



A Message from Principal Wisdom Tettey: Appointment of Professor Mike DeGagné as Special Advisor to the Vice-President and Principal (UTSC) on Indigenous Initiatives

June 23, 2022

Dear colleagues:

I am pleased to inform you that Professor Mike DeGagné, who will be joining the Department of Sociology on July 1, 2022, has been appointed Special Advisor to the Vice-President and Principal on Indigenous Initiatives. The appointment is for an initial term of two years, commencing July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2024.

As Special Advisor on Indigenous Initiatives, Prof. DeGagné will provide counsel to the Principal and members of the Executive Team on strategic Indigenous Initiatives such as faculty complement development; research culture and support; inclusive curriculum and pedagogy; student recruitment and support. His other responsibilities include facilitating programming in Indigenous House, supporting engagement with Indigenous communities, and mentoring Indigenous faculty, librarians and staff.

Prof. DeGagné is a member of Animakee Wa Zhing 37 First Nation in northwestern Ontario and brings to this role over 30 years of leadership experience in public service and an international reputation as a champion of inclusive excellence. He currently serves as President and CEO of Indspire, a national Indigenous organization that supports Indigenous post-secondary students and recognizes Indigenous excellence through the annual INDSPiRE awards. Prof. DeGagné is Chair of the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, and has held positions as president of Nipissing University and Yukon University, and as Founding Executive Director of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation. In line with our commitment to mutuality in partnerships with Indigenous communities and organizations, Prof. DeGagné will maintain his role at Indspire. This will enable us to strengthen our relationship and shared educational mission with a premier national organization that invests in the education of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people.

Prof. DeGagné is a proud alumnus of UTSC where he earned his HBSc in Biology. He holds a PhD in First Nations Education from Michigan State University and an LLM in Alternative Dispute Resolution from Osgoode Hall Law School, in addition to MA degrees in Administration and in Public Ethics. He is a Member of the Order of Canada, Member of the Order of Ontario, and a recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal and an honorary LLD from Dalhousie University.

Please join me in welcoming Prof. DeGagné back to UTSC and to his role as Special Advisor to the Vice-President and Principal on Indigenous Initiatives.

Sincerely,

Wisdom J. Tettey, PhD, FGA
Vice-President, University of Toronto
Principal, University of Toronto Scarborough