

**Report to the Ogimaawin-Aboriginal Governance Council
Highlights from the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives
September 1st – October 31, 2016**

Vice-Provost, Aboriginal Initiatives

Vice-Provost (AI) Administration

I began my appointment as Interim Vice-Provost (Aboriginal Initiatives) on September 16, 2016 with the University's announcement of former VP AI Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux's appointment to Lakehead's new Chair on Truth and Reconciliation.

I moved into the VP AI office the week of Sept 26th. We held a staff meeting on September 26th with Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux to address any concerns staff had about the transition. Since then, I have met individually with each staff member to review their workplans and budgets. These meetings have been helpful in identifying areas that need some attention. To address the issue of the separation of staff between the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives, Aboriginal Cultural and Support Services and the Aboriginal Mentorship Program, I am beginning a new practice of all AI staff meeting first thing on Monday mornings to share their expectations for the week.

An ad hoc committee of OAGC was struck to update the OAGC strategic plan (2010-2013). The committee met on Sept 20 and I am going to revise an earlier draft of the strategic plan. I would like to draw a much closer connection between OAGC and the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives so that the plans for both bodies are complementary.

I met with David Lindsay, President and CEO of the Council of Ontario Universities and advised him on how COU might support Lakehead in our Aboriginal initiatives.

I met with President Stevenson, Deb Comuzzi and Roly Martin of Fine Arts to discuss the future of the Indigenous art collection. I will be visiting the collection with Dr. Martin and some members of our Elders Council at the end of November to discuss the future of the collection, as well as choose some paintings for the new home of the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives.

Attended interviews of candidates for Dean of Sciences and Environmental Studies.

One of the parts of the job of VP-AI is the dizzying number of meetings with various administrative bodies at Lakehead. I have been attending these meetings to help with orientation, including meetings: with Student Affairs VP & Orillia staff (Chris Glover, Director of Student Affairs at Orillia) and Allysha Wassegijig, Orillia Aboriginal Mentorship and Learning Access Coordinator; Senate; Provosts Council; Kendaasiwin Steering Committee; Senate Academic Committee-OAGC Joint Sub-Committee; Strategic Enrolment Management Committee, and more!

The Office of AI has hired a part-time Aboriginal Student Counsellor, Rosan Wesley, as. Rosan is a Cree woman from Moosonee, Ontario; she is registered with Gull Bay First Nation. She has her Master in Social Work from Lakehead University and is a

Registered Social Worker. Rosan is a single mother with three children. She has lived in Thunder Bay for 22 years. She is an active volunteer in community organizations and events. Counselling has always been a passion with Rosan. Her goal is to be a part of the healing journey with our people and counselling is her way of helping. Rosan will be available to students on request. The announcement about Rosan's appointment was made on Oct. 26 and to date she has had eight students contact her for appointments.

Vice-Provost (AI) Academic

I have been working on the development and implementation of the Indigenous Content Requirement since its inception. Most recently I have chaired the Senate Academic Committee-Ogimaawin Aboriginal Governance Council Joint Sub-Committee tasked by SAC with implementing the ICR. At the committee level, we have been discussing how to meet the challenges of implementation. At our meeting on October 4, we were joined by new committee member Dean Angelique Eagle Woman who has replaced Todd Randall (on sabbatical). There were some good suggestions about how to positively promote the ICR, including doing a video. We will be following up on these ideas.

I have been working with Karen Keiller, Head Librarian, to develop a job description for an Indigenous Content Curriculum Specialist, a key step in Lakehead's commitment to ensuring the ICR is effectively implemented.

A good part of my time has been spent in addressing CBC Winnipeg's Unreserved radio interview with Dr. Rob Robson and students from Indigenous Learning. This has meant close coordination between the Dean of Social Sciences and Humanities, the Director of Media Relations and the VP Academic around a number of activities, including: drafting a response to the CBC, being interviewed for the Unreserved show, meeting with Dr. Rob Robson, and meeting with students to find a solution to their concerns about course content. Although there are still some unresolved items, we are on our way to find a solution to this particular issue, but have also learned some things about what we need to do to address future situations.

I met with Dr. Rob Robson of Indigenous Learning to learn about the department's development of a Master of Indigenous Learning. An initial draft proposal has been developed and Dr. Robson is confident that the department will be successful in its application. I think it critical that the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives work with the VP Academic to strengthen the ties with IL.

Vice-Provost, Community Engagement

I am involved on behalf of the Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Mining and Exploration in a research project on Free, Prior and Informed Consent in the mining sector with Principal Investigator Terry Mitchell of Wilfrid Laurier University. Matawa First Nations and the Ring of Fire is one case study in the project. October 26-29 we held a workshop of researchers and case study representatives (including high level representatives from Indigenous communities in Peru and Chile) at Matawa First Nations Office and Lakehead. On Thursday, October 27, Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, gave a free public talk that was videoconferenced to Orillia campus. Over 200 people attended the talk with

some people having to watch via video in an overflow room. The talk was videotaped and is available for viewing on the AI website at <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/ai/community-and-outreach-partnership>

Aboriginal Cultural & Support Services

Prospective Students (Recruitment)

ACSS participated in the ***City of Thunder Bay Fall Feast & Festival of Services*** on September 21st and provided information on services and programs at Lakehead University to the general public. It was also a good opportunity to network with various organizations. A total of 28 individuals were introduced to Lakehead University and its Aboriginal programs and services.

On September 28th ACSS met with 6 students who were employed with ***Roots to Harvest*** over the summer months. The students learned about programs and services available at Lakehead University.

Student Services (Orientation, Academic, Financial, Social, Transitions, Mental Health)

ACSS has generated a list of peer tutors. Several call-outs have been made to all students indicating that they should contact ACSS if they require tutoring in any subject area. To date, ACSS has hired 6 tutors.

ACSS participated in the ***Native Access Program Orientation*** on September 1st, by presenting a PowerPoint on Academic Planning. This session was an excellent opportunity to connect with the NAP students to provide them with useful tips for studying and success as well as to inform them about resources throughout campus.

ACSS participated in the ***Student Services Fair*** on September 6th, as part of the general student orientation. An information table and prize draw attracted 59 students to our table to learn about Aboriginal student services and supports and upcoming events.

On September 7th, ACSS welcomed new and returning students at the ***ACSS Open House***. This was an opportunity for students to meet one another, to meet staff and to learn about the different services and events hosted by ACSS. A total of 52 students attended.

Aboriginal Cultural & Support Services in conjunction with Aboriginal Initiatives at Lakehead University, Confederation College, Eabametoong First Nation, Fort William First Nation, Matawa Education, Northern Nishnawbe Education Council, Oshki-Pimache-O-Win, and 7 Generations Education Institute planned and organized ***Maadaadizi 2016*** which means he/she starts a journey in the Ojibwe language. This joint post-secondary Aboriginal Student Orientation was held at Marina Park on Saturday, September 10, 2016 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Post-secondary Aboriginal students and their families were welcomed to their respective institutions and to the

City of Thunder Bay. Grace Dove of "The Revenant" was the Keynote Speaker and the day included musical performances by Nick Sherman and Bobby Narcisse (Elvis Impersonator). Information booths by various organizations were set-up and children's activities, prizes and refreshments were available. This event saw approximately 159 students from all three institutions in attendance and 123 individuals who stopped by the ACSS information booth.

ACSS attended the **Education Health & Well-Being Fair** on September 14th. The event was held in the Bora Laskin Faculty of Education and it was a welcome opportunity to connect with education students who often feel isolated from our activities and events on main campus. We connected with 43 students who were most interested in learning about our cultural supports.

ACSS attended the **7 Generations Education Institute, 26th Annual Post-Secondary Graduation Dinner** on September 17th. It was an event that celebrated the achievements of 45 graduates from various post-secondary institutions. A total of 11 graduates were from Lakehead University. It was our pleasure to share in this celebration and acknowledge our Lakehead graduates. Professor Paul Cormier was the keynote speaker.

ACSS hosted a series of **Lakehead University Aboriginal Student Bursary Workshops** on September 23rd, 26th, 27th, 29th, and October 5th. As confirmed by Financial Aid, a total of 76 applications were received. ACSS also hosted a series of **Indspire Bursary Workshops** on October 7th, 18th, 24th, and 25th and conducted a special in-class bursary workshop for the Native Access Program students on October 19th.

ACSS hosted a series of **LUSU Health & Dental Opt-Out Sessions** on September 15th, 19th, 20th, and 23rd. These sessions are necessary because many students do not have these fees covered within their post-secondary funding.

ACSS hosted a **Halloween Luncheon** on October 31st. This social event had 37 students attend to enjoy a pizza lunch, prize draws, and Halloween treats.

Student Cultural Services

ACSS hosted our first **Miijim Noongom** of the academic year, on September 14th in the Aboriginal Student Lounge. A total of 40 students were in attendance. Our Miijim Noongom held on October 19th was also well attended by at least 52 students.

ACSS celebrated **Fall Harvest** led by members of the Elders Council. This annual event showcased Elders demonstrating various traditional activities and sharing teachings. Held at the sweat lodge site, students, staff, faculty, and President Dr. Brian Stevenson spent time enjoying fresh pickerel, wild goose, bannock, blueberry jam, and traditional teas. Participants received teachings by the Elders on the sweat lodge and medicines. The Pipe Stone Drum group sang traditional songs and shared teachings, as well. Fort William Historical Park participated with various demonstrations. The event was attended by over 200 individuals on Saturday, September 17th.

