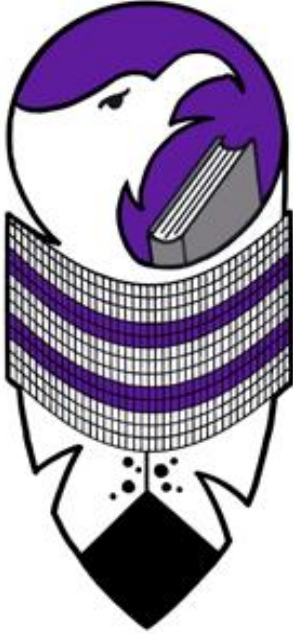


EDUCATION...A PATH TO TOMORROW



**GRAND RIVER
POST
SECONDARY
BOARD
NEWSLETTER**

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MOTIVATE ♦ INSPIRE ♦ EDUCATE ♦ CHALLENGE



Dr. Sabrina Redwing-Saunders is Delaware/Mohawk.

Like so many of us, Sabrina has had the opportunity to embark on an educational career **due to the financial support** the Grand River Post Secondary Education Office brings to our community. Her doctorate was the only degree she completed in Canada. Before moving home in 2001 to raise her children, she attended school in Buffalo. She has undergraduate degrees in early childhood education, sociology, and elementary education; and master's degrees in educational administration and socio-education. She is still repaying the U.S. student loans.

Having experienced a relatively poor educational background which resulted in her dropping out of high school, she really wanted to work in educational research and find **ways to improve student success**. Her doctorate has allowed her to build an educational research business which informs school boards and educational ministries of key important issues pertaining to our

children's success. Without the degree those in authority would have never listened. Now she has a place at that table and she is engaged in an ongoing battle to make headway in resolving the multiple problems faced by First Nations' youth in both on and off-reserve education.

Sabrina personally thinks her greatest accomplishment is that she is the mother of two wonderful children who understand the opportunities that are ahead of them and will help accomplish their dreams because she is teaching them how to be independent thinkers and learners. (She thinks Canada would say her biggest accomplishment to be her doctorate or the other five degrees she has.)

The next greatest accomplishment that she is very proud of is our public library. Since she set out managing the Six Nations Public Library in 2007, the collections have expanded to include a wealth of literacy resources for youth and adults. We have the **largest Native collection of research materials** south of Ottawa's Library and Archives Canada, and one day, she hopes we will surpass them concerning the local relevant materials of our community.

Major challenges Sabrina had to face were all the usual challenges of money, time, and distance. She feels that **school is a job**, and this job is demanding work. She returned to post-secondary as an adult so family, bills, and work were all things that demanded her time. Sometimes she believes that her **commitment and dedication** to her studies was only because she was an adult and didn't have time to mess around. There was always a grandparent, child, or job needing her. For this reason

it was very important for her to find supports at home and in school. Her Native counsellor, academic supervisor and family were the reasons she was successful. Although her children proved to be her greatest challenge as a student, they were also her reason for being in school. She hopes they have as many good memories as she has of the multi-generational homework nights around the kitchen table.

When at post-secondary or high school, it is so easy to get lost in all the information and experiences. The values and principles that guided Sabrina while a university student, was to **stay grounded** and accept the information, yet not to **lose herself**. She likes to apply the metaphor of being at a buffet. Her identity was the buffet plate and the information and experiences were the tasty treats. In order to get the experience she was paying for, she had to keep her identity and be balanced otherwise all the stuff she was collecting would just be wasted.

As a former post-secondary counsellor Sabrina would often hear students talking about their post secondary benefits and living allowance as an entitlement. Although she agrees these are treaty rights and we must all fight for them, she **never considered herself entitled**. She viewed school as a job, and our community as the benefactor of her hard work. “GRPSEO was invested in me and I feel that it is my **responsibility** to do something positive to **reimburse that investment**.”

It was also important for Sabrina to gain her education and work in our community towards some collective good. Although the income and job opportunities at Six Nations aren't great,

it is so important to **reinvest in our community**. Her grandfather, George Peters, always spoke about “loyalty to the company”. As a community we all need to look at the collective health of our education system and our children's future. She hopes everyone will find some means that they can **support our children's future** and help them to **define and create** their own success stories.

One key challenge that our community and other Nations across Turtle Island face is that we are the fastest growing population group. Unfortunately, we also have the lowest levels of educational attainment. We need to **come together** and **demonstrate** to our children how to be **good students** so they can reach all the opportunities in front of them. It doesn't matter what career path we take in life: professional, trades, parent, entrepreneur—they are all a potential for every diapered child we hold and love. When we know how to learn and be taught in healthy and responsible ways, those **opportunities are reachable**.

As we make decisions for our futures, Sabrina would like to share, that as a high school dropout, many people looked at her and decided where she would end up, or if she was worth their time. She **never allowed people to define her**. Having a degree isn't the game itself, but rather the ticket in. If you **keep plugging along and don't give up**, so many great opportunities lie in wait for each of us. We **owe it to ourselves**, our families and everyone who has **fought for our right** to grab those opportunities and do great things.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Grand River Post Secondary Board (GRPSB) and the Six Nations Polytechnic Board (SNPB) are pleased to make the following announcements.

Effective September 1, 2011 **Taina Lickers** will be the Director of Student Services and Counselling with the GRPSEO. Rebecca Jamieson, who served as the GRPSEO Director of Student Services and Counselling with the GRPSEO for 15 years, will continue as President-CEO with Six Nations Polytechnic on a full time basis.

REMINDERS

GRADUATE PROMOTION

The Post Secondary Office invites all Six Nations Post Secondary graduates to participate in a graduate promotion showcasing their photos and programs in local papers. Deadline for photo, consent and final marks is October 31st. Please contact the office at (519) 445-2219.

ALL YOU CAN EAT EDUCATION WEEK

Six Nations Community Hall, November 22 and 23 2011

This year Mohawk College has teamed up with the Aboriginal Post Secondary Information Program, the Grand River Post Secondary Education Office, the Grand Erie District School Board and the Six Nations Elementary Schools. They have joined forces to create an AWESOME opportunity for Six Nations Members of all ages. All Aboriginal recruitment officers from post secondary institutes in Ontario will be present. This event will replace the annual GRPSEO Post Secondary Information Day.

APPLICATION CALENDAR 2012

- May 17** Application Deadline for Fall or Fall/Winter semester(s) ***Apply on-line!***
Winter Marks/Progress Reports due for all continuing students.
Levels 3 & 4 provide Letter of Good Academic Standing.
Summer course registration/timetable and detailed tuition fees due.
- July 1** Official Transcripts due from students with any assistance following the previous July.
For fall applicants, funds will be decommitted if the transcript is not received.
- Sept 17** Application deadline for Winter semester – ***Apply on-line!***
Summer Marks/Progress Reports due for all continuing students.
Levels 3 & 4 provide Letter of Good Academic Standing.
Fall course registration/timetable and detailed tuition fees due.
- Jan 17** Application deadline for Summer semester ***Apply on-line!***
Fall Marks/Progress Reports due for all continuing students.
Levels 3 & 4 provide Letter of Good Academic Standing.
Winter course registration/timetable and detailed tuition fees due.

***Late applications will not be processed. Please apply before the deadline.**
