

Akaps Mweemba

Akaps joined Assiniboine in 2009 and is currently the Academic Coordinator and Instructor at the Centre for Adult Learning – Brandon. He has had immense impact on student success with his teaching style, work with colleagues and his leadership amongst staff and students.

Born Akapelwa Mweemba and raised in Zambia, Akaps showed a love of books and education from an early age. After graduating from the University of Zambia with a Bachelor of Science With Education degree, he worked at a small rural school and challenged his students to sign up for Science courses, in an environment where math and science were avoided by many students.

The next phase of his educational journey brought him to Saskatchewan and Manitoba, where he spent time at Briercrest College and Providence University College, respectively. After two years at Providence, Akaps graduated with a Masters in Education, and was also the recipient of the Oral Communication Award.

Having left Providence, Akaps spent decades in Portage La Prairie, MB where he was part of a new independent K-12 school (Westpark School). He was hired to develop the math and science department of the new high school. He expresses gratitude to the principal who took a chance on a new international teacher, with no Canadian experience whatsoever! As the years progressed, Akaps' students became nationally recognized for their high achievement in international math competitions. In 2007, he transitioned into being the Principal. Westpark School experienced a surge in enrollment and added a pre-school to the facility.

During the summers away from the high school classroom, he would travel to Hattiesburg, MS to attend graduate school. In 2009 he completed his studies and received a doctorate in Adult Education and Educational Leadership from the University of Southern Mississippi. His dissertation was subsequently published in book form in 2014 by Scholar's Press: *Effectiveness Among Principals - Keeping the Effective School Movement Alive*.

Currently, Akaps gives his additional time to the various committees at Assiniboine. He has been involved with the Ethics committee and other *ad hoc* committees over his 14 years at the college. He also derives great joy when he has additional opportunities to serve the wider Adult Learning community of Manitoba, especially through the board of ASEC - Adult Secondary Education Council. He is grateful to his various Directors who have afforded him the opportunity to participate in these extra-curricular activities.

Akaps has dedicated much of his career and personal time to the community of Brandon, and truly values being engaged in community life and enhancing the lives of the staff and students. He has served on the board of Samaritan House. He believes in giving his students opportunities to learn and be successful, in much the same way that others have given him opportunities to develop his gifts and talents over the years. He believes that it does take a village to have community...