The ACSS **Seasonal Fall Feast** was held on October 5th. A total of 65 students attended and enjoyed moose stew, moose chili, baked sturgeon, wild rice and bannock. The AAC Coordinator shared a prayer with everyone present.

The Transitions/CLAN Advisor attended and assisted with the Aboriginal Awareness Centre's **Sunrise Ceremony** on October 4th with Clyde Moonias, Aboriginal Awareness Centre Coordinator and Elder Isabelle Mercier. Approximately 30 staff and students in total attended the ceremony. The Transitions/CLAN Advisor attended the NAP Community & Culture Workshop on October 21st to participate in a Medicine Walk with Elder Audrey Deroy and used the opportunity to introduce himself to the NAP students. The Transitions/CLAN Advisor attended and participated in the NAP Family Bannock Bake-Off on October 7th.

Elder-in-Residence Gerry Martin was available for student visits on September 14th, 15th, 22nd, 28th, 29th and October 6th, 20th, 26th, and 27th. During these visits a total of 66 students and 8 staff members dropped by for traditional counselling and/or traditional teachings. **Elder-in-Residence Beatrice Twance-Hynes** was also available for student visits on September 7th, 21st, and October 7th, 21st and in total 13 students dropped in to see her. **Elder Ella Gagnon** has hosted beading/craft circles on September 27th and October 5th, 25th and provided bannock for all students. A total of 14 students have participated in these circles. On September 21st and October 26th, **Elder Gene Nowegejick** held sweat lodge ceremonies with a total of 16 individuals in attendance.

Other

The ACSS Coordinator organized a series of interviews for the *Indigenous Transitions/CLAN Advisor* position. Robin Sutherland was the successful candidate and started on Thursday, September 15, 2016. The ACSS Coordinator supervises Robin on the transitional component of his job description only, which will include working with students as they experience various transitional aspects on their educational path including; remote to urban, high school to post-secondary, post-secondary to employment, etc. by providing workshops and access to information and resources both on-campus and within the community.

The ACSS Coordinator continues to attend meetings of *Student Affairs*, *Student Appreciation Working Group*, the *O-AGC Advisors Committee* and the *O-AGC*. In addition, the Coordinator has also been attending the *Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM)*, *Student Success & Retention Sub-committee* meetings. Currently the group has been working on creating a document that highlights all of the retention initiatives at Lakehead University as a start. The ACSS Coordinator attended an *INAC Information Session* on October 5th for the afternoon. The session provided good information on general program, regional program, and policy, updates pertaining to First Nation education and funding.

The ACSS Coordinator continues to attend bi-monthly meetings with *First Nation post-secondary education counsellors* and continues to host First Nation post-secondary education counsellors on campus for regular weekly/monthly student visits.

The ACSS Coordinator, as Vice-President and Lakehead District Representative for the *Ontario Native Education Counsellors Association (ONECA)* continues to attend board meetings and teleconferences and to host district meetings, as required. Most recently, the ACSS Coordinator attended an ONECA board meeting on September 30th in Sault Ste. Marie. Discussions included plans to organize regional round tables to discuss the OSAP free tuition. On October 18th, the ACSS Coordinator organized an ONECA regional meeting and round table which included a presentation entitled: “Ontario’s Free Tuition Promise: How will it impact Indigenous rights? How will it impact ONECA? ONECA members discussed the issue and provided feedback to the presenter, which will be included in a final report to be disseminated at a later date by the Executive Director.

On October 25th and 26th, the ACSS Administrative Assistant and the Transitions/CLAN Advisor attended Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST). ASIST workshops emphasize suicide first-aid and provides information on how to help a person at risk to stay safe and seek further help. It was an opportunity for ACSS staff to gain valuable knowledge and skills in how to assist students by recognizing invitations for help, reaching out and offering support, applying a suicide intervention model, and linking students with campus and community resources, if need be.

The Transitions/CLAN Advisor has been organizing new office, sorting through digital and paper files, completing e-mail and telephone correspondence, developing work plan, budget, and programming, and scheduling events and meetings, etc. He also attends meetings of the O-AGC Advisors and O-AGC.

The Transitions/CLAN Advisor met with Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux, Chair, Truth & Reconciliation and the ACSS Coordinator on orientation and review of job duties. He has also met with various individuals to begin to address the transitional needs of students with a focus on NAP students. As such, the Transitions/CLAN Advisor will attend the NAP Community & Culture Workshops every Friday morning. A meeting with the Faculty of Aboriginal Education’s, Aboriginal Programs Coordinator was held to discuss the potential for assisting Aboriginal Education and NLIP students with transitional support. A meeting with the Aboriginal Outreach & Recruitment Coordinator was held to discuss collaboration on Toastmasters and an Alumni Gathering and a meeting with the AMP Coordinator focused on CLAN, AMP and the Aboriginal Peer Mentor Program.

Aboriginal Outreach and Recruitment

Aboriginal Post Secondary Information Program (APSIP) Week 1

APSIP is a collaborative group of Aboriginal Recruiters from Ontario university and colleges that coordinate an Aboriginal student recruitment tour on a yearly basis. The group works together to educate and encourage Aboriginal students to pursue post-secondary studies.

AOR travelled with the APSIP 2016 tour or week 1.

The tour visited 9 high schools starting in Sioux Lookout and ending in Thunder Bay.

Schools

Pelican Falls	140
Queen Elizabeth	60
Grassy Narrows	55
Dryden High School	44
St. Thomas Aquinas	60
Beaver Brae	48
Dennis Franklin Cromarty	120
Churchill	27
Westgate and Matawa	65
Superior CVI	110
Total	729

Two schools cancelled visits this year due to unforeseen school event conflicts.

The tour stopped at the Kenora Seven Generations office and spent time touring the facilities and discussing future plans to include them in the 2017/18 tour.

AOR has taken the initiative to plan a visit this year to engage Seven Generations and their students to ensure a stronger relationship before next year's APSIP tour. Plans are being made to have AOR, the Transitions advisor, AMP and possibly NAP coordinate a day-long visit. The day will include faculty related activities, transitions and budgeting workshops as well as NAP and general recruitment sessions.

APSIP Ontario University Fair (OUF) Coordinator

AOR represented APSIP as the 2016/17 OUF coordinator. AOR liaised with the OUF representative to assist with the planning of the APSIP room for this year's event. Dissemination of event information, emergency planning and APSIP attendee information and coordination were the main responsibilities.

Nishnawbe Aski Nation Student Orientation

AOR attended the NAN student orientation that took place at Dennis Franklin Cromarty high school. The event saw over 200 NAN students in attendance from all Thunder Bay local high schools. AOR, as well as Bruce Beardy of Aboriginal Education, attended the Lakehead University booth. The event saw 65 students visit the table and was a great opportunity to liaise with students as well as schools counselors, support staff and community partners.

Native Access Program Orientation

AOR met with and presented to the incoming 2016/17 NAP cohort. The presentation centered on the use of university supports, future program choices and Storytellers Toastmasters meetings as it relates to presentation skills and their academic success.

Maadaadizi 2016/17 Post Secondary Student Orientation

AOR supported the event by attending and assisting with event support and donating poster printing and prizes.

KAIROS Blanket Exercise

AOR continues to support the facilitation of the Blanket exercise on campus and in the community.

Public Lecture UN Rapporteur Free and Prior informed Consent

AOR attended and supported the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples' public Lecture by Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, sponsored by the Office of AI, CESME and Wilfrid Laurier University. AOR assisted with the coordination of the videotaping of the event for posting on the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives page on Lakehead University's website. The event was a huge success with the need for a second room to accommodate the overflow of attendees.

Pilot Athletics Mentorship Program

A proposed pilot is to be launched at Hammarskjold high school for the 2016/17 year. This initiative's goal is to engaged students who may not other wise be interested in recruitment and engagement activities with the University. Many students do not feel or think they are a right fit or able to meet the challenges of post-secondary education. They do not participate in recruitment events with interest. Hammarskjold has been one of the harder schools to engage, as they are very cognizant of time spent on out-of-classroom engagement and seem to be more interested in events that provide their students with meaningful engagement.

After some discussion with Hammarskjold representatives they felt that athletics would be a way to engage and inspire students who may otherwise not be interested in post-secondary engagement activities.

The pilot will see students participate in activities on and off campus with Lakehead University athletes to mentor and inspire interest in post-secondary through sports.

Canada-Mexico 5th Annual Intercultural Roundtable - October 29th to November 1st, 2016

AOR attended the CanadaMexico Intercultural Roundtable on Aboriginal Education as per the request of the President's Office in preparation for Lakehead University hosting the next meeting, proposed for June 25-27, 2017. AOR attended this event to observe the three-day event to ensure plans proceed in Thunder Bay as per the committee's requests agreed upon on day two of the Roundtable. AOR has agreed to be the Lakehead University coordinator for this event and will work with Dr. Stevenson and internal departments to plan the event and to ensure it is successful. AOR will be attending regular meetings for planning purposes.

McGill University Truth and Reconciliation Certificate

AOR attended, completed and was awarded a certificate from McGill University for completing McGill's Executive Program on Reconciliation for more inclusive societies.

The below is an overview of the program.

