University of Lethbridge

Media Advisory

For immediate release — Monday, November 23, 2026

Travelling post-secondary fair highlights educational pathways for Blackfoot communities

The EleV Iksisstowaapi Kanakkaatsi (Going All Out Society) Education Navigator team, based at the University of Lethbridge, will be travelling around southern Alberta this week to connect prospective Indigenous students in Blackfoot communities to post-secondary institutions.

WHAT: Media availability with EleV Education Navigator team

WHEN: Tuesday, Nov. 24, 11 a.m.

WHERE: Essies Ballroom, Sandman Signature Lethbridge Lodge

EleV is a partnership between the Blackfoot Confederacy, the MasterCard Foundation and ULethbridge that works to strengthen the pathways and transition to post-secondary education for Blackfoot youth and mature learners.

This third annual Blackfoot Fall Community Post-Secondary Institution (PSI) Fair will make four stops in four days. The fair gives individuals in Blackfoot communities an opportunity to explore post-secondary options in Western Canada, with recruiters from participating institutions sharing information about admissions as well as their academic and Indigenous programming. This is the first year that the EleV team has partnered with Post-Secondary Indigenous Recruitment Association (PIRAA) to present the PSI Fairs.

There will be about a dozen institutions represented including the University of Lethbridge, University of Alberta, Bow Valley College, SAIT and NAIT, Red Crow Community College and Lethbridge Polytechnic and more.

“Helping Indigenous students get into and through post-secondary is at the core of what our team does,” says Deserae Ootohkotskinna (BA ’17), Piikani Nation Education Navigator with EleV.

Grounded in Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Learning (IWKL), the education navigators act as community liaisons, advisors and co-creators — helping Blackfoot students navigate the application and admissions process but also continue to provide support to ensure success and completion once enrolled.

“We know that for some Indigenous students, this is their first time going to post-secondary,” says Aakohpoisskiiaakii (Face Painted Many Times Woman) Jill Chief Calf (BA '12), Kanai Education Navigator. “They may be the first in their entire family venturing out into college, the trades and universities.”

The EleV Going All Out Society team provides a wide range of information related to post-secondary programs and services that will enhance Indigenous student access, success and quality of their learning experience. They do classroom presentations, community events and parent/partner/family information sessions around scholarships, funding and the process of applying to schools.

PSI fair schedule:

- **Monday, Nov. 23 | 1 to 3 p.m.** — Siksika Nation High School gym
- **Tuesday, Nov. 24 | 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** — Essies Ballroom, Sandman Signature Lethbridge Lodge
- **Wednesday, Nov. 25 | 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** — White Calf Hall, Standoff (Kainai)
- **Thursday, Nov. 26 | 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** — Multipurpose Building, Brocket (Piikani)

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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.