

## **Orillia Campus Update and Report**

### **Community**

62 new and returning students of indigenous decent have self-identified at the Orillia campus this Fall 2016 semester.

An area in the Alumni Commons has been designated for smudging at any time throughout the year. Students can access this area outside of office hours by contacting security.

Allysha Wassegijig was invited to speak to the Accelerated Social Work degree students to present information about AMP, CLAN, and community cultural events and resources on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. One student was successfully reconnected to her home community, the Kahnawake Mohawk Territory, as a result of this class visit.

Attended the traditional Creation Story Teaching in Mnjikaaning First Nation on August 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> to strengthen community connections and share information about AMP and CLAN to community members and employers.

Elder Ernestine Baldwin was invited to give an opening prayer for the president's BBQ lunch on Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup>. On Friday September 2<sup>nd</sup>, Kim Wheatley was invited to speak to the students, recognize the land and give an opening song for the Orientation Opening Commencement ceremony in Orillia. Allysha Wassegijig was invited to speak to the incoming students in a session later that day to present information about the Aboriginal Mentorship Program, the Coordinated Learning Access Network, and other ways to become involved in the indigenous community on campus. The Orientation Thunder Run involved a stop at the Orillia Medicine Garden where students were introduced to the space and took part in a sharing circle.

Met with the Orillia Native Women's Group Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss various programs/services/events and create a referral connection so that Orillia students can access cultural and community support. Multiple students have reached out to Allysha Wassegijig for assistance in reconnecting to their culture and traditions.

Met with Turtle Island Student Circle (TISC) leaders, Meghan Young, Winston Boudreau, and Britney McDougall to discuss their planning for the year. TISC will be hosting their first event, a potlatch social and visioning session later this month.

### **Aboriginal Mentorship Program and Coordinated Learning Access Network**

Meetings scheduled with Aboriginal departments of the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District and Simcoe County District School Boards to discuss the participation of Orillia secondary schools in this program. The school boards have postponed these meetings to Thursday, September 15 at 10:30am and Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10am.

Attended the Rama Pow Wow in Mnjikaaning First Nation on August 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> to promote CLAN to local community members and employers.

Met with faculty to create awareness of AMP and CLAN, and determine levels of faculty support. Had individual meetings with Tess Buchanan, Angela Hovey, Dr. Jennifer Jarman, Dr. Linda Rodenburg, Alexa Scully, Alexandra Thompson, and Dr. Doug West. All Orillia faculty have received information regarding AMP and CLAN.

Met with faculty of Sustainability Sciences, Dr. Chris Murray and Dr. Victoria TeBrugge, on Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss a potential partnership between AMP and EcoReach. EcoReach would like to develop a minimum of four workshops for participants of AMP. The EcoReach program will bring these students to campus and make available to them outreach activities in environmental science that incorporate Aboriginal knowledge and that are specifically linked to environmental concerns in their communities. AMP would provide the cultural guidance and direct connection to Aboriginal secondary school students for these workshops. Allysha Wassegijig recently provided a letter of support for EcoReach's application to the NSERC Promoscience program.

Met with Wendy Thompson, General Manager of Orillia Community Development Corporation on Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss potential CLAN partners who can provide career services similar to the services our partners in Thunder Bay provide. This is an ongoing discussion.

Attended the LUSU Volunteer/Clubs fair on Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> to promote CLAN and the AMP volunteer opportunity to Orillia students and community members.

Allysha Wassegijig has been invited by Dr. Michael D. Stevenson to speak at the Interdisciplinary Studies department meeting on Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm to briefly present on AMP and CLAN.