Gabriel Dumont Institute  
Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP)  
Operational Highlights 2014-2015

SUNTEP Regina

Location: University of Regina

Staff Complement:
- Janice R. Thompson: Program Coordinator
- Erma Taylor: Administrative Assistant
- Russell Fayant: Faculty
- Brenna Pacholko: Faculty
- Jennifer Reid-Vandervord: Faculty

Student Update: 41

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Program Highlights:
Faculty member, Russell Fayant secured a secondment with the Government of Saskatchewan, Ministry of Education for the Te Kotahitanga’: Sharing Our Voices initiative. Russell’s invaluable contribution to the project resulted in consulting and research/writing work with various educators and stakeholders from Saskatchewan.

The Fifth Annual Sports for Life: Indigenous Youth, Health, and the Future of Saskatchewan conference welcomed more than 150 Aboriginal youth in Grades 7-12 from Regina and surrounding communities to the University of Regina. Natalie Lukiw, international beach volleyball star and coach, along with Fred Sasakamoose, the first Indigenous player in the National Hockey League, was the keynote speaker. The event was hosted in collaboration with the University of Regina Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies, Aboriginal Student Centre, and SUNTEP Regina.

The University of Regina Executive Lead for Indigenization Dr. Shauneen Pete, and SUNTEP Regina hosted invited guest, the University of Saskatchewan Métis Scholar Dr. Chris Andersen, for his “Métis Identity” presentation. Staff and students engaged in conversations about Metis pride, culture, and ways of knowing.
Consultants, Michelle Mougeot and Anastasia Halipchak with the Instruction Student Achievement and Supports Branch, Ministry of Education regularly met with Program Coordinator, Janice R. Thompson and Sessional Lecturer, Isy Azzopardi. The meetings discussed the need for supports in post-secondary courses focusing on inclusion and intervention planning in Saskatchewan schools. SUNTEP Regina was chosen to participate in a review of the draft electronic Inclusion and Intervention Plan (eIIP) for feedback. The eIIP was implemented in the EPSY 322 class for the duration of the fall semester. It was an honour to assist the Ministry of Education with feedback for further project development.

Saskatchewan Teachers Federation (STF) representatives Kevin Schmidt and Tish Karpa discussed professional learning opportunities for SUNTEP pre-service student teachers with SUNTEP staff. The meeting helped lay the foundation for establishing a partnership of support and guidance with respect to student needs, Indigenization, and promoting the STF. As a result, second and third year students participated in an STF professional module facilitated by Kevin Schmidt and Michael Gatin. The module focused on such areas as Welcome to the Teaching Profession, Associate Membership, Teacher Services, and Indigenization, which provided students with an overview of the STF. We look forward to working with the STF in the future.

Facilitating the 2015 SUNTEP Internship Seminar at the Regina Travelodge was extra special as Nunavut Teacher Education Program (NTEP) Academic Advisor and Instructor Mary Akulukjuk, and University of Regina Faculty of Education NTEP Liaison Julie Machnaik participated and observed at this event. The result of this experience with pre-service interns, co-operating teachers, and invited guests was positive and successful. We look forward to facilitating the seminar again in the future, along with Métis Knowledge Keeper Norma Welsh providing continued guidance and support.

*SUNTEP Students Indigenizing Curriculum: Moving Beyond Beads, Bannock, and Buckskin.* Faculty member Jennifer Reid-Vandevord, along with second year students Doug Jarvis, Elsa McKenzie, and Crystal Norris presented four Métis perspective curriculum sessions at the WestCAST 2015 conference at the University of Saskatchewan. The presenters welcomed the opportunity to share ideas with other teachers and students in the field, engage in a practice based conference, learn more about the teaching profession, and network with teacher candidates from across Western Canada. This is the first time since 2008 that SUNTEP Regina facilitated workshop sessions at the student teacher conference. The WestCAST 2015 conference was featured in the Education News, Faculty of Education, University of Regina, Fall 2014/Winter 2015 edition. Please see link below for full details. 

