



# I want students who come to the University of Manitoba to know their lives are going to be **DIFFERENT AND BETTER** as a result of their experience here.

I want them to feel the spirit of the University of Manitoba, which dwells within each of us and challenges us to defy convention, carve new paths and ask: “How far can we go?”

This is the message we brought to thousands of young Manitobans at We Day Manitoba on October 30.

In this issue of *On Manitoba*, we reflect on the experiences of We Day, profile some of the people and programs at the U of M that create vehicles for our students to make our world better, and show how our alumni continue to be guided by this principle years after graduation.

The University of Manitoba was a sponsor of We Day, which was organized by Free The Children—a charity focused on empowering children around the world to be agents of change, founded by then-12-year-old Canadian Craig Kielburger in 1995.

More than 18,000 students, who have committed to an act supporting social justice during the school year, were invited to MTS Centre to celebrate their commitment to building a better world.

We Day provided us the opportunity to showcase our mission, values and programs to an audience of outstanding young people that we would be proud to have as students.

Tito Daodu, a fourth-year student in the Faculty of Medicine and recent winner of the Nahlah Ayed Prize for Student Leadership and Global Citizenship, joined former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev, alumnus Justice Murray Sinclair and Ladybug Foundation founder Hannah Taylor as speakers who inspired young people to take action at home and abroad.

Olympic bronze medalist and proud Bison Desiree Scott was at the University of Manitoba information booth at We Day signing autographs and sharing her story of triumph this summer on the soccer fields of London, England.

Twenty of our staff volunteered at We Day and we installed a Pledge Wall at University Centre to give our community on campus an opportunity to post and share their commitments to social and global change.

We are inspired by these young Manitobans, who see ‘making change for the greater good’ as an integral part of who they are. And we know, based on what our current students and alumni are doing, that studying at the U of M will allow them to keep making long-lasting contributions to the cultural, economic and social wellbeing of our province, country and world.

**David T. Barnard** PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR