

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Verna St. Denis

Dr. Verna St. Denis is a Professor of Education at the University of Saskatchewan where she teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in Integrated Anti-Racist Education program, and supervises graduate students' research in anti-racist education in the Department of Educational Foundations. She also provides professional in-service for schools and other educational organizations.

Dr. St. Denis is both Cree and Métis. She grew up as a non-status Indian and Métis in parkland Saskatchewan, and is a member of the Beardy's and Okemasis First Nation. She received her PhD in Anthropology of Education, with expertise in methodologies, from Stanford University (2002). She holds an MA in Community Development from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks (1989), and a B.Ed with Distinction from the University of Saskatchewan (1982).

She has an extensive background as a teacher, researcher, and community engaged scholar working to combat racism. She has published widely in the areas of discourses of racism in education, anti-racism in education, Indigenous residential schools, Aboriginal education and anti-racist education, anti-racism curriculum, and anti-racist pedagogy. Currently, she is a member of the Saskatoon Anti-Racism Network. From 2012-2018 she served on the Anti-Racist Education Committee of the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools; and from 2011-2018 as Advisor for the Social Justice and Anti-Racist/Anti-Oppressive Forum in Education (SAFE) of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation.

Dr. St. Denis is the recipient of numerous awards and honours, including the University of Saskatchewan Students Union Excellence in Teaching Award (2004); the R.W.B. Jackson Award for her article, "Aboriginal education and anti-racist education: Building alliance across cultural and racial identity" (2008); the Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching in the College of Education (2011); the Arbos Award from the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation for distinguished service to education and the teaching profession (2012); a Special Recognition Award by the Canadian Teachers' Federation, which recognizes teacher leaders for their strong, prolonged efforts in social justice education and action (2013); and a Provost's Award for Excellence in Aboriginal Education (2014).

For more information: <https://education.usask.ca/profiles/st-denis.php#About>