



For immediate release — Friday, September 11, 2026

University of Lethbridge celebrates launch of Southern Alberta Medical Program

Join the University of Lethbridge community as it celebrates the launch of the Southern Alberta Medical Program (SAMP) — Sokinaki Okakssksin (health awareness or medical awareness).

WHAT: Launch Celebration

WHEN: Monday, Sept. 14, Noon (Formal program begins at 12:30 p.m.)

WHERE: Markin Hall Atrium

One of two newly established Rural Medical Education Program Training Centres in Alberta, SAMP is a joint initiative between the Cumming School of Medicine at the University of Calgary and the University of Lethbridge. Through Government of Alberta funding support, the program aims to attract learners with strong connections to rural and regional communities.

The University will welcome Honourable Justin Wright, Minister of Primary and Preventative Health Services; Dr. Sandra Davidson (BN '96), Provost and Vice-President (Academic), UCalgary; Dr. Rick Buck, Associate Dean, Southern Alberta Medical Program; and Dr. Michelle Helstein, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), ULethbridge; and others to mark an important milestone for both institutions and for Alberta.

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Our University's Blackfoot name is Iniskim, meaning Sacred Buffalo Stone. The University is located in traditional Blackfoot Confederacy territory. We honour the Blackfoot people and their traditional ways of knowing in caring for this land, as well as all Indigenous Peoples who have helped shape and continue to strengthen our University community.