Get to know University Councillor Kasmet Niyongabo, Sc’11, MBA’20:

Saskatoon, SK, Manager, Integrated Planning and Dynamic Scheduling.
Member, Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of
Saskatchewan. Director of External Communications for the Queen's
Engineering Society. Founder of the Kazies Awards, a photography and
video contest fundraiser. Director of Events for the Saskatchewan Young
Professionals and Entrepreneurs.
Current term: 2024

1. Why did you select Queen’s University?
I fell in love with the campus on my visit in Grade 12. I went to a French high school, so the
idea of switching to English for university was a little daunting, but Queen’s has such a great
reputation, so I took the leap. It was an amazing experience and I have enjoyed it
thoroughly. More recently, I chose Queen’s for a second time when I was looking for a
business school to do my MBA. The Smith School of Business has an excellent program
selection and incredible flexibility for those of us who don’t live in major centers.

2. Most memorable moment as a student?
It’s hard to pick one. I met some of my favorite people at Queen’s and I had a great time as
an engineering student. One of the best memories was the Mining engineering end of year
trip to visit some mines in Chile. It was a great year to end the program and our class had a
great time while we were there. Another good memory was running for the AMS. Although
our team didn’t win, it was a great experience.

3. What is your job?
I work for Nutrien as a manager in the Next Generation Potash department. My job is to
improve Planning and Scheduling for our network of potash mines. As part of the digital
transformation team, I work with mine planners, project managers, engineers, accountants,
managers, and executives to identify, initiate, fund, and execute projects that will help
Nutrien keep a competitive position in years to come.

4. What’s the best career advice you’ve ever received?
You have to map out what you want from your career and seek out people who can help you
get there. Opportunities don’t just find their way to you, you have to be on the lookout, and
more importantly, you have to be ready the make a move when they come around. I really
appreciate that advice because it puts the responsibility to advance your career in your
control. It also highlights the fact that we all need to be on the lookout for mentors and
opportunities to better our skills.

5. What’s the career highlight you’re most proud of?
I had a few highlights at Cameco when we were designing the Millennium mine and when I
put together the life of mine plan for Cigar Lake. We had great teams, and the work was high
paced and very engaging. At Nutrien, I had the opportunity to do a major shaft steel
replacement project at Allan as well as a few borer improvements projects. I had the
opportunity, and still continue, to work with wonderful teams.
6. How do you spend your free time?
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