Scholarship awards presented during the 2014-2015 academic year:
The Faculty of Education at the University of Regina held its annual spring “Academic Excellence” student recognition reception. Seven students were recognized for their exceptional academic achievement in the 2014-2015 academic year: Kaitlyn Skilliter, Elsa Ramos-McKenzie, Douglas Jarvis, Chelsie Sinclair, Cassandra Fisher, Sydney Lemieux, and Victoria Parisien attended and received their awards. We are very proud of the students’ achievements.

The *David Amyotte Memorial Scholarship* was presented to graduate Victoria Parisian. This award was established by the Amyotte family to recognize those students who promote Aboriginal culture in the classroom, demonstrate teaching potential and leadership in the SUNTEP program, and promote the goals of cross-cultural education, much as David did during his time as a SUNTEP student and teacher.

The *Spirit of SUNTEP* was awarded to graduate Cassandra Fisher. The award recognizes community leadership and involvement by SUNTEP students and is given to a member of the graduating class who has demonstrated the spirit of SUNTEP as visualized by the Métis people of Saskatchewan established 33 years ago.

The *Lebret Métis Cultural Days Award* was presented to Samuel Fayant. Established in 2010, this award is a ten year scholarship project at the request of the Lebret Métis Cultural Days Committee. The purpose of the scholarship is to recognize academic achievement, financial need, and community involvement. The *Lebret Métis Cultural Days Award* also seeks to recognize Métis students who have a current or historical connection to the traditional Métis settlement of Lebret.

Centre Activities and Program Development:
The students actively participated in professional and cultural modules throughout the academic year which included,

Lebret Trip - All SUNTEP staff and students
ORE - Jennifer Reid-Vandevord and Norma Welsh
Riel Walking Tour - Russell Fayant
Tipi Raising - Roland Kaye, Leonard Daniels, and Dennis Omseasoo, Elders
Treaty Four Celebration Trip – Brenna Pacholko
Aboriginal Content and Perspectives - Russell Fayant and Brenna Pacholko
Regina Red Cross, Respect ED - Neal Hughes, Lead Facilitator
Information Technology - Jo Szostak, Consultant
Métis History and Storytelling – Joe Walsh, Métis Knowledge Keeper.

Fourth year students Cassandra Fisher and Sydney Lemieux were chosen by the
University of Regina, Intercultural Exchange Program to travel to Mexico. The opportunity to travel to an Indigenous post-secondary institution was priceless. Upon their return, they shared their experiences at the Aboriginal Student Centre.

Program Coordinator Janice R. Thompson, University of Regina Indigenization Executive Lead Dr. Shauneen Pete, and Dr. Peter L. Twohig of Saint Mary’s University in Halifax, NS met to discuss indigenization in the SUNTEP Regina’s program. Saint Mary’s University was eager to learn about the SUNTEP program as they are in the early stages of establishing indigenization for their post-secondary campus.

Administrative Assistant Erma Taylor taught a weekly Michif Language class to program staff and students. This informal class engaged participants in the Michif language. Extending her language expertise in the Métis community, Erma offered the class to residents of Gabriel Manor in Regina. We are very fortunate to have Erma share the Michif language, knowledge, and culture.

In the early fall, a ‘Come and Go Celebration of Life’ at the Regina Speers Family Centre was held for the late Dr. Hellmut Lang. Dr. Lang was a long-time advocate, sessional instructor, advisor, and friend of the SUNTEP Regina program. Janice R. Thompson spoke on behalf of GDI/SUNTEP at the event.

The passing of Marlene Parisian brought together a number of SUNTEP Regina and Métis community members. Marlene was a graduate of the first SUNTEP Regina graduating class, and had been a long-time supporter of the program. Her three sons and a grandson have also graduated from the program. As well, Marlene’s grand-daughter Victoria graduated in spring 2015. Marlene will be fondly remembered.

Faculty member Brenna Pacholko, Sessional Lecturer Isy Azzopardi, and fourth year students attended the Social Justice and Anti-racist Anti-oppressive Forum on Education (SAFE) at the University of Regina Faculty of Education. Sessions highlighted teaching and activism in their complex iterations, exploring the possibilities of engaging in this work and the challenges of working across difference in contexts already over-determined by racism and multiple forms of oppression. This forum will become an annual event.

Invited guest Wilfred Burton attended reading and language arts classes in the program. Having a renowned Métis educator discuss his curriculum and writing experiences with staff and students was invaluable.

The second and fourth year students were invited to spend the day at the Leading Thunderbird Lodge (LTL) in Fort Qu’Appelle, Saskatchewan. The staff and students participated in bison dressing and tanning. Faculty member Brenna Pacholko initiated and coordinated the event, along with Russell Fayant.
It was an honour to host invited guest from the University of Manitoba, Academic Scholar Sherry Farrell-Racette. Dr. Farrell-Racette provided a presentation to the INDG 221 class and held discussions with staff members. It was a pleasure to host a long-time supporter of the program.

Administrative Assistant Erma Taylor was invited to attend and provide the opening prayer at the ‘Meet the Authors’ Book Launch for the Gabriel Dumont Institute and Regina Public Schools Emergent Reader Series. Supporting and engaging in local community events is a priority for the SUNTEP program.

Faculty Members Russell Fayant, Brenna Pacholko, and Jennifer Reid-Vandevord participated in the Discovering Our Direction conference held at the University of Regina, Faculty of Education. Staff facilitated a Finger Weaving workshop with Grade 9 students, learning about Metis people, the SUNTEP program, and future post-secondary education options. We look forward to participating in this annual event.

The second and third year students, along with Faculty members, Brenna Pacholko and Jennifer Reid-Vandevord, attended the annual Regina Teacher’s Convention day, “Think About It”. This professional development event provided students and staff opportunity for engagement in numerous educational sessions and experiences.

The University of Regina Aboriginal Student Centre held a one day Post-Secondary Forum where Program Coordinator Janice R. Thompson presented information about Gabriel Dumont Institute. The purpose of the forum was information gathering and engaging in conversations to better support Aboriginal students. Future gatherings will be planned.

Fourth year students attended and participated in the Gabriel Dumont Institute Bringing Metis Children Literature to Life Workshop with Wilfred Burton in Regina.

The University of Regina Faculty of Education hosted a four-day Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women event, including two panels from Faculty. The symposium also included a student panel and a World Café Event. The second day focused was on “How are we teaching about Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women in the Professional Programs?” Faculty members Russell Fayant, Brenna Pacholko, and Jennifer Reid-Vandevord attended the event.

The Northern Games were held at Scott Collegiate for the elementary students attending Albert, Imperial, Kitchener, and McDermid schools. Faculty member Brenna Pacholko and first year students volunteered at the tournament. This annual event is an invaluable opportunity for SUNTEP students to meet and network with administration and teachers from Regina Public schools.
Pre-service Interns attended Wilfred Burton’s ‘Métis Resources Workshop’ at the Gabriel Dumont Institute in Regina. This experience provided students and others with opportunities to explore various ways of implementing Métis resources in their practicum classrooms.

**Student Awards and Accomplishments:**

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| Lemieux, Sydney | University of Regina Academic Silver Scholarship  
                            University of Regina Aboriginal Bursary  
                            University of Regina Miscellaneous One Time Scholarship - Mexico |
| Fisher, Cassie      | University of Regina Academic Gold Scholarship  
                            University of Regina CIC Aboriginal Bursary  
                            University of Regina Aboriginal Bursary  
                            University of Regina Miscellaneous One Time Scholarship - Mexico  
                            City of Regina Henry Baker Scholarship  
                            Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan Bursary |
| Parisien, Victoria | University of Regina Academic Silver Scholarship  
                            University of Regina Aboriginal Bursary  
                            University of Regina CIC Aboriginal Bursary  
                            Marlene (Wood) Steininger Memorial Scholarship |
| Rope, Mariah      | University of Regina Meshsem Scholarship  
                            University of Regina Friends of University of Regina Undergraduate Award |

**SUNTEP Regina 2015 Graduates:**
The 32nd Annual SUNTEP Regina Graduation ceremony was held at the Delta Regina Hotel on Friday May 8, 2015 for six SUNTEP students who were graduating. The celebration was attended by over 200 people including family, friends, students, and invited guests. The graduation theme was ‘Sharing in our Learning Journey’ translated in Michif, ‘Kahkeeyow kee weechihinaan zeusk  ouma ka takowshiahk’

1. Fayant, Samuel
2. Fisher, Cassandra
3. Gold, Samantha
4. Lemieux, Sydney
5. Parisien, Victoria
6. Rope, Mariah

**SUNTEP Regina 2015 Graduates’ Employment:**

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Staff Complement:
Liza Brown Program Coordinator  
Donna Biggins Administrative Assistant  
Sandy Sherwin-Shields Faculty  
Linda Lysyk Faculty  
Leah Dorion Faculty  
Corey Teeter Faculty  
Jeannette Eddolls Instructor

Student Update:
As of August 2014, SUNTEP Prince Albert had a total of 87 students, who were enrolled as follows:

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Centre Activities:
The Prince Albert Centre began the 2014-2015 school year with its annual orientation. The new students took part in a two-day orientation with the Staff and the SUNTEP Prince Albert Student Representative Council. They had two full days of information regarding academics, policies, student loans and other important items of what to expect from the program.

The following week all SUNTEP Prince Albert students attended the annual fall cultural retreat at Camp Kinasao in Christopher Lake. The weather was beautiful, the food was excellent, and the elders and resource people provided informative sessions for the students to participate in. Some of the elders were Vivian Meabry, Florence Allen, Norma Welsh, and Susie and Lyle Bear. We also had a few resource people such as Robert Shatilla, Doug Allen, Jed Huntley and a few others.
In September, the Gabriel Dumont Institute Scholarship Coordinator Laurie Bouvier visited the SUNTEP Prince Albert Center and discussed the student funding opportunities that are available through the Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation. We also hosted a meeting at the request of Michael Relland, former SUNTEP Prince Albert Coordinator and current head of the Gabriel Dumont Institute-University of Regina Master of Education program, that involved the Saskatchewan Rivers School Division Director of Education Robert Bratford, and Catholic School Division Director of Education Laurie Tournier. As well, the Prince Albert Centre is in close contact with the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan.

During the reporting year, faculty and student representatives attended several career fairs across northern Saskatchewan. Areas visited included Cumberland House, Beardy's and Okemasis First Nation, and the Prince Albert Campus of the Saskatchewan Polytechnic.

The Student Representative Council hosted or facilitated a number of activities throughout the year. These included the Orientation, Culture Camp, Spirit Week, a Halloween Family Fun Night complete with Zombies, the first Friday Lunch Event, and a weekly sandwich sale weekly. Other activities included a fruit sale daily, SUNTEP clothing apparel orders, Sprinter Festival, and the Spring Cultural Camp. The students participate in the Prince Albert Centre activities as much as they can without compromising their studies.

The Student Representative Council officials for the 2014-2015 year were:

- President Amanda Sororka
- Vice President (2nd Year) Taylor Lamb
- Vice President (3rd Year) Keisha Newell
- Secretary Devyn Sachkowski
- Treasurer Heather LaRose
- Environmental Committee Representative Jennifer Gerow
- Professional Development Coordinator Tammy Stonestand
- Professional Development Coordinator Michelle Ferland-Murphy / Kyle Mackie
- Sports Representative Jayson McLeod
- Sports Representative Jordyn Mourot

The Cultural Committee held various events and professional development sessions during Friday lunch hour throughout the year. Many of the events were focused on the profession of teaching, community building, and integration of Indigenous cultures in classrooms. The events also included a live theatre act Wesakejak by Kurtis McAdam and Paul Daigneault.

As per norm, the third year students were in their field placement in November.
In the second term the first, second and third years go out again in February and in April for one week in each month, with the exception of the third years, they do two weeks in April. During the field experience weeks all faculty assist with any supervision that is needed.

The first year student teachers had their practicums at the Queen Mary Community School in Prince Albert where they were supervised by Sandy Sherwin-Shields and Corey. Having all the SUNTEP Prince Albert first year students made the management of supervision more efficient and we are very thankful for the school’s request to have our students placed in such a way.

