a great deal in 20 years, and the best is still to come.