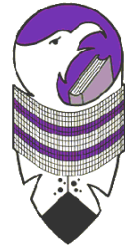




Grand River Post Secondary  
Education Office



## Press Release – June 30, 2009

The Grand River Post Secondary Board (GRPSB) and the Six Nations Polytechnic Board (SNPB) share a positive vision of Six Nations that is strong. The strength of this vision comes from our growing numbers of post secondary graduates and our capacity to build on our strengths as Onkwehon:we.

Therefore, in support of community based culturally relevant post secondary education, the Boards have entered into an agreement that will provide for Rebecca Jamieson, the current GRPSEO Director of Student Services & Counselling, to assume the duties of CEO, Six Nations Polytechnic effective September 1, 2009 for a period of one year.

Rebecca will maintain a collaborative working relationship with the Grand River Post Secondary Education Office. In particular she will continue in an advocacy role regarding the future of post secondary funding as this is a critical matter for both organizations. As provided in Grand River Post Secondary Board, Executive Succession Policy, Justine Henhawk-Bomberry will serve as Acting Director of Student Services and Counselling on a full time basis effective September 1, 2009.

Linda Staats, current CEO with Six Nations Polytechnic will continue with Six Nations Polytechnic with a focus on academic planning and quality assurance measures.

Both Boards look forward to strengthening their working relationship in support of their common vision.

The staff of both organizations look forward to the opportunities that this collaboration will bring.

For more information contact:

Six Nations Polytechnic (519)-445-0023  
Board Chair – Bonnie Freeman  
[www.snpolytechnic.com](http://www.snpolytechnic.com)

Grand River Post Secondary Education Office, (519) 445-2219  
Board Chair – Brenda Davis  
[www.grpseo.org](http://www.grpseo.org)

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Background:

**Six Nations Polytechnic** is a native focused institution of learning located at Six Nations of the Grand River. Six Nations Polytechnic is taking a lead role in bridging the chasm of understanding between cultures so all can move forward with optimism in the 21st century. Six Nations Polytechnic, as an institution of the people of Six Nations, offers community based education where graduates are fully prepared to participate in the broader economy while having an opportunity to study and maintain Six Nations language and culture. Six Nations Polytechnic is becoming the catalyst that offers the opportunity and place for our Native scholars and elders to share their knowledge with all our people and to offer the non-Native an opportunity to study a different worldview. On June 26, 2009 Six Nations and McMaster University celebrated the launch of the Ojwehoweh Language Diploma program and the Indigenous Knowledge Centre with the signing of a Collaborative Agreement indicating the signatories' intent to collaborate toward the continuance and revitalization of indigenous knowledge and ways of living.

Six Nations Polytechnic also offers a range of post secondary programs in partnership with Brock University, Laurier University, McMaster University, University of Guelph, University of Waterloo and University of Western Ontario, Mohawk College, Niagara College and St. Lawrence College. Six Nations Polytechnic also collaborates with other Aboriginal Institutes in Ontario to further the objectives of culturally relevant post secondary education and training.

**Rebecca Jamieson**, Tuscarora, Six Nations of the Grand River - For the past fourteen years, Rebecca has been the Director of Student Services and Counselling for the Grand River Post Secondary Education Office at Six Nations of the Grand River. The GRPSEO provides funding and education plan counselling to Six Nations students attending college and university. The office serves over 700 students annually, the majority of whom attend school in Ontario, Canada and New York, USA. The office is located at the Six Nations of the Grand River, a First Nation community located approximately 150 km southwest of Toronto.

Rebecca has been involved at all levels of First Nations education in a wide range of roles including counselling; teaching; policy, curriculum and institutional research and development; teacher education; administration and governance. In Ontario, Rebecca has also been actively involved in public post secondary education, serving as the first Executive Director of the College Standards and Accreditation Council (CSAC), and on the Board of Governors for several Ontario Universities and Mohawk College. She continues to develop strategies and partnerships designed to support student success.

Rebecca holds an undergraduate degree in psychology and philosophy from Wilfrid Laurier University and a Master of Education from the University of Toronto. Rebecca is a member of the College of Teachers and holds Supervisory Officers Qualifications. She is trained in mediation and alternative dispute resolution and is a Graduate of the Carver Institute, Policy Governance.

Rebecca was most recently honoured with the Order of Ontario for her contributions to Aboriginal Post Secondary Education.

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