

The Native Nurses Entry Program
Report To the Ogimaawin-Aboriginal Governance Council

March 31, 2015

This report is to update the Council members regarding the activities of NNEP since the last report presented at the January 26, 2015 O-AGC meeting.

Program Update

Day to day operations of the program have been running smoothly and students are nearing completion. Final exams are set in English, Math, Chemistry and Biology and are running from April 10- April 17.

The 2 week placement concluding the N1130 (Professional Orientation) Class and the N1110 (Communications Class) will run from April 20- May 1 , 2015 and all students have been placed at a Native Health Agency of their choice.

Teresa Trudeau , Traditional Healing Coordinator, has provided an educational session for the students using traditional teachings and the medicine wheel. Smudging opportunities have been provided on a monthly basis. The students also received traditional healing education with Cynthia Wesley -Esquimaux and Elder Gerry Martin in their Professional Orientations class on March 16, 2015.

The students can also access Elder Gerry Martin for one-on-one sessions every Wednesday from 10:00 am - 2:00pm in the ACSS student lounge.

The last monthly Instructor's meeting took place on March 24, 2015 at which time NNEP student progress was discussed with future plans for best practices discussed. The Biology Instructor Patricia Ruxton has given her resignation and will be retiring at the end of term.

Student Progress

The current enrollment is 11 Students, with an initial start of 14 students. The students often struggle with Chemistry, Biology and to lesser degree English; and have been using 3 tutors provided by the Aboriginal Cultural Support Services. Most of students are excelling in Math.

Student Peer Mentor-ship continues to be provided by previous NNEP students in all 4 years of Lakehead University's Nursing program.

Monthly Checkpoints have provided a valuable means of student enhancement and problem solving to ensure a healthy fit in the program. The Coordinator has set up weekly meetings with one of the students to try and enable her success.

Some of the common issues brought forward from monthly checkpoints include: personal health issues, coping skills, family illnesses and deaths, relationship issues, stress related to assignments, time management, tenant landlord issues, and academic challenges.

Advisory Committee Meeting

The next Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2015 and Advisory members will be utilizing teleconferencing, as there is no budget for travel. Packages with the agenda, minutes, NNEP application packages and promotional pamphlets have been mailed to all NNEP Advisory Committee members. Sandra Cornell had emailed the committee a useful promotional power point in December 2014, so that committee members can help with promotion of the program.

Recruitment for the 30th Intake

Recruitment efforts have included: participation in a Nishnawbe-Aski Nation Career Fair, held on February 12, 2015 at which time 20 applications were given out to High School Seniors; and as well, a mail out to 29 Thunder Bay Zone Health Centres. There is a very Limited budget for advertising and the coordinator has made an effort to email 90+ Native Health Providers in the hopes of securing more applicants.

The NNEP Program Coordinator plans to be included in Lakehead University's Aboriginal Preview Day on April 29 to enable promotion of the program. Jerri-Lynn Orr, Native Access Co-ordinator has been asked to assist with promotion of NNEP if district visits are made through the Native Access Program.

Currently 8 applications have been received from the Registrars Office with 3 more expected that I have been helping online. One applicant received from the registrar's office is deferring her acceptance into the program until next year.

Interviews for the 30th intake are tentatively booked for April 22 and 23. The interview process has been moved up date wise to enable the Program Coordinators end date of May 29, 2015. The interview process will be streamlined using past tools but less interviewers. Past feedback from students had stated that having 5 or 6 interviewers was very intimidating.

Respectfully submitted,

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Coordinator Native Nurses Entry Program