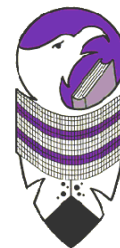




Grand River Post Secondary  
Education Office



## Press Release – August 26, 2011

As a result of collaboration in organizational leadership over the last two years, 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. “Taina (Ty) has served as the Assistant Director for one year and has clearly demonstrated her ability to successfully perform the Director’s responsibilities,” states Brenda Davis, GRPSB Board Chair. Taina brings 16 years of experience in Program Management and her dedication and passion for the success of our Aboriginal students to the considerable duties of Director. Ty is a graduate from McMaster University and is working on her Masters of Education with Brock University.

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. “Six Nations Polytechnic is very pleased to have Rebecca Jamieson join us as President-CEO on a full time basis. With Rebecca leadership and experience we look forward to continued growth and development in quality community based education in support of community capacity building,” states SNPB Chair Bonnie Freeman.

“It has been an honour and privilege to work with the Grand River Post Secondary Education Office Board and staff in support of the education successes of our students. I look forward to my continued involvement with Six Nations Polytechnic. So much has been accomplished thanks to the commitment the Board, staff, students and community at large since the institute started out in 1993. We look to the future with great optimism in the areas of languages and indigenous knowledge revitalization and all strategic community human resource needs. A major goal for the coming year is to attain degree granting status in languages and indigenous knowledge while continuing our successful partnerships with public colleges and universities. I am especially pleased that Linda Staats, Six Nations Polytechnics’ first CEO will continue with the institute as the Program Manager and Registrar. Linda led the institute from its beginnings and we appreciate her valued contribution in this new role.” Rebecca Jamieson

Both Boards look forward to continued collaboration in support of their common vision of a strong community and quality community based culturally relevant post secondary education.

For more information contact:

Brenda Davis or Taina Lickers, Grand River Post Secondary Education Office, (519) 445-2219  
Bonnie Freeman or Rebecca Jamieson, Six Nations Polytechnic (519) 445 0023

---

## **Background:**

**Six Nations Polytechnic**, an indigenous controlled institution located at Six Nations of the Grand River First Nations, has offered college and university programs through agreements with public colleges and universities since 1993. With the formal launch of Deyohahá:ge: (the Indigenous Knowledge Centre), Six Nations Polytechnic's unique contribution to post secondary education involves:

- (1) Graduating learners with the skills to be self-sufficient and employable while maintaining a commitment to Six Nations culture and community;
- (2) Engagement of Aboriginal peoples (indigenous knowledge holders and scholars) directly in the research, development and quality assurance of indigenous scholarship consistent with culturally appropriate protocols;
- (3) A unique capacity to bring together authentic knowledge with a critical mass of academics with research and program interests in Hodinohso:ni knowledge and languages;
- (4) The growing availability of “authentic” resources to increase the state of indigenous scholarship;
- (5) A focus on the long term revitalization of Hodinohso:ni languages and culture and overall quality of life for the Hodinohso:ni. (Currently all Hodinohso:ni languages are at risk of extinction.); and
- (6) The implementation of Ontario's recently launched Aboriginal Postsecondary Education and Training Policy Framework (2011) while increasing the state of indigenous scholarship.

Six Nations Polytechnic is supported in its unique contributions by Indigenous Knowledge Guardians acknowledged by the Six Nations Polytechnic Board as Professors of Hodinohs]:ni' Indigenous Knowledge and eight PhD Associate professors (indigenous and non-indigenous) with research and program interests in Hodinohso:ni knowledge and languages.

The **Grand River Post Secondary Education Office (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. The GRPSEO is acknowledged as an exemplar organization for post secondary student support program management and administration.

**Rebecca Jamieson**, Tuscarora, Six Nations of the Grand River joined Six Nations Polytechnic as the president-CEO in 2009 on secondment from the Grand River Post Secondary Education Office (GRPSEO while maintaining oversight management responsibilities with the GRPSEO.

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 postsecondary 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. In 2009, Rebecca received the Order of Ontario for her contributions to Aboriginal Post Secondary Education.

**Taina Lickers**, Mohawk, Six Nations of the Grand River brings sixteen years of program management experience including 8 specific to aboriginal education to her new role. Ty's leadership skills have also developed through her involvement with Skate Canada (30 years) and her service as a skating coach for 16 years. Ty remains active in the sport of Figure Skating as a skater, coach and volunteer.

Six Nations Polytechnic (519)-445-0023  
Board Chair – Bonnie Freeman

Grand River Post Secondary Education Office, (519) 445-2219  
Board Chair – Brenda Davis