

Office of Aboriginal Initiatives Highlights: January/February 2013

Acting Vice-Provost (Aboriginal Initiatives), Yolanda Wanakamik

- Attended the installation ceremony for Lakehead University's Eight Chancellor, Dr. Derek Burney
- Attended presentation on Internationalization of Lakehead University with guest speaker Kyra Garson of Thomson River University
- Hosted the Council of Ontario University (COU) Aboriginal Reference Group meeting with local PTO's to further discuss the self identification project. Additionally toured our campus with COU Policy Analyst Amanda Thomson
- Met with the Métis Nation of Ontario, Manager of Education Chris Paci to discuss progress on Memorandum of Understanding
- Hired Aboriginal Cultural & Support Services Coordinator, Yolanda Twance and Aboriginal Outreach/Recruitment Coordinator, Anna Chief and developed individual orientation sessions
- Worked with community partners to bring Community Conversations with Paul Born to Thunder Bay, please see posters for further details.
- In this reporting period several committee meetings have been attended; Vice Provost Search Committee, Paul Born Planning Committee, Joint Senate Academic Committee, LUNSA Pow-Wow Committee, O-AGC Advisors Nishtaam Watabin Sub-Committee, Achievement Program Committee, Co-Curricular Record Committee and the Northern School of Medicine's Aboriginal Reference Group Committee.

Aboriginal Outreach/Recruitment Activities, Anna Chief

- On February 7th the Aboriginal Outreach/Recruitment Officer Position was filled by Anna Chief.
- Anna will be focussing on our largest recruitment event, Aboriginal Preview Day which will be held April 25th. Further to that Anna will be visiting all local high schools to deliver recruitment presentations to students from grade 9-12, hosting on campus tours as well as organizing our Achievement Program "Day on Campus event" in early May.

Aboriginal Cultural Support Services (AC-SS), Yolanda Twance

- Shared notification of upcoming International Exchange Program Information sessions with students (North 2 North) and 8 students (2 from Orillia campus) contacted our department expressing an interest were referred to Nancy Gallo, Acting Associate Director, International.

Academic/Personal/Cultural Support

- Average daily number of students visiting the Aboriginal student lounge - 25
- Bannock has been available every Wednesday but for the remainder of the academic year, bannock will be available on Tuesdays
- Beading & Quilting sessions continue every Tuesday with Elder Ella Gagnon (Jan 9th - 6/Jan 16th - 5/Jan 23rd - 4/Jan 30th - 4/Feb 5th - 5/Feb 12th - 2) (26 participants total)

- Miichim Nonkom held monthly – 54 participants
- Elder-in-Residence attends on a weekly basis – 40 visits per week
- Sharing Circle-Violence, Racism & Safety – January 17th – 18 participants
- Sweat Lodge Ceremony – Jan 18th
- Will begin “Walking With Our Sisters” Beading Circle on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. beginning February 20th and running every week in the Aboriginal student lounge, until beadwork is complete. This work will become part of a commemorative art installation for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women of Canada and is being put together by Christi Belcourt. More than 600 moccasin tops are being created by hundreds of people to create one large piece that will be installed for the public in various galleries and sites
- LUNSA 25th Annual Powwow will take place March 15th - March 17th

Other

- Minor revisions made to Sweat Lodge Site booking form with more to follow once ACSS has received the fire extinguisher from Security
- Renewed the Fire Permit for 2013 for the Sweat Lodge Site and the Fire Department conducted an inspection of the site on January 25th
- ACSS staff attended the Intercultural Communications Workshop with Kyra Garson on Jan 28th
- Participated in tour with Board of Governors on February 1st and gave them a presentation on the Aboriginal student lounge and supports available to Aboriginal students

Métis Student Liaison Facilitator, Heather Cameron:

- Worked with NAGE Coordinator, Jessa Bear and held 2 film screenings on February 5th (Mamere Metisse & The Eagle’s Quest: Effective Anishinaabeg Learning Strategies)
- Working on plans for year-end celebration, second film screening, bringing in a Métis Elder, possibility of jigging workshop and perhaps a trip to Fort William Historical Park for a Métis-themed

Aboriginal Student Counsellor/Social Worker, Stephanie Ritch:

- Counselling sessions with Aboriginal students (Jan-50/Feb-45)
- Conducted numerous traditional Aboriginal energy healing sessions by smudging students
- Held a Geology Program Presentation in the Aboriginal student lounge with Dr. Mary Louise Hill on January 29th – 14 student participants
- Hosted Dr. Miltzer’s Opiates 101 Workshop on January 15th – 35 participants
- Ongoing meetings with LUNSA for upcoming Powwow
- Set up “Overcoming Addiction” Interactive Display in the Student Lounge
- Set up “Eating Disorders” Display in the Student Lounge for Eating Disorder Awareness Week
- Created a statistical tracking sheet for students using ACSS and the student lounge to keep better track of statistics.

Native Access Program, Suzanne Tardif

- Attended the Dennis Franklin Cromarty Winter Orientation on January 10th
- Attended Magnus Theater production of Cafe Daughter
- In collaboration with the Student Success Centre conducted Career Interest Assessments
- Participated and contributed to the O-AGC Niishtaam Watabin sub-committee, Lakehead Public Board Aboriginal Education Council meetings and the Department of Aboriginal Education Council Advisory meeting.

Nanabijou Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement Coordinator, Jessa Bear

- Provided one-on-one assistance for students applying to graduate programs, both during office hours and additional appointments.
- Held a workshop on how to create a resume or curriculum vitae that was presented by Christina Buzzi from the Student Success Centre, 5 interested students attended.
- Held a workshop on Prezi that was presented by Vincent Jones, a Master's of Education student 6 students attended and were given an in depth tutorial and support.
- The NAGE Role Model nomination form has been developed and sent to the students. The flyer and nomination forms have also been forwarded to the graduate coordinators of every department at Lakehead University.

Respectfully submitted by:

Yolanda Wanakamik, Acting Vice-Provost (Aboriginal Initiatives)