



The Native Nurses Entry Program
Report To the Ogimaawin- Aboriginal Governance Council (O-AGC)
November 14, 2016

This report is to update the Committee members regarding the activities of NNEP since the last report presented to the September 26th, 2016 Committee meeting.

Program Update

At present, 15 students are enrolled in the Native Nurses Entry Program. No students have withdrawn from the program to date.

Three students who are attempting their second time are under academic and attendance probation and are required to meet with the Coordinator on a weekly basis.

The 30th Intake 2015-2016 Graduation Ceremony and Open House was held on October 18, 2016 from 2-4 in the NNEP Lounge. Two of the four students graduating were in attendance. One graduate was unable to attend due to flight cancellations, and another had school obligations.

All of last year's Instructors are fully engaged with this year's students (the 31st Cohort).

The 2016-2017 students come from a variety of backgrounds. These include: Thunder Bay, Kingston, Pays Plat FN, Winnipeg, White Sand FN, Big Grassy First Nation, Taykwa-Tagamou FN, Seine River FN and Miskegogamang FN.

Student Progress

Students in the 31st Cohort are a highly cohesive group and are generally working together as a team. The three returning students are engaged and attendance at weekly checkpoints has been excellent.

The fall reading week has been very valuable in that student stress levels seem somewhat less this year.

The weekly and monthly checkpoints have provided a valuable means of student enhancement and problem solving to ensure a healthy fit in the program; these continue under the direction of the Coordinator Joy Nieminen.

Monthly communication continues with the students and funders, via written reports, which include student grades and attendance records.

Attendance to classes has on the whole been very good. Unfortunately 6 of the 15 students failed their first Chemistry midterm.

Since the students often struggle with Chemistry and to a lesser degree, Biology and English; tutors have been provided by the Aboriginal Cultural Support Services. The 2 tutors, one for Biology and one for Chemistry, have set hours which have been added to the students timetables. Those requiring Math Tutors have been referred to LUMAC in the writing Centre. The Writing Centre also provides assistance to students with literary skills and paper writing.

Student Peer Mentor-ship continues to be provided by previous NNEP students in all 4 years of Lakehead University's Nursing program with the coordinator making contacts with these individuals to ensure their continued participation in the program.

NNEP is proud to announce that Student Taniyan Wesley will be participating in the Canadian Race Relations Foundation 2016 National Conference in Toronto on Oct. 25-28 as a Youth Ambassador. This experience will be highly enriching for Taniyan and could lead to publishing experiences in the CRRF's academic journal *Directions: Research and Policy on Race Relations in Canada*. We wish him all the best in his experience.

Students from previous years continue to use the NNEP lounge and often have very valuable pearls of wisdom for the current students with regards to studying and test taking. Aboriginal students in the NNEP Program and BScN Program have commented how safe and welcomed they feel in the Native Nurses Lounge. It truly is a positive learning space.

Office space in the NNEP Lounge is now being utilized by the Lakehead University School of Nursing. Professor Catherine Schoales and Clinical Coordinator, Roberta Wood is in offices BB1045 A and B respectively. This interaction has been a very positive, enriching, influence on both the NNEP Students and the NNEP Coordinator.

As well, 2 teleconferenced BScN nursing courses are being offered this year using the NNEP Boardroom teleconferencing equipment. These interactions have proved to be positive.

Cultural Support

NNEP is very thankful for the ongoing support and relationship with ACSS. Students have been encouraged to attend ACSS feasts and educational offerings. Students are also encouraged to visit Elder Gerry Martin for support when needed.

On September 16, 2016 the NNEP Communications Class live streamed the appointment of Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux as the Chair of Truth and Reconciliation at Lakehead University. We were pleased to hear former NNEP Graduate Brianna Decontie speak at this event, and are very proud of the role model she has become.

Elder and Professor Emeritus Delores Wawia attended the student's Communications Class on Sept. 30 and lectured about Indigenous communication patterns. This was very enriching for the students.

Plans are underway for a combined NAP/NNEP Christmas Feast on the evening of December 5, 2016.

Native Nurses Advisory Committee

The NNEP Advisory Committee met May 16, 2016. The Committee has members from Ottawa, Brantford, Muskrat Dam and Thunder Bay. The previous member from Manitoba has resigned and Elder Delores Wawia has replaced her.

At the May 16 meeting an important discussion was held regarding the name of the program. It was decided by the committee members that the branding with our current name has stood the test of time and that we should retain our same name.

The next Advisory Committee meeting will be held in January 2017 the date as yet to be determined.

Recruitment Activities for the 32nd Cohort

The coordinator has had email contact with 4 students interested in the NNEP Program.

On September 28th, 2016 the NNEP Coordinator met with 10 students from the Roots to Harvest Program and promoted the NNEP Program.

A provincial and national mail-out is planned for early January 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

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Coordinator Native Nurses Entry Program