



Orillia Campus Report – March, 2015

ABORIGINAL SPEAKERS SERIES

Another year of presenting our Aboriginal Speakers Series has come and gone but a few sporadic visits remain. Highlights from the series enabled us to reach into the world of clinical psychology with Dr. Don Taylor from McGill University and discover some common themes during the course of his research with indigenous cultures of the Americas. History and culture provided noted presentations via wampum belts and treaties, dream catcher and medicine wheel workshops, storytelling and requests from various departments for Aboriginal perspectives on social justice issues. It should be noted that through this program we are able to bring to the classroom and community our view of history, policy, Social Services, Aboriginal education, politics, literature, sports mascots and stereotypes and finally art.

NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS

From the beginning of the school year networking has served to provide our students with the monthly calendars of events from native organizations like the Orillia Native Woman's Group, Ehnaatig Healing Lodge, the Family Services Programs offered at the Rama First Nation and the Mnjikaning Kendaaswin Elementary School (MKES) for the purpose of placement and volunteering.

ABORIGINAL STUDENTS

Our students are contacted the very first few days they enter Lakehead Orillia with news and updates of events such as Aboriginal bursaries and scholarships, the programming schedule which can be accessed in the Aboriginal Students Hub. Note this same web site is offered to our extensive list of community contacts to keep them both informed of events that are happening both on and off campus.

Examples of events include the upcoming Georgian College Powwow, Indigenous Knowledge presentations, Elder's visits and their presentations, sweats, ceremonies and smudging along with cultural arts workshops. Calendars from the native organizations benefit and enhance our school programming as it gives students access to in community programming and contact with both traditional and professional practitioners.

Students are given the opportunity to plan to attend day and night presentations throughout the school year. In turn, they are able to use these presentations for grades and ideas for lesson planning by doing hands on demonstrations as given by artisans or simply listening to the oral presentations. Some events

serve as networking for the students for placement or gaining an opportunity to observe sessions of programming from within agencies themselves.

This year a Lakehead student had the opportunity to volunteer at the MKES in Rama. Students are made aware of Vulnerable Sector Screening and Health and Safety orientation before they are allowed to work or volunteer within the First Nation

OUTREACH AND RECRUITMENT

With the spring approaching, things start to heat up on the First Nations and surrounding communities as job fairs, information sessions and school board retreats present us with the opportunity to get out into the community, set up our booths and potentially recruit new students.

A recent job fair enabled our Aboriginal Liaison Advisor to meet with the Principal of MKES and a few of the teachers to bring forward the idea of bringing their students to visit our campus as part of a tour. They liked the idea and a date has yet to be set towards this initiative. Student numbers were obtained for grades 6 – 8.

Other opportunities included a Williams Treaty event for students, APSIP event at Tim Horton's Camp and Ontario Works Job Fair. Upcoming events include the Simcoe County District School Board's First Nations, Metis and Inuit program to be held at Geneva Park and the Annual Cape Crocker Job Fair.

It should be noted that other First Nations events are in the works and the Aboriginal Liaison office is waiting to hear of these set dates. Optional Native Studies high school visits could also be fulfilled.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

This year Lakehead University Orillia Campus' International Program has asked us to partake in their programming by asking us to offer some insight about First Peoples in Canada for some Chinese and Columbian students.

The invitation was accepted and Dr. Wesley's Indigenous Knowledge presentation is slated for the end of March as an open invitation to attend which was accepted.