The second year students were placed in Métis and First Nations community schools within the greater Prince Albert area including those in the Sturgeon Lake First Nation, Little Red First Nation, and Duck Lake. The students are placed in pairs or small groups at each of the schools. The second year students were supervised by Linda Lysyk, Leah Dorion, and Sandy Sherwin-Shields. Our connection to these schools is important and provides a wider range of experience and knowledge for the students. We appreciate the opportunity to place the students in these schools.

The third year students had their practicum placements within the Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division and the Prince Albert Roman Catholic Separate School Division. These placements are very important for the pre-cursor to their final practicum in fourth year and so the students’ progress is of particular interest at this time for us as a staff. Jeannette Eddolls is the instructor who oversees the third year and Liza Brown assists with the supervision.

**SUNTEP Prince Albert 2015 Graduate Update**

The Graduation Ceremony of 2015 was held at the E. A. Rawlinson Centre in Prince Albert on May 15, 2015 in honour of 15 graduates. The third year students assisted with some preparations for the day’s event, Sandy prepared a slideshow and the remaining faculty helped with other parts of the celebration. The Riverside Community School dancers did a wonderful presentation of square dancing and jigging.

The highlight this year was that we had the renowned father-son duo Dallas and Phil Boyer play fiddle music during the graduate procession, as well as the presentation of a Métis sash to each of the graduates. The sash is an important culture symbol to the Métis people. Mike Simon, the guest guitar player, entertained prior to and at the end of the ceremony. We did have high profile guests that included representatives of Gabriel Dumont Institute, the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, the University of Saskatchewan, school divisions, and cooperating teachers. Also in attendance was the Gabriel Dumont Institute Board of Governors Vice Chair Glenn Lafleur, public figures and dignitaries. The graduates were very happy and enjoyed the celebration. It was a wonderful
celebration for all.

To date, 12 of the 15 graduates (80 percent) have accepted teaching positions in Saskatchewan as follows:

- Delanie Adams Beavereye - Unknown
- Krystal Bartley – Saskatchewan Rivers School Division.
- Chantelle Bear – One Arrow First Nation School (Saskatoon Tribal Council).
- Braden Bernier - planned year off
- Joel Hamilton – Saskatchewan Rivers School Division.
- Caitlin Crawford-Morley – Saskatchewan Rivers School Division.
- Chanel Panas – Unknown
- Shelby Parenteau – Prince Albert Catholic School Division.
- Kelsey Pilon – Saskatchewan Rivers School Division.
- Colleen Scarrow – Saskatchewan Rivers School Division.
- Lindsay Selander – Saskatchewan Rivers School Division.
- Tanya Vancoughnett - Saskatchewan Rivers School Division.
- Megan Walsh - Saskatchewan Rivers School Division.

**SUNTEP Prince Albert Class of 2015 Employment Update:**

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In June, the annual Spring Cultural Camp was held at the Fish Lake Cultural Site. The theme this year was “Living Off The Land”. At the two day camp, the students had an opportunity to learn more about the Road Allowance Métis People, basic survival skills, ribbon skirts, nature, setting up a teepee, outdoor cooking, Cree songs and music, filleting fish, traditional plants and their uses, and beadings.

It is noted that there were some students who received scholarships/awards of some type during the year as well.

**SUNTEP Prince Albert Graduates Who Received Further Education**

Since 1983, 494 Aboriginal students have graduated with a Bachelor of Education degree from SUNTEP Prince Albert. Of these, 47 (or 9.5 percent) have completed post-SUNTEP studies in 43 different fields including postgraduate certificates, and masters and doctoral degrees.
Gabriel Dumont Institute
Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP)
Operational Highlights
2014-2015

SUNTEP Saskatoon

Location: Room 7, McLean Hall, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK

Staff Complement:
Murray Hamilton - Program Coordinator
Ruth Bird-Anderson - Administrative Assistant
Lori Perkins - Temporary Administrative Assistant
Ashley Shaw – Student Librarian

Student Enrollment:

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<td>Year 4 – 13</td>
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Administrative Activities:
April 2014 was a busy month with final exams and preparations for student
teaching placements for the second and third year cohorts. Interviews of
prospective students were held the last week of May. University of Saskatchewan
related business includes but is not limited to attending:
- University of Saskatchewan Council
- College of Education Faculty Meetings
- Undergraduate Program Committee Meetings
- Student Affairs and Academic Standards Committee
- Aboriginal Advisors Meetings

Once again, this year much of the discussion arising from the aforementioned
meetings was the revisions to and implementation of the current Bachelor of
Education program.

Program Highlights:
- April 25-27: For the first time ever, a “Michif Language Workshop” was
  held at SUNTEP Saskatoon. The instructor was Norman Fleury. The
  participants included current and former students, as well as Métis
  educators from other educational institutions.
- May 1-2: The Program Coordinator and a number of students attended the
  annual AWASIS Aboriginal Education Conference.
- May 9: The Program Coordinator and a couple of students visited the SUNTEP Regina which provided an opportunity to meet with SUNTEP Regina students, faculty, and staff.
- June 5: The Program Coordinator and a number of students attended the Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre (SIMFC)’s Annual Aboriginal High School Awards Ceremony. This is an important event which provides an excellent opportunity to network with schools and fellow educators and is also a good place to recruit prospective students.
- July 17-20: Several students attended the annual Back To Batoche Days and volunteered with many of the events.
- September 2: Our new students attended the SUNTEP Saskatoon and College of Education new student orientation.
- September 5: Once again students and staff enjoyed our annual excursion to the Batoche National Historic Site. This field trip is always an inspirational experience.
- September 16: Our first year cohort spent the day working with students at St. Mary’s School.
- October 30: SUNTEP Saskatoon students enjoyed a special presentation by Métis artist and author Christi Belcourt on her artwork and her role in “Walking with Our Sisters.”

Other SUNTEP Saskatoon highlights include:
- November 20: The University of Saskatchewan held a special forum on Aboriginal Achievement which brought together most of the Aboriginal-focused programs on campus to compare strategies to foster achievement across the University.
- November 25: To encourage culture and cuisine, the students organized a “Bangs and Bullets” workshop at the College of Education home economics facilities.
- December 3: The students and staff had the opportunity to hear a special presentation by Emma Maurice, a visiting Maori scholar and student from the University of Canterbury, New Zealand. It was an opportunity to discuss comparative Maori and Métis issues.
- December 8-9: The Program Coordinator, Emma Maurice (Maori scholar and student), and SUNTEP Saskatoon third year student travelled to Île-à-la-Crosse to meet with school officials and community leaders about educational issues. The trip also provided an opportunity for recruitment.
- December 12: The Program Coordinator and a number of students visited at St. Mary’s School for their annual Christmas dinner.
- December 15: The Program Coordinator and several students were at Westmount School for the book launch of the Taanishi Book series, written by Angie Caron (SUNS alumni) and Wilfred Burton.
- January 16, 2015: The College of Education Awards ceremonies were held with four SUNTEP Saskatoon students, Chantelle Gaudet, Samson LaMontagne, Jamie Flasch, and Sara Davies, receiving awards.
February 2-6: Aboriginal Achievement Week was celebrated at the University of Saskatchewan to recognize Aboriginal achievement and leadership. In honor of the late Harry Daniels, SUNTEP Saskatoon presented *Métis High Cooking*, an episode of Full Circle that is hosted by Harry Daniels and Roger Cardinal which features Métis cooking. SUNTEP Saskatoon also hosted a mini-film series by showing Ikwe and Mistress Madeline.

February 9-13: SUNTEP Saskatoon second year students once again enjoyed an inspirational and, for some, a life changing experience journey to Red River. The field trip was part of the Métis History 280.6 course and provided the students with an opportunity to engage in some primary research and to visit the numerous Métis historical sites.

**SUNTEP Saskatoon 2015 Graduates:**
- Deirdre Boyer
- Simona Fern
- Jamie Flasch
- Heather Hutton
- Samson LaMontagne
- Tiffney McKnight
- Carmen Miller
- Karianne Morin
- Laurie Morin
- Landon Nadon
- Tawna Natomagan
- Randi Ross
- Ashley Shaw