EXECUTIVE EDUCATION CERTIFICATE PROGRAM, RECONCILIATION AND THE PROMOTION OF MORE INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES. The program is designed to challenge participants to think critically about the role they can play in building societies that embrace difference and forge a path forward that is representative of diverse views. Central to this program is the understanding that renewed relationships, based on dialogue, mutual respect and understanding, are key to achieving long-term reconciliation. This is directly relevant for improving relations between civil society and the private sector, as well as for improving the relations of both of these sectors with governments at the local, regional national and international level.

Toastmasters Storytellers

The campus Toastmasters group Storytellers will once again be running this year with its first meeting being held on November 4th, 2016.

The group will have meetings twice a month to continue to offer students the opportunity to overcome their public speaking fears and sharpen their skills. NAP students expressed interest in attending the meetings and so the 2016/17 NAP cohort will attend.

Toastmasters Youth Leadership in the High schools

AOR will once again be facilitating the TMYL program in the high schools and has already been contacted by four schools to book dates for the 2016/17 year.

Meeting with Law School

AOR met with the Faculty of Law's new Director of Indigenous Relations, Gilbert Deschamps, to discuss the Law School's interest in future partnerships and participation in recruitment activities. The interest in facilitating one of Aboriginal Preview Days sessions was confirmed and future plans will be discussed about their participation in the event for April 2017.

Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM) Recruitment Sub Committee

AOR has attended and will be participating in the SEM recruitment sub committee meetings and activities. A recruitment activity data work sheet has been created with input from all members and will be capturing all recruitment initiatives for analysis by mainstream recruitment. AOR suggested edits to ensure the capturing of Aboriginal recruitment and engagement activities as Aboriginal Initiatives uses various strategies and activities that vary greatly from mainstream. A true picture of why and how effective engagement of Aboriginal students works may not be possible through this method. The ability to show the importance of relationship building and cultural engagement with Aboriginal students and support staff in the schools is difficult to explain in the SEM

initiative. AOR will continue to attend, monitor and report back to the VP of Aboriginal Initiatives any concerns regarding this initiative.

Aboriginal Initiatives Viewbook Update

Korkola Design has been engaged for the updating for the Aboriginal Initiatives Aboriginal Viewbook for the 2017 academic year. AI is looking to update and freshen up pictures and looked into the addition of Indigenous Content Requirement (ICR) and other initiatives to ensure we accurately capture all of Lakehead's Aboriginal programs, supports and new initiatives for the upcoming recruitment cycle.

Lakehead University Educators' Seminar

AOR continues to partner with Enrolment Services on the 2016/17 Educators Seminar. This year's event is formatted to provide updates to programs and services. Aboriginal Initiatives will be presenting on the Kendaasiwin Centre, NAP, and upcoming events.

Updates on ACSS, Transitions, Aboriginal Culture and Aboriginal Education will be included in the attendee package due to time constraints and past attendee event evaluations. Last year's attendees identified that the Native Access Program was of particular interest and so it was included in this year's main presentations.

AOR will access the event and attendee feedback from the November 4th event and will decide if an additional event is needed to expand on the presentation of program information.

Community Partner Engagement

AOR met with the Director of Volunteers for the Thunder Bay Regional Hospital at their request to discuss possible Aboriginal student volunteer opportunities and connections. Various positions were discussed and University contacts were sent to TBRHSC in the hopes of future relationship building for student opportunities.

Constance Lake Student Visit

AOR, AMP and the Associate Dean of Social Sciences and Humanities met to discuss the possibility of partnering to support the visit of students from Constance Lake First Nation in November. It was decided that AMP and AOR will facilitate engagement sessions that will include a tour, faculty related activities and a recruitment session. Constance Lake had identified that Outdoor Recreation is a main area of interest for the visiting students and they will facilitate faculty activities for the afternoon portion of the day.

Enrolment Services Recruitment Meetings

Meetings have been put on hold until the end of the recruitment season because of the lack of personnel able to attend due to recruitment travel. AOR will attend once meetings commence to ensure we partner on future initiatives to support the engagement and recruitment of Aboriginal students.

In Office Student Visits

AOR met with eight students, meetings were requested for a variety of reasons. Students were sent to appropriate departments. Reasons for requested visits ranged from applications, registration, acceptance of offers, course selection concerns, stress and general discussion around course loads, accessibility and general supports, and services and liaising between internal departments.

External Committees

AYARA 2017

Aboriginal Youth Achievement and Recognition and Awards: AOR will continue to represent the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives on the 2016/17 AYARA Committee to plan and support the event. Members will participate in fundraising events and planning for the 2017 May event. Plans are well underway and the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives has committed to continue its financial support and will be a main sponsor for one of the award categories.

Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board FNMI Committee

AOR sits on the committee to support the continuation of Aboriginal student initiatives specifically for St. Patrick's High School. Initiatives that were being planned were centered on cultural activities for staff to increase cultural understanding and promote encouraged positive growth of staff. Student initiatives include cultural activities and completion of student cultural room.

