

# ALUMNI In Focus

*“First, I would like thank the Treaty 5 members. As an Anishinaabe Kwe (Ojibway Woman) from Whitesand First Nation, I understand I come and live here as a guest on your territory, with this I say chi-miigwech for sharing this land with me.”*

## **Current Job:**

**University Instructor,  
Aboriginal & Northern Studies Program  
Faculty of Arts, Business and Science  
University College of the North  
The Pas, Manitoba.**

## **What her job entails:**

*Upon completion of my undergraduate degree, I obtained a Master of Arts – English degree from Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, ON. After completion, I was offered a position at University College of the North (UCN) in Enrolment Services where I was an Academic Advisor, then later a Student Success Coach. In September, 2016 I took a one-year education leave from UCN to begin a PhD in Native Studies at the University of Manitoba.*

*Upon completion of the required course hours, I applied to UCN as a University Instructor where I currently work with the Faculty of Arts, Business, and Science and teach in the Aboriginal and Northern Studies (ANS) program. I am now a PhD candidate with a research focus in Indigenous literature where I examine the oral and written context as a means for Indigenous self-determination.*

*In my current role, I teach undergraduate ANS courses ranging from first year to fourth year level. Teaching with ANS gives me the opportunity to pass on what I have learned to current and future UCN learners.*

## **Future Plans:**

*My future plan is to achieve my PhD in Native Studies.*



## **Melanie Belmore**

**Bachelor of Arts,  
Double Major,  
Aboriginal &  
Northern Studies &  
English,  
2012**

## **How did your UCN Program Help launch your career?**

*Taking courses at UCN has helped me in understanding the life of a UCN student. With this, I know the challenges and opportunities of studying in the north. It has also prepared me for graduate school, especially in terms of becoming a better researcher.*

## **How did your UCN Program help you achieve and advance your career goals to-date?**

*There is a degree of intimacy at UCN, where faculty and student could build long-lasting relationships. Perhaps it's the smallness of the institution, where students become known on a personal level and the faculty-student relationship goes beyond the student number. Being able to establish this type of relationship provided me with a level of trust, in that my instructors/professors became one of my greatest supports. This is what studying at UCN provided me and what I aspire to achieve.*

## **What key competencies did you acquire?**

*Studying at UCN has provided me research skills and critical analytical thinking. These two skills are imperative beyond institutional walls; I practice them both in my research and in my everyday life. They help me with questioning the world around me so that I can begin looking for solutions for problems that I know exist.*

## **Anything else you would like to share to encourage prospective students?**

*Students have opportunities to utilize supports that UCN has to offer. Take advantage of all supports and services because they can help you along your journey of learning, growing and living. It is okay to reach out and ask for help. In addition, take pride in your work, in your studies, and most importantly, yourself.*