

Aboriginal Education Research Network

Jurisdiction: Saskatchewan

Contact: Maureen Johns Simpson

Level: K-12

Theme: Government or board policies

Description of Practice:

Saskatchewan Learning coordinates the *Aboriginal Education Research Network* (AERN), a voluntary forum for education stakeholders and academic institutions in the province. AERN targets areas for joint research that clarify educational issues, that offer opportunity for collaborative research and that take advantage of over-lapping research interests and funding opportunities. Research generates motivation and desire for innovating and improving the learning community for the benefit of increased student achievement.

Background:

The AERN builds upon the previous work of the Saskatchewan Education Research Network. The province invests in approved proposals based on the following principles: focus on quality and excellence in education for Saskatchewan students, cooperation and collaboration in educational research, open and inclusive, cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary, respect for individual orientations and agendas of member organizations, integrity in research design and reporting of data, community involved and valued in the research, capacity building and appreciation for Saskatchewan cultural values and context in research.

Development:

Saskatchewan Learning provides organizational support and facilitation to AERN. In 2003, an Aboriginal Research Work Plan was developed and broadly communicated with education partners (including First Nations and Métis representation). In 2004, the AERN was formally established and provided with a budget to support a call for expressions of interest. In 2005, research contracts were awarded to selected proposals including:

- Decolonizing the classroom: Bringing Indigenous Knowledge into School; Lessons from the Teachings of the Six Seasons of the Northern Cree (***this one was cancelled***);
- Aboriginal Knowledge and Perspectives;
- Identifying, Delivering and Assessing Best Practices With Middle Years' Students;
- Aboriginal Identity and Learning: An Assessment of Educational Practices in a Rural Saskatchewan Collegiate ;
- Kakīyaw Pē-itohtēwak - Everybody Comes;
- Building School Climate Through Shared Governance;
- Strengthening Community through Science Curriculum Actualization;
- Helping Our Children: Victoria School/Keeseekoose Chiefs Education Centre;

- When Aboriginal and Métis Teachers use Storytelling as an Instructive Practice; and,
- Legacy of Learning – the Impact of Adult Education within Community Schools

In 2006, a gathering is being planned to share research findings.

Evidence:

Based on the projects published under the Saskatchewan Learning Research Network there is interest in applying promising practices throughout the learning community. While the emphasis of the first round of research seemed to be more focused on the classroom, this second round has a broader approach. Projects will be shared at a gathering of all stakeholders and researchers in the fall of 2006.

Adaptability:

These practices can be adaptable to the needs and context of any jurisdiction.

Further Information:

First Nations and Métis Education
Saskatchewan Learning
306-787-7727

For documents see Saskatchewan Learning website:
www.sasklearning.gov.sk.ca