



Shawna Cunningham, Ed.D.

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Shawna Cunningham, Ed.D., is Métis-Cree from Alberta, and she is currently serving as the acting vice-provost (Indigenous engagement) for the University of Calgary. She is also the director of Indigenous Strategy (Indigenous Engagement) and the former director of the Indigenous student centre (Writing Symbols Lodge) at the University of Calgary. Shawna was one of four co-chairs responsible for the development of the Indigenous Strategy, *ii' taa'poh'to'p*, at the University of Calgary. She has worked in the field of Indigenous post-secondary education for close to thirty years, with expertise in Indigenous student support. In recognition of her work, Shawna received an Exemplary Service Award from the Canadian Association of Universities and Colleges (2015), the Chief David Crowchild Memorial Award from the City of Calgary (2016), a U Make a Difference Award from the University of Calgary (2017) and the Dr. Ralph Steinhauer Award for contributions to the UCalgary Writing Symbols Lodge student centre (2019). She was also admitted to the Order of the University of Calgary in 2018. She completed her doctorate degree at the University of Calgary in 2022, and her thesis titled *Stories from Inside the Circle: Embodied Indigeneity and Resurgent Practice in Post-secondary Institutions* received the 2023 CGS/ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award in the category of Humanities and Fine Arts.