Native Access Program

The Native Access Program Coordinator attended the ACSS open house on Sept. 7 to welcome new and returning students to Lakehead University.

NAP coordinator also attended the ACSS Halloween Party on October 31, 2016.

KAIROS Blanket Exercise (BE):

- Presented the BE to Dr. Peggy Smith's NRMT class, NAP students and Biwaasse'aa staff attended, alongside Anna Chief on September 14th, approximately 45 students participated
- Presented the BE to Dr. Lisa Korteweg's professional year class, approximately 25 students participated.
- Presented the BE to Dr. Jan Oakley's Indigenous Feminism class, 20 students participated.

NAP Coordinator attended the Humanities 101 preview evening where she spoke to students about NAP.

Attended a meeting with Ms. Marian Ryks-Szelekowszky, Ms. Jo Krisko, Mr. Chris Glover, Mr. Josh Levac to discuss Ms. Anna Chief and Jerri-Lynn Orr's presentation of the Blanket Exercise at the Student Affairs retreat being held in December.

Students

Twenty-nine (29) students are currently enrolled in NAP with the age range from 17 to 47 years old. So far we have had excellent retention as only one student has dropped the program. There are a few students who are struggling with personal issues and Jerri-Lynn is working with them to support them however she can.

NAP and NNEP held a joint four-day orientation for the students with the goal to empower them right off the start to be successful. All student services were presented to the students, and the orientation included a tour and various guest speakers. This year we did a NAP/NNEP alumni panel so the incoming students could ask advice and questions to the alumni, we received great feedback from the students. Once again, this year the NAP/NNEP students were encouraged to participate in the Lakehead University general student orientation.

NAP and NNEP students participated in the larger Aboriginal post-secondary orientation *Maadaadizi 2016* at Marina Park. Jerri-Lynn helped out at the AI/ACSS table that was set up to provide service information to students attending.

The University Transitions course that Jerri-Lynn is teaching is off to a great start. As of right now, they are on track for course work and assignments. Using the *On Course, Strategies for Creating Success in College and In Life* has been a really great tool to empower students to take personal responsibility for their education. She sees many students using the language of the book, and speaking of being a Victim or Creator, and their inner dialogue, which includes recognizing their inner critic, inner defender and inner guide. She believes that this course is helping students remember WHY they chose to come to Lakehead University, and WHAT steps (short term and long term goals) will take them all the way!

General Science 0261 participated in the first field trip of the year to Fort William Historical Park for an Ethnobotany tour. This field trip fit well with their course work from the text they are using, *Native Science*.

NAP Coordinator attended the first OAGC Advisors Committee meeting of the year on September 13th.

Study halls have once again been implemented into the NAP schedule, which are held on Monday's and Wednesday's from 11:30-12:30 p.m. ACSS has provided tutors to the NAP students at the above mentioned times in the study hall.

This term there have been two instructor's meetings. We meet monthly throughout the academic terms to converse about student success and figure out ways to better help NAP students on their journey through NAP. From our meetings (with Dr. Rob Robson: Indigenous Learning, Mrs. Rebecca Menhart: English, Mrs. Susan Girardin: Science & Mr. John Kimball: Math). Our team has agreed that we have a very strong group this year. It has been noted that at this time attendance has begun to drop, and lateness is increasing. It seems to us that this is the time of year when it occurs. Jerri-Lynn has been on top of reaching out to students to find ways to encourage and empower them to finish this term strong. All the professors and instructors have also had been able to

have individual chats with some of these students to encourage them also. The NAP team is working great together, and we are all here for our students.

This year NAP has brought in a program Elder to help support and empower students. The elder is Audrey Deroy and she comes into the program two times per month for cultural teachings and talks.

This year, the NAP Coordinator is piloting a new workshop called *Community & Culture Workshop*, which is held every Friday from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm. It is during this time that our elder meets with students. We also use this time to better support students by helping them with skills they need to work on (writing, etc.), as well as give us an opportunity to get into the community. Robin Sutherland, Aboriginal Transitions/CLAN Advisor has taken on the lead role of this workshop, starting Friday October 21, with support from Jerri-Lynn. The idea behind this was to make sure the NAP students have a solid relationship with ACSS so when they move on to their undergraduate program, they will know where to go for additional help and support.

The NAP Coordinator has monthly student check-ins with NAP students to ensure they are being successful. At these meetings we discuss where they are in each class, if they need extra support, if things are going well personally (food, clothing, shelter, etc.) and anything else they wish to share with me.

NAP hosted its very first Family Night, which was held at Oliver Road Recreation Centre and featured a Bannock Bake off! About 30 students and their families attended. It was a great evening where we got to meet and mingle and get to know one another better, outside of school. The goal behind this is to let our students know that their families are very much a part of their academic journey and are welcome at Lakehead University.

