STEM+ - Building STEM career capacity for undergraduate Indigenous students

The University of Saskatchewan "STEM+| Building STEM career capacity among prospective and current undergraduate Indigenous students" project aims to support the success of Indigenous students in STEM degree pathways with innovative, academically integrated programming.

STEM+ delivery will be supported by the creation of a new ISAP STEM+ Coach staff position, who will work within and between existing academic and cultural programs; leveraging campus, community, and industry partnerships to enhance students' academic confidence, digital literacy, and career readiness with culturally responsive learning opportunities and mentored participation in career-oriented internship experiences. Their goal is to build a strong applicant pool to both professional STEM degree programs and career opportunities in the Natural Resources and Mining sectors—areas of vital importance to the economic and social resilience of communities across Saskatchewan.

Working with established campus networks, STEM+ has potential to reach between *90 and 120* students per term within the College of Arts & Science, as well as Indigenous engineering and agriculture and bioresources students through co-curricular initiatives. We anticipate measurable short-term program outcomes including:

- Increased number of applicants to Indigenous STEM awards, summer internship and other opportunities.
- > Increased retention in STEM degree programs beyond second year.
- Increased participation of student parents and Indigenous women in STEM degree programs.
- Increased student participation in STEM-focused events and introduction of students to professional networks and associations throughout the province, including industry and academic mentorship opportunities that support career readiness.
- Iterative program evaluation and development, leading to increased understanding of best practices to support the success and career agency of STEM-focused Indigenous post-secondary learners.

<u>STEM Pathways - College of Arts and Science |</u> <u>University of Saskatchewan (usask.ca)</u>

Proponent: University of Saskatchewan

Project Duration: May 2022 to September 2024

Project Cost: \$335,000

IMII Contribution: \$235,000

University of Saskatchewan: \$80,000

Sask Power: \$20,000

