



**UNIVERSITY CANADA WEST  
ACADEMIES**

**Media Release**

**Koczka appointed as First Principal of  
University Canada West Academies**

Dr. David Strong, President of University Canada West, is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. WESLEY J. KOCZKA as Principal of the UCW Academies. The Academies currently include Language, Fine Arts, Design, Business and Management, and Film and Animation, with others under consideration.

Dr. Koczka received his BA, BEd, and MEd degrees from the University of Saskatchewan, and his Doctorate in Education from Brigham Young University in Utah.

From July, 1996 to February, 2007 he served as Dean of Continuing Studies at the University of Victoria, where he was responsible for all aspects of planning, developing, implementing, evaluating and financial management of education and training programs offered by the Division of Continuing Studies. These included the English Language Centre, Cultural Resource Management, Business, Management and Technology, Continuing Studies in Education, Arts and Science, Health Sciences, Distance Education Services, Continuing Studies Library Service, Promotion and Publications, and Administration, with a total staff of 102 people and a budget around \$14 million per year, most of it independently generated. Starting his education career as a Saskatchewan high school teacher in 1974, in 1981 he joined the Saskatchewan Government where he held a number of management positions until he joined UVic in 1988.

From 1988 at the UVic Division of Continuing Studies, he was involved in various stages of management and development of new education and training programs, including English Language Program Intensive (ELPI), Short-term Spring and Summer Programs, Home Placement Services, Executive Management, English Language Training Programs, and the English Language Learning Series: CD-ROM Programs, "Englishwold.ca" - an online English language business initiative, and international joint venture programs in South Korea and China.



Dr. Koczka has published numerous academic papers, and produced and/or supervised many CD-Roms, videos and distance education courses, and made national and international presentations at academic conferences. He has been a member of the Canadian Association for University Continuing Education (CAUCE) since 1996, and became its President in 2006.

His career at UVic was highlighted by a number of special initiatives, including the establishment of “UVic Downtown”, the Information Technology Laboratory Facility at the Ian Stewart Complex, and most spectacularly the \$9.6 Million Continuing Studies Building at UVic, fully financed by revenues generated by the Division.

His international education and recruitment experience is unmatched, having recruited students and developed agreements and contracts in Argentina, Brazil, Croatia, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Greece, Japan, Jordan, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Korea, Kuwait, Latvia, Malaysia, Mexico, Thailand, Taiwan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, and the United States.

“Wes has the perfect background and talents to lead our Academies and join our outstanding team at University Canada West,” says Dr. Strong, “and his awesome international experience is an ideal fit with our growing international success.”

#### **Further Information**

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