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U of R unveils Progress Pride Flag and two new scholarships

By University Advancement and Communications Posted: September 21, 2021 3:00 p.m.



UR Pride Campus Programs Manager Brendan Campbell, University of Regina President & Vice-Chancellor Dr. Jeff Keshen, and University of Regina Student's Union President Hannah Tait pose with the newly unveiled Progress Pride Flag *Photo: UAC*

A new Progress Pride Flag was unveiled in the Riddell Centre today replacing the original Pride Flag, which was first displayed in 2015. The new Progress Pride Flag was designed in 2018 and features the addition of a five-coloured chevron to the classic rainbow flag design to place a greater emphasis on inclusion and progression. The new flag includes black and brown stripes to represent marginalized

2SLGBTQIAP+ (Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, Pansexual, and more) communities of colour, along with the colours pink, light blue, and white, which are used on the Transgender Pride Flag.

University of Regina President & Vice-Chancellor Dr. Jeff Keshen, UR Pride Campus Programs Manager Brendan Campbell, and University of Regina Student's Union (URSU) President Hannah Tait all participated in the unveiling. Also attending were special guests from UR Pride, U of R Queer Initiative, U of R Executive Team, URSU, and Queen City Pride.

"The University of Regina's Board of Governors, students, faculty, and staff are working hard to make our institution a more inclusive and welcoming environment for all and today is a significant step forward in that journey," said Keshen. "Well-being and Belonging is one of the five areas of focus in the University of Regina's strategic plan and we are committed to creating a space where everyone feels a part of our community."



Today's event also recognized University of Regina Vice-President (Administration) Dave Button and his son Patrick (a U of R alumnus and professor at Tulane University in Louisiana), whose generous contributions helped establish two new scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students who demonstrate community involvement in social justice initiatives. The Button Family EDI Award supports an undergraduate student who has demonstrated financial need and community involvement in social justice initiatives, and the Button Family EDI Graduate Research Award supports a graduate student whose research focuses on social responsibility, anti-racism, inclusion, or reconciliation.

"One reason I loved being a U of R student was the hard work done by numerous University groups to improve inclusion and reduce discriminatory barriers on campus and in the community," said Patrick Button. "I am delighted to work with my father, Dave and the U of R to support our students in their

important community work and research related to equity, diversity, and inclusion, especially for intersectional and Indigenous groups."

"These awards are another way to acknowledge, support, and celebrate our exceptional students who are making a positive difference in the world and are the leaders of tomorrow," said Keshen. "Like the Progress Pride Flag we are unveiling today, these scholarships are a tangible commitment to EDI on our campuses."

More information on the Button Family EDI Awards can be found by visiting the <u>Student Awards Management System</u> or <u>Graduate Awards Portal</u> and searching keyword "EDI".

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