

Community and Public Support

It has been 84 years since the first group of students walked through the doors of St. Peter's College (SPC). Since that time, St. Peter's College has had a major affect on the Village of Muenster, as well as communities for miles around.

Today, St. Peter's College continues to provide a distinct service to the students and families of rural Saskatchewan. As an affiliate college of the University of Saskatchewan, SPC provides an excellent transition stage or stepping-stone for students, especially rural students, going from high school into university.

St. Peter's College provides access to a university education by giving persons the opportunity to study within the region. This opportunity provides the means for many more students to undertake university level education by way of substantial financial savings, while at the same time benefits the communities they come from, by keeping their spending dollars in the community.

St. Peter's College gives students a unique and progressive learning environment. Its small campus provides a university experience that gives students self-assurance through the opportunity to play an active part in College life; students can explore a broad range of activities that will give each of them a sense of community and quality skills that will help them prepare for their career and life.

The College Administration and Faculty are dedicated to their students and known for their total commitment to them. St. Peter's College has high academic standards and a track record of academic success. By continually listening to the students and the citizens of our communities and examining their own role in Saskatchewan, St. Peter's College has been able to provide an effective service to the people of Saskatchewan, especially the people of Muenster and the surrounding communities. It is our hope that this will continue for many years to come.

- Mayor Benno Korte, Village of Muenster

I attended St. Peter's College for three years in the late 1950`s and this experience, plus having spoken to many recent alumni, has convinced me that St. Peters is a very special place. In my own situation it helped me to complete two degrees at the University of Saskatchewan after being a marginal student prior to St. Peter's. It also helped me to develop leadership skills, to gain a life long spiritual appreciation, and to participate in many sports.

The more recent alumni that I converse with tell me that St. Peter's is a great transition between smaller high schools and a large University. A study of St. Peter's grads shows that they receive a higher percentage of scholarships, are on more dean`s honor rolls and simply have greater success than students who do not go to St. Peter's for at least one year. These are some of the things that motivate me to do all I can to help keep this institution operating.

- Germain Dauk, St. Peter's College Alumnus

St Peter's College provides a sense of community that you don't find at many other colleges.

- Dr. Gerald Junk, Board Chair and Alumnus of St. Peter's College

To the members of the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild, this place was Holy ground--so much so, that writers from Ontario, BC, Eastern Canada, the United States and elsewhere began to apply. More recently, the facilities at the College have been the venue for seminars on art and the environment, or for the practice of poetry. Whenever the College brings in renowned writers from all over the country, there is a friendly mix of College students and professional writers and artists attending their talks and readings.

The result of this intermingling of teachers, writers, writing students and national luminaries (Don McKay, Robert Kroetsch, Jan Zwicky, Lorna Crozier, the list goes on and on) is that St. Peter's College has become a site of excellence for the Arts. Wherever I travel in Canada (which I do extensively), writers and artists will ask me about the College and the many programs it hosts. Our creative writing programs at the University of Saskatchewan have scarcely ever been heard of, but St. Peter's College is known throughout the country as a place where serious intellectuals and artists gather to teach, learn and write. And this in turn is due to the hospitality for which the Abbey is famous, and the College that so many serious writers have come to think of as a haven for their best work.

- David Carpenter, Saskatchewan Writers' Guild

We are in the same community, and they have great facilities over there, and we use them a lot to help us host provincial cross country, provincial soccer and so on. We have a good working relationship with them, and they are always able to let us use their facilities.

- Marvin Renneberg, Muenster High School Teacher

We commend St. Peter's College for their Commitment towards Post-Secondary Education in Muenster and the surrounding area. We are very lucky to have the College in our area and find that working with the Staff at S.P.C. has always been a 'win-win' situation for all concerned.

- Leon Winkel, Muenster School

I had an incredible time there. The experience, everything about it, the teachers are absolutely incredible, the experience and the entire staff...they're just great. You get a personal teaching experience not available at most other post-secondary institutions. It's great to start university at St. Peter's, better to ease into it than jump right into most post-secondary programs.

- Tarrel Sterner (class 2004) current University of Saskatchewan Commerce student

One of our long-standing and cherished partnerships is with St. Peter's College. We look forward to a future in which St. Peter's College and the University of Saskatchewan work together to advance post-secondary education in Saskatchewan.

- Peter MacKinnon, President, University of Saskatchewan

As a parent of a university (St. Peter's College) student, the option of having a child remain in the community while furthering their education is a great opportunity. I know that SPC students get good instruction; I've heard it over and over from other parents and students. The costs of a post-secondary education are high enough, but the added expense of the cost of living by being away from home can make the price pretty prohibitive, even out of reach for some. On a pure cost basis, St. Peter's classes have consistently been below those of the U of S or U of R. Being able to live at home means even more savings. Having the student remain in the community helps the local economy as well. It's a win-win situation. Not only do you save a lot of money, they get a great education!

- Parent of a current St. Peter's student

We try to educate the whole person here – intellectually, physically and spiritually.
- Colleen Fitzgerald, Past President St. Peter's College

We try to turn every bit of research into practical results for the surrounding communities.

- Diane Martz, Director the Centre for Rural Studies and Enrichment

St. Peter's College serves a pivotal role in contributing to the economic growth and sustainability of Saskatchewan cities and communities.
- Brenda Friestadt, Action Humboldt

I have been involved pretty well since the day the Humboldt soccer Association first went into the gym at St. Peter's, right through to the renovation period and to what the facility is today...it's just beautiful in there. We have hosted tournaments there for Sask. Soccer. We've invited teams from all over Northern Saskatchewan, PA, North Battleford, Lloydminster, etc. It is the largest facility outside of Saskatoon and Regina.

- Miles Jorgenson, Soccer Parent

St. Peter's College offers to the junior hockey player a very unique opportunity not available to other junior players in Saskatchewan. By attending St. Peter's while playing with the Broncos, they are able to further their educations and yet not be tied to the University sports program. This enables them to receive offers from educational institutes across the country and abroad. Many of our athletes have been able to attend prestigious colleges, Princeton being an example, to further their educational and athletic pursuits. Thus, the Humboldt Broncos are able to attract a different type of player...the serious player with his sights on both his educational future and hockey future.

- Dean Brockman, Humboldt Broncos

Humboldt and region, and indeed Saskatchewan, are fortunate to have St. Peter's College and Carlton Trail Regional College; the two Colleges offer a uniquely integrated and collaborative approach to post-secondary education and training.

St. Peter's College focuses on a community-based experience for the first two university years, whereas Carlton Trail Regional College's mandate is primarily to provide Adult Basic education and vocational-technical programming that is responsive to regional needs. The two institutions have a long-standing partnership agreement that encourages collaboration, as in the joint delivery of business certificate classes, and communication, with opportunities for regular and timely consultation. Both share a commitment to participate in the region's economic and social development as evidenced most recently in their support of Action Humboldt.

It is perhaps in the ancillary programs and services that both Colleges excel. St. Peter's College has built a solid reputation as a center for the arts, while Carlton Trail Regional College maintains a student- and client-centered model for career and employment counselling.

St. Peter's College and Carlton Trail Regional College have invested resources in developing innovative approaches to address future needs. The proposed student residence in Muenster promises an enhanced learning environment on-campus. Both Colleges have placed a high priority on technology-enhanced learning, thereby extending the Colleges' reach well beyond the local and regional setting.

One can look with pride at the joint and separate accomplishments of the two institutions, while looking with anticipation toward a very different and challenging future.

**- Rob Barber, Chief Executive Officer Carlton
Trail Regional College
Muenster School**

Private Support

The College, by virtue of its location, reinforced my love and respect for the open prairies, for the fragile environment and for the communities it served. It provided unique opportunities for me and others like me. St. Peter's was a life-altering experience.

**- Paul J. Hoenmans (class 1950), retired Director and
Executive Vice President, Mobil Oil Corporation**

A commitment to rural education is a commitment to rural revitalization and sustainability. St. Peter's College has always been an integral part of the communities surrounding it. There's no doubt that a well-educated and informed population will be what will sustain the rural way of life.

**- Rod Lessmeister, Syngenta
Canada**

We look at what St. Peter's College can continue to do for our young people and create a vibrant community for our area. In our view, a strong St. Pete's is good for our whole community and definitely good for our business.

**- Florian Possberg, CEO Big Sky
Farms Inc.**

Doepker Industries Ltd. is proud to be a supporter of St. Peter's College. We realize the value of having St. Peter's College in our part of rural Saskatchewan. This institution not only provides excellent education for the students but it helps us recruit people to our company and be a source of training and education for our employees and their children. It is an essential part of the infrastructure that we need to maintain our business in the local communities and it will be even more important in the future with the looming skills shortage in our province.

- Dave Doepker, Executive Chairman of the Board, Doepker Industries Ltd.

Finishing a major campaign is a very tangible statement of how the alumni and the commercial community is in support of what is happening at St. Peter's. It's been a very good two-way street in this area. From the Board's perspective, we believe that St. Peter's College has delivered a lot to the community and the community is regularly affirming its appreciation of the College. The Board has been doing strategic planning, and like any organization, wrestling with the future. With input from all our stakeholders, we've determined that there is a lot of interest in moving forward, so with this positive feedback in hand, we have worked at setting up new directions and we are acting on them. We are excited about what is happening and look with great anticipation towards the future, confident that St. Peter's College will be there, front and centre.

- James Wasserman – Board Member & CEO, Prairie Agriculture Machinery Institute

I am so grateful to have received a scholarship from SPC. It not only helped financially, but it also gave me a sense of belonging. I really felt cared for and appreciated. Thank-you to all of the generous donors!

**Brittany Schroeder
Arts & Science majoring in Physiology
SPC 2006-07**

The award I received from SPC was greatly appreciated. It aided me in achieving my first year of education in a fun and caring learning environment.

**Nina Gueguen
Arts & Science majoring in Environmental Geography
SPC 2006-07**

I more or less went into this year not knowing what to expect. St. Petes absolutely exceeded anything I thought it could be. All my friends went there and I met some amazing people. The College really works hard to incorporate every student into the college atmosphere. The close relationship between the students, staff and the monks really creates a unique experience that cannot be duplicated. The dances planned by the AMAZING student government provided entertainment for the students, as well as a way to meet other people from surrounding communities. The organized flag football games and the soccer league, were amazing ways to be part of the college community outside of school, and the slow-pitch team looks very promising. Basically St. Petes shocked the hell out of me. I cannot imagine a better first year experience.

Jason Fisher
SPC 2006-07

City life isn't near as good as at St.Petes.

I'd definitely take all my schooling at St. Pete's after finding out what the city is like!

Kevin Poole
SPC 2005-06

St. Pete's profs will put in as much effort as you are willing to put in.

I came to St. Peter's College with a 33% in math, and left St. Peter's College with a 93%. Thanks to my SPC math prof, I am now on my way to an honours degree.

James Thompson
SPC 2004-05

St. Pete's profs will go out of their way to help their students...I have not even spoken to any of my UofS profs yet.

I wish that I could take all four years at SPC.

I could understand Psychology without opening the text.

In comparison to larger institutions, the professors at SPC are much more concerned about teaching than just collecting a paycheck.

Nicole Longmuir
SPC 2005-06

I attended St.Petes because it has a small class room setting, which is an easier transition from highschool to University. I came because it was cheaper tuition than the U of S. The Catholic college setting was appealing to me, coming from a catholic family. The one on one with the prof's is nice, because then you are able to understand what your assignment is, but also become friends with your teachers, making the classroom setting more comfortable. I came back because I am going into Education with and Art major, and was told that Grant was one of the best to learn from.

Christina Lavoie
SPC 2006-07

A Half-Way Step

By: Lisa Christianson

A half-way step between high school and university is what some may consider St. Peter's College to be; Kevin Poole is one of those people.

Kevin grew up on a farm outside of Naicam. In the hope of pursuing a career in Plant Sciences, he attended St. Peter's College for his first year of Agriculture classes. "Agriculture has been a part of my life since I was young, and it's something that comes naturally to me."

He decided to try St. Peter's College because it was close to home, the cost was right and everyone at the college seemed very welcoming. "For me St. Pete's felt like the right place to be because it was like a half-way step between high school and university."

Kevin is currently taking the remaining years of his degree at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, and says it is a whole new setting for him. For Kevin the biggest difference between the U of S and St. Pete's is the size. At the U of S there are many more hallways, people, buildings, and classrooms.

What Kevin misses the most about St. Pete's are the small classes and being able to know your professors. "At St. Pete's it was so nice knowing that if you needed extra help understanding something the professors were right there to help!" Some of his other favorite things included staff such as student services, and the monks. "I got along with everyone; there were all very helpful."

Kevin said that if he would have had the opportunity to attend St. Peter's College for all four years of his degree he would in a heartbeat. "In Saskatoon you are just a number and you don't get the one-on-one time with your professors like you do in Muenster; classes are huge and help is not as readily available."

In Saskatoon the cost factor is a lot higher than it is in a rural area like Muenster. This is another reason why Kevin would have like to been able to take more than one year at St. Pete's. "Although Saskatoon is a very nice city, for me city life is rushed and crowded and I would prefer to live in a rural area."

At St. Pete's Kevin enjoyed all of his classes, but when asked what his favorite class was, he responded, "Biology 110 for sure, I really liked my professor and I have a passion for the subject!" At the U of S his favorite class is Biology 202. Again, he likes his professor and has a desire to learn more about the subject.

Kevin feels that St. Peter's College assisted and prepared him for his second year of university at the campus in Saskatoon. He has no regrets about attending school in Muenster. He believes that it is an academic facility that should not be taken for granted, and used to assist students planning to someday take classes in Saskatoon.

My experience at St. Peter's College was a fundamental part of my growth as a scholar and as a Catholic. Studying there for two years, I benefited from small class sizes, attentive professors, and real support for my faith in an intellectual setting.

**Caitlin Ward
SPC 2002-04**

...way more fun than I ever thought university could be ... the friendliness of the staff and majority of the profs really stood out to me. I always thought St. Pete's was really lame, and dreaded coming here...gotta market this place as a more youth orientated place, as the majority of staff are still young and down for a good time. Bowling was fun, as was the student appreciation night. The relationship between staff and students sets St. Pete's apart.

**Travis Wasserman
SPC 2006-07**

Our son was fortunate to have the opportunity to take university classes at St. Peter's College while playing junior hockey with the Humboldt Broncos. Not only does this contribute to the player's ability to stay in touch with his academic abilities but also contributes to their future options at the end of their junior hockey careers.

Noreen Strueby

"St. Peter's College was invaluable to me. I learned so much about myself and others: socially, academically, athletically, and spiritually"

**Dave Rodney
Class of 1983
Humanitarian, Entrepreneur, Elected Representative
and Two-time Mt. Everest Climber**

"I have always had fond memories of and have been extremely proud to have attended St. Peter's...The current university program maintains the same standards of excellence that St. Peter's has been known for since it was founded in 1921."

**The Honourable Rod. A.A. Zimmer
Class of 1960
Senator**

"St. Peter's College allowed my son to get a quality education without the expense and distraction of a large city. It also meant that he could keep his part-time job for another year."

**Mike Volk
Parent**

"St. Pete's was way better than I expected. It's small enough for it to be a real community and there were lots of fun activities that would not have been offered at other schools."

**Kylee Feland
Class of 2007**

