



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

This report is to update the Committee members regarding the activities of NNEP since the last report presented to the November 16, 2015 O-AGC meeting.

Program Update

Seventeen students registered for the 2015-2016 (30th intake), two students have since dropped the program because of health issues. Of the 15 remaining students 12 have passed all their courses to date.

The NNEP 2015-2016 Professors are engaged fully with the students. Donna Newhouse is the new Biology Professor and the students have done well in her course thus far. Dr. Lorne McDougall will resume teaching the Nursing Professional Orientations Class in the winter term.

Teresa Trudeau, a Traditional Healing Coordinator, has agreed to provide educational sessions for the students using traditional teachings and the medicine wheel. Smudging opportunities will be provided on a monthly basis.

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. As well, Native Elder Beatrice Twance will be providing cultural sessions on the last Wednesday of the month in the ACSS student Lounge.

There have been 3 Instructors meeting thus far. Instructor meetings are an important aspect of the program, with an emphasis being to problem solve student issues and celebrate successes. The Next Instructors meeting is January 27, 2016.

Student Progress

The remaining 15 students are doing relatively well. Three students failed Chemistry with 2 having marks over 40% allowing a special rewrite exam on January 16, 2016

The students are doing exceptionally well in Mathematics, and very good in Biology. Chemistry and English remain the most challenging courses.

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

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.

The Monthly Checkpoints have alerted some students to the fact they may need weekly meetings with the Coordinator to keep them on track and this has been initiated.

Since the students often struggle with Chemistry and to lesser degree, English and Biology; tutors have been provided by the Aboriginal Cultural Support Services. The 2 tutors, one for Biology and one for Chemistry, have set hours and rooms 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.

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.

Several students of the 2015-2016 Cohort have received bursaries or grants but some still struggle with finances. The Coordinator has made a few student referrals to the food bank here on campus and to budget counsellors. Some students are a long way from home and miss their home communities. The Coordinator makes every effort to make students feel at home and assists them to make friends outside of NNEP.

Several Students have difficulties with public speaking. Anna Chief will be presenting Toast Master Public Speaking options to the students in The Study Skills Class in January and we will continue to work on this important skill in the New Year.

Planning is under way for the 2 week placement which is the culmination of the program. Placements will run from April 25- May 6, 2016. Many students wish to return to their home communities.

Native Nurses Advisory Committee

The NNEP Advisory Committee met January 13, 2016. The Committee has members from Ottawa, Brantford, Muskrat Dam and Thunder Bay. The previous member from Manitoba has resigned. The NNEP Advisory committee is very supportive with new ideas for recruitment since the program is now dependent upon recruiting at least 15 students to be fiscally sound.

Recruitment for the 31st Intake

Recruitment efforts have included:

Participation in a Fort William First Nation Health Fair held on July 6, 2015(at which time 20 applications were given out). The Coordinator also participated in the Pays Plat Health Fair held on July 24, 2015 and 10 applications were given out. Various visitors to these fairs also asked for information about the Native Access Program.

Anna Chief, the Aboriginal Initiatives Recruitment Specialist has been asked to assist with promotion of NNEP if district visits are made through the Aboriginal Initiatives Program.

A small advertisement for the Native Nurses Program was placed in the First Nations Drum Newspaper in May 2015 By the NNEP Program and Aboriginal Initiatives have placed several ads featuring NNEP.

The Native Access Program Coordinator, Jerri-Lynn Orr will be providing valuable recruitment efforts when she goes on a number of planned work related road trips in the near future.

The Coordinator is in contact with, and has emailed 10 potential applicants the application forms. One candidate has applied to the program.

A mail out to various Aboriginal Health Centres in Ontario has taken place, which will be included application forms and NNEP literature. Another mail out to other Canadian Provinces will occur in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,

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Coordinator Native Nurses Entry Program