

## Summary of Accomplishments

It's a distinct pleasure to look back over what the JSGS team has accomplished over the last four years. Leadership in JSGS means co-leadership across two universities, and I want to underline that this work would be impossible were it not the exceptional collaboration I enjoy with the Executive Director, Dr. Loleen Berdahl. Dr. Berdahl has provided strategic leadership for the School, been its external voice, and led its University of Saskatchewan operations. I have acted as Dean-equivalent at the University of Regina as regards budget and planning, human resources and mentorship, academic programming and research, and anything else that touched on specifically University of Regina administration and processes. In this work, I've had my 'day-to-day' guided by two central commitments: to the wellbeing of our students, staff, and faculty and to the provision of excellent academic programs.

This summary of my accomplishments as Director is organized into seven headings. The first three are the core commitments of the current JSGS strategic plan: Innovation, Impact, and Integration. We've also done significant work on Reconciliation and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, key areas to the University of Regina Strategic plan. I've played a key role in some University level initiatives and had substantial scholarly successes since December of 2020 when I joined JSGS.

### Innovation

- Led the review of the Masters of Public Administration and its related Internship program.
- Was involved in the review and renewal of the MPP, PhD, and MHA programs
- Have engaged with alumni and public sector partners to hear and address concerns about program outcomes, especially as regards the Internship program
- Have provided support for the development of executive education programming

### Impact

- Was co-investigator on the \$1.7 million Future Skills funded *Governing Sustainable Municipalities* Project in 2023-24, which worked with the Saskatchewan Municipal Sector to build policy tools to enhance the sectors ability to engage in sustainable policy making.
- Established a MITACS funded postdoctoral fellowship cross-appointed between JSGS and the Saskatchewan Association of Urban Municipalities researching sustainable policy making and governance in the sector.
- Actions that raised the School's external profile included: presenting at Provincial Deputy Minister's Council about JSGS programming, hosting Deputy Governor of the Bank of Canada Sharon Koziki, serving on the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion lecture series committee, co-hosting the Future Skills Centre Saskatchewan Insights in Action tour event, serving as discussant or MC on numerous JSGS lectures and public events.

- Served as Saskatchewan Social Scientist on the review of the Elections Saskatchewan internal assessment. Working together with a former CEO of Elections BC, I've conducted an assessment of Elections Saskatchewan processes, training, and stakeholder engagement throughout the 2024 election cycle. This assessment will form part of the report that the CEO of Elections Saskatchewan makes to the Legislature on the conduct of the provincial election.
- Served as Governance Chair, Eden Care Communities Board. Serving people with housing and care needs in Moose Jaw, Saskatoon, and Regina, Eden Care is a sizable local charity serving approximately 300 individuals and families.
- Conducted approximately 60 media interviews with provincial and national media during my time as Director.

### **Integration**

- Revising JSGS's Partnership MOU between USASK and UofR, which includes a new leadership structure going forward. I expect this work to be completed by July 2025
- Revised JSGS Regina's budget process and updating the tuition setting process between the two universities for JSGS programs
- Consistent and constant involvement to align workflows, processes, and student experiences across the two parts of the School
- Attended USASK's Associate Dean Research meetings on behalf of JSGS
- Participated in three faculty searches at JSGS – USASK

### **Reconciliation**

- Key implementation role in the launch of a Nation-Building Certificate with First Nations University of Canada
- Worked to transfer the Indigenous People's Health Research Centre from JSGS to First Nations University of Canada
- Participated in various JSGS cultural learning events and have started attending events such as the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations, the summer Metis gathering in Batoche, and the First Nations University of Regina Pow-wow.

### **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion**

- JSGS Regina's in person students are approximately 50% international. I've made a focus of my time as Director getting to know these students individually so that I can better understand their distinctive needs and insure that JSGS is a good gateway for them to Canadian university and professional life.
- During COVID, I met with all of our students in small groups and have always taught the introductory class in the MPA program (JSGS 891) to better understand what our students seek in our programs. I am continuing to learn, but a commitment to meeting the diverse needs of our students has informed much of the program change I've been a part of.
- Hired a staff member through the 4 to 40 program, which partners people experiencing disability with inclusive employers.
- I have kept as open a door as possible and emphasized the importance of work-life integration during my time as Director. I like to think that has contributed to the above average employee engagement scores JSGS has enjoyed.

### **University Level Contributions**

- Led development of University of Regina Academic Plan 2022-23
- Member, Senior Leadership Team Committee on Branding, 2021-22
- Member, Provost Search Committee 2021-22
- Member, University Merit Committee 2021-22
- Member, Strategic Enrolment Planning Working Group 2021-22
- Member, Task force on Future of Technology and Infrastructure 2021-22
- Member, Academic Incremental Recovery Committee 2020-2022

### **Scholarly Contributions**

- Promoted to Full Professor July 1 2023
- James Farney and Clark Banack. 2023. *Faith, Rights, and Choice: The Politics of Religious and Independent Schools in Canada*. University of Toronto Press. Received an honourable mention for the Seymour Martin Lipset Book Award of the American Political Science Association 2023.
- Julie Simmons and James Farney (eds.) 2021. *Open Federalism Revisited: Regional and Federal Dynamics in the Harper Era*. University of Toronto Press.
- Successful 2023 SSHRC Insight Grant. 'Assessing the Financial, Governance, and Parental Feedback Effects of School Choice in Canada.' James Farney (PI), Adrienne Davidson (co-applicant), Sophie Borwein (co-applicant), Iryna Khovrenkov (collaborator), Haizhen Mou (co-applicant), Triadafilopoulos Triadifilopolous (co-applicant), Linda White (co-applicant). \$396,885.
- 4 co-authored articles published + 1 book chapter and 1 article in press + 2 articles or chapters under review
- Completed the Senior University Academic Leaders Course at the University of Manitoba in 2024
- Taught JSGS 891 (fall 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024), JSGS 863 (winter 2023), JSGS 892 (winter 2024). Supervisions and student committee service as outlined in my CV

Jim Farney  
February 7 2025