Administration

NAP Coordinator met with Mrs. Rebecca Menhart, English instructor, and Dr. Anna Guttman, Chair of the English Department, to discuss changing the ENGL Composition 1011 course. As NAP is the only program on campus to still have this course, we had to work on implementing a new one that would work well to empower NAP students learning. Mrs. Rebecca Menhart has been working on the course calendar changes and the curriculum that will hopefully be implemented next academic year.

NAP Coordinator attended her first Ontario Universities Fair in Toronto at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. It was a great recruiting experience where she talked with many students and parents about AI and Education.

NAP Coordinator met with Dr. Rhonda Koster to discuss the possibility of getting the University Transitions course credited.

Aboriginal Mentorship Program (AMP)

Potential Partnership with Department of Geology/Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Mining & Exploration (CESME)

The AMP Coordinator met with Dr. Peter Hollings (Interim Dean of Science and Environmental Studies, Chair Department of Geology and Director of Lakehead University's Centre for Excellence for Sustainable Mining & Exploration) on September 8th to discuss a potential educational partnership with AMP including curriculum development, on-campus labs for youth and materials/kits for regional schools.

Mink Lake First Nations Natural Resource Youth Employment Program (FNNRYEP)

Attended a meeting with Dr. Nancy Luckai, Deputy Provost Academic, to finalize budgetary information and updates to the Mink Lake/Sandbar (FNNRYEP) on September 15th.

Lakehead Public School Board FNMI Student Success

The AMP Coordinator met with Mr. Neil Workman, FNMI Student Success Re-Engagement Officer and Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee for the Lakehead Public School Board on September 27th to discuss AMP program involvement in Hammar skjold High School and Sir Winston Churchill CVI as well as Westgate CVI and Superior CVI for the 2016/2017 school year.

Superior North Catholic District School Board

The AMP Coordinator met with Ms. Tina Visintin, Superintendent of Education Superior North Catholic District School Board on September 28th in regard to the planning of upcoming educational presentations with the AMP program and Office of Aboriginal Initiatives for the upcoming school year.

Department of History/Lakehead University Centre for Northern Studies

On October 4th Lisa Harris met with Dr. Michel Beaulieu, Professor of History and Director of the Lakehead University Centre for Northern Studies, to discuss educational opportunities and support for the AMP program including curriculum development.

Lakehead University and New Gold Inc. – Memorandum of Understanding

The AMP Coordinator attended a signing ceremony on October 6th for the Memorandum of Understanding to mark an agreement between New Gold Inc. and Lakehead University's Faculty of Engineering to participate in the Aboriginal/University Exchange Program in Engineering (AEPE). The AMP program works closely with the Faculty of Engineering and brings many Indigenous youth to participate in their Engineering labs through out the year.

Actua Indigenous STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math)

The AMP Coordinator and member of the Aboriginal Initiatives Office hosted Mr. Doug Dokis, Senior Advisor Actua Indigenous STEM Lead on October 6th, to introduce our Indigenous programming and further discuss a supportive partnership between the InSTEM and the AMP program with assistance from Lakehead University's Superior Science.

Obishikokaang Elementary School

We met with Mr. Steven Korobanik, Principal of Obishikokaang Elementary School on the Lac Seul First Nation, Ontario on October 7th, via telephone to discuss the AMP program and the possibility of implementing the program in Lac Seul.

St. Ignatius Catholic High School

The AMP Coordinator met with Ms. Jean Hall-Armstrong (a science teacher at St. Ignatius Catholic High School) on October 11th to discuss the possibility of bringing the AMP program into two grade nine science classes this fall.

Community Conversation On Indigenous People's Court and Lakehead University Aboriginal Initiatives Presentation

We attended the Community Conversation On Indigenous People's Court and Lakehead University Aboriginal Initiatives presentation on October 11th to gain a better understanding of how the AMP program might be able to contribute to this community conversation but also learn more about the availability of funding opportunities.

Hammarskjold and Lakehead Public Schools

The AMP Coordinator and Anna Chief met with Neil Workman and Daniel MacMillan on October 11th to discuss the renewal of the AMP program into Hammarskjold CVI as well as the implementation of the AMP program in to all of the Lakehead Boards secondary schools. We also discussed the potential of an athletic branch of the AMP program.

AMP Volunteer Recruitment Drive

We met with several of our existing AMP volunteers and have begun meeting with potential new AMP volunteers for the 2016/2017 school year. We are expecting to get into regional schools within the next two to three weeks.

Westgate CVI

AMP met with Catherine Forbes and Barb Kukko on October 17th to discuss implementing the AMP program into Westgate CVI over the coming weeks.

Counselling Federation of Canada

We met with Kathryn Davidson (Advancement), Dr. Peggy Smith and Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux on October 24th in regards to developing a plan for a potential funding opportunity with the Counselling Federation of Canada.

Department of History

The AMP Coordinator met with Dr. Michel Beaulieu of the Department of History and Northern Research on October 25th to discuss their support of the AMP program and potential activities for visiting AMP students.

Superior CVI

AMP met with Russell Johnston and Kaitlin Madore on October 27th to discuss the renewal of the AMP program into Superior CVI over the coming weeks.

AMP-NAP Community and Culture Workshop

Lisa Harris and mentor Brian Hicks met the NAP students on October 28th and discussed the AMP program. We talked about the potential for them to become future mentors with AMP. We also visited an anthropology lab, made clay pots and did some experiments with dry ice to familiarize students with some of our AMP activities.

AMP – Biology – Superior Science Partnership

Lisa Harris met with Dr. Amanda Diochon and Nic Bel on October 31st to discuss an AMP partnership with the Department of Biology and Superior Science to help deliver more programming into local and regional schools.

Coordinated Learning Access Network (CLAN)

CivicAction Escalator Luncheon

On Sep. 15 the Transitions/CLAN Advisor attended the CivicAction Escalator Luncheon to meet with about 12 varying stakeholders about the barriers and successes facing young job seekers and available employment resources.

Prosperity Northwest Business Forum and Tradeshow

The Transitions/CLAN Advisor attended the Prosperity Northwest Business Forum and Tradeshow, on Sep. 21 to network, meet with different businesses (about 30 total), explain CLAN to them, and encourage them to create an employer profile or work together with CLAN.

Aboriginal Youth Leadership Program

On Sep. 29 the Transitions/CLAN Advisor attended an information session on the Di-No Wi-Gehmin Aboriginal Youth Leadership Program, in which young Aboriginal leaders meet once a month to develop leadership and teambuilding skills, as well as confidence and self-esteem, while planning activities and events for their peers. About nine students were introduced to the program, as well as CLAN and Magnet.

Department of Aboriginal Education Meet & Greet

The Transitions/CLAN Advisor attended the Department of Aboriginal Education's Meet & Greet on Sep. 30 to introduce himself and promote CLAN to about 12 students and staff members.

Fall Career Fair

On Oct. 4, the Transitions/CLAN Advisor attended Lakehead University's Fall Career Fair to network with different businesses (about 20 in total), promote CLAN, and encourage employers to create a Magnet profile and work together with CLAN.

Magnet Video Launch

On Oct. 11, the Transitions/CLAN Advisor attended presentations by Frances Wesley on the Indigenous Peoples' Court and by Delia Opekokew on potential foundations and sources of funding. The Advisor also helped prepare for the Launch of four videos that grew out of the partnership between CLAN and Magnet and that feature inspiring Aboriginal youth from the region.

NNEP Grad & Open House

The Transitions/CLAN Advisor attended the NNEP Grad & Open House on Oct. 18 to introduce himself and promote CLAN to about eight students.

After Business

The Transitions/CLAN Advisor attended the Chamber of Commerce After Business event on Oct. 19 at the Fort William Historical Park to promote CLAN, network with various businesses, and help employers create a Magnet profile. An iPad was set up on-site, and 8 employers created a profile to be entered into a draw for a \$50 Shoppers gift card.

Social Media Updates

Throughout the months of Sep. and Oct. the Transitions/CLAN Advisor posted updates on social media outlets Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to promote CLAN and any events attended by CLAN personnel.

Meetings

The Transitions/CLAN Advisor met with: the Truth & Reconciliation Chair on Sep. 22 for orientation and a review of CLAN responsibilities; with Magnet's Partnerships Lead (Kevin Vuong) on Sep. 27 for an in-depth orientation of the Magnet platform and the partnership with CLAN, as well as planning for the Oct. 11 Video Launch; with Roots to Harvest participants on Sep. 28 to discuss CLAN and Magnet; with the Manager of Student Awards and Financial Aid on Sep. 30 to discuss the possibility of students accessing the Work Study program through CLAN; with the Executive Director and Regional Multicultural Consultant for the Regional Multicultural Youth Centre on Oct. 3 to discuss the Ambassadors, the partnership with CLAN and the possibility of visiting students at DFC; with the Communications Coordinator for the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce on Oct. 4 to discuss CLAN's account with the Chamber and upcoming events; with Frances Wesley at the Thunder Bay Indian Friendship Centre to collaboratively plan for an event on Oct. 11; with the Project Manager (Mining Services) for the Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission on Oct. 5 to discuss the partnership with CLAN, what's been done so far, and future directions and opportunities; and with the Aboriginal Mentorship and Learning Access Coordinator (Orillia Campus) for weekly updates on CLAN.

Thank you, Dr. Margaret (Peggy) Smith, Interim Vice-Provost, Aboriginal Initiatives