

SFU Press Releases Collection

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MEDIA RELEASE

Media Advisory: SFU's alumni to surpass 150,000 after Fall Convocation Oct. 5–6

October 03, 2017

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Contact:

Justin Wong, University Communications, 778.782.3035/778.782.5151, jrwong@sfu.ca

Photos: <http://i.sfu.ca/qXKTEP> (honorary degree recipients)

Nearly 2,200 students are eligible to graduate during Simon Fraser University's Fall **Convocation** ceremonies October 5–6 – sending the number of alumni at SFU to more than 150,000. At SFU's first Convocation ceremony more than 50 years ago, just 12 degrees were conferred.

Members of the media are welcome to attend all ceremonies. A media viewing area is located on the south end of Convocation Mall, just above the stage area.

There will be two ceremonies daily at 9:45 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Each ceremony begins with a procession into Convocation Mall led by members of SFU's six-time world champion pipe band. Honorary degrees are then conferred at the start of the convocation ceremonies.

WHAT: SFU Fall Convocation

WHEN: October 5-6, 9:45 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. (both days)

WHERE: Convocation Mall, SFU's Burnaby campus

Media parking is available in the upper level of the Central Parkade (see map: <http://i.sfu.ca/ZENBKz>).

During convocation ceremonies, **honorary degrees will be conferred on three distinguished individuals** whose professional and voluntary contributions at home and around the world exemplify citizen engagement:

- **Ivan Coyote, Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa, (Oct. 5 at 9:45 a.m.)**, is an award-winning storyteller and author, and a strong advocate for Canada's LGBTQ2S community. The author of 11 critically-acclaimed books, Coyote is also an educator and renowned live performer.
- **David Gillanders, Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa, (Oct. 6 at 9:45 a.m.)**, is widely cited as one of Canada's best real estate lawyers. As founding chair of the SFU Community Corporation, he led the development of UniverCity, which is now emulated worldwide as a model of sustainable community building.
- **Robert Arthur Williams, Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa, (Oct. 6 at 2:30 p.m.)**, is an urban planner and former provincial MLA and cabinet minister. His leadership, inspiration and action over the past 60 years have helped to improve and transform B.C.'s rural and urban communities, and the lives of its citizens.

ABOUT SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY:

As Canada's engaged university, SFU is defined by its dynamic integration of innovative education, cutting-edge research and far-reaching community engagement. SFU was founded more than 50 years ago with a mission to be a different kind of

university—to bring an interdisciplinary approach to learning, embrace bold initiatives, and engage with communities near and far. Today, SFU is Canada’s leading comprehensive research university and is ranked one of the top universities in the world. With campuses in British Columbia’s three largest cities – Vancouver, Burnaby and Surrey – SFU has eight faculties, delivers almost 150 programs to over 35,000 students, and boasts more than 145,000 alumni in 130 countries around the world.

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Simon Fraser University: Engaging Students. Engaging Research. Engaging Communities.

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Simon Fraser University
8888 University Drive
Burnaby, B.C.





