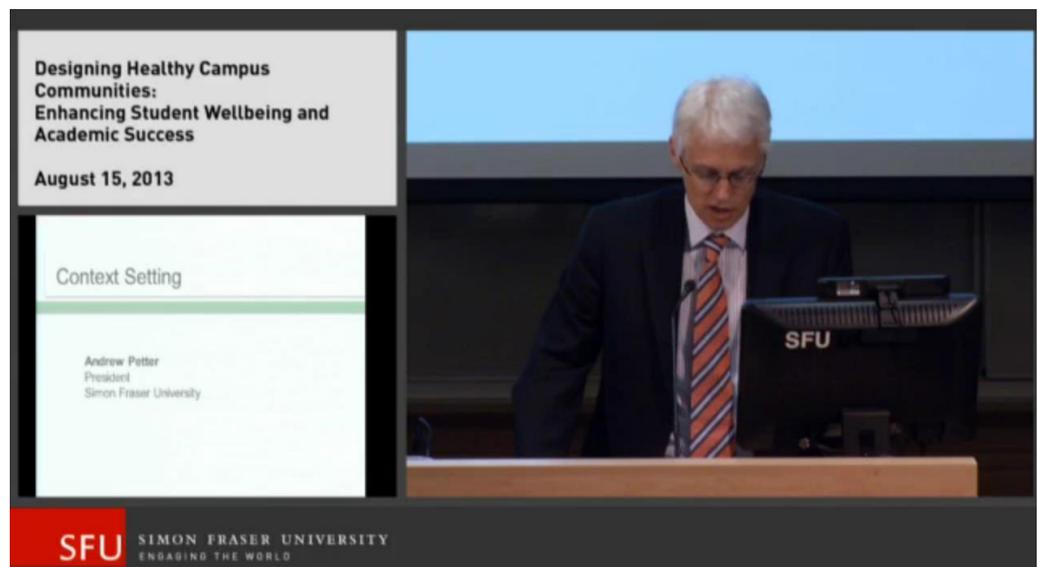


ANDREW PETTER



8/15/2013

President and Vice-Chancellor,
Simon Fraser University

Andrew Petter

**PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR,
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY**

It's a great pleasure for me to be here today. I am joined by many others from SFU. It's great to be here for the launch of the healthy campus community's video. It's really been a privilege I know for those of us at SFU to be associated with this initiative and to have partnered with the Canadian Mental Health Association on the video, in addition to community organizations and government representatives who support this work. One reason this video has special meaning is that it dovetails so well with the strategic vision that the university has adopted recently. Last year, we announced a new vision for the university as an engaged university. In SFU terms, we talk about a university that equips its students with the knowledge, skills and experiences that prepare them for life in an ever changing and challenging world as the main indicator of engagement. But a strong supportive indicator within the vision is our commitment to fostering a supportive learning and campus environment.

This initiative really speaks to that value, the goal of creating a healthy and supportive campus environment. Campus life is not the same today as it was 20, 10 or even 5 years ago. Our student body is increasingly diverse. There is no such thing as a typical SFU student, or even a typical university student these days. Some students come straight out of high school to university, some go into the workplace and then return after a number of years to university, some of our students are BC born and bred, and others have just arrived here from half way around the world. And each faces unique challenges on his/ her individual path and collectively they face challenges in working together in achieving their educational goals. We have to be sensitive to that diversity and to that reality and the fact that we're dealing with students with very different backgrounds and experiences and very different needs. For that reason, we have committed ourselves to providing our students with greater support not only in academic matters, but also in relation to personal and societal issues they face, particularly those that could adversely affect their access and their success within the university environment. In doing so, our determination is to show that we value all members of the diverse SFU community and to support them in achieving their full potential as resilient, collaborative, and indeed engaged citizens.

One thing I really like about this approach that was referenced at the beginning, is the whole campus approach because this initiative is not only going to benefit our students, it's going to benefit the entire university community. In terms of promoting health and well-being, raising consciousness, it's going to support another goal of our vision which is to have a supportive healthy work environment for all of our employees as well as our students here at SFU. I am delighted to be here because I see this initiative as another step towards our vision of being an engaged university, but also because I see the tremendous benefit it can provide to students, not only here at SFU, but across the country.

I also want to offer my congratulations on the official launch of this video, and thank you to the SFU Health Promotion team in the promotion of this work... Thank you to everyone who is helping to create healthy universities to provide our students with the support they need so that they can succeed and through their success, we can have a healthier, stronger society.