



The Native Nurses Entry Program

Report To the Ogimaawin- Aboriginal Governance Council (O-AGC) Advisors Committee

January 5, 2017

This report is to update the Committee members regarding the activities of NNEP since the last report presented to the October 28th, 2016 Committee meeting.

Program Update

At present, 15 students are enrolled in the Native Nurses Entry Program. One student has not attended the program since October 15, 2016 and is not responding to calls or emails from the Coordinator.

Three students who are attempting their second time are under academic and attendance probation and are required to meet with the Coordinator on a weekly basis.

The 2016-2017 students come from a variety of backgrounds. These include: Thunder Bay, Kingston, Pays Plat FN, Winnipeg, White Sand FN, Big Grassy First Nation, Taykwa- Tagamou FN, Seine River FN and Miskegogamang FN.

The student's last final exam in Chemistry 1050 was written on December 18. Two students did not write the final exam. Eight students passed the Chemistry 1050 course and 2 students are eligible to write the special exam, as well, one student has an incomplete standing in the course. Those students who pass the Chemistry 1050 continue in the winter taking the Chemistry 1070 course.

The NNEP Instructors are engaged with this year's students (the 31st Cohort) and report freely to the NNEP Coordinator. Regular monthly meetings with the new Director of Nursing, Dr. Glenna Knutson have been initiated by the NNEP Coordinator to assist with program feedback.

Student Progress

Students in the 31st Cohort are a highly cohesive group and are generally working together as a team. The three returning students are engaged and attendance at weekly checkpoints has been excellent.

The weekly and 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. At present one student is experiencing acute stress and has been seen on campus for counselling and medical support, the coordinator will be setting up weekly meetings with this student in the New Year.

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

Attendance to classes has on the whole been very good and the group is quite committed to their studies.

Since the students often struggle with Chemistry and to a lesser degree, Biology and English; tutors have been provided by the Aboriginal Cultural Support Services. The 3 tutors, one for Biology and two for Chemistry, have set hours provided in the NNEP Board Room which have been added to the students timetables. Attendance and utilization of the tutors has been fair.

Those requiring Math assistance can access the current Biology Tutor. 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. A former NNEP student did a presentation in the Student's English class this past term which was both uplifting and inspiring.

The NNEP students will be involved with Art Therapy as part of their Study Skills Course in the winter 2017 class. Jen la France, an Art Therapy student with the Vancouver Art Therapy Institute will be guiding the students through a learning process to enhance emotional, physical and mental health. Art therapy is a form of expressive therapy that is based on the conviction that making art, being creative, and utilizing the creative process in a safe therapeutic setting can be healing.

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. All Aboriginal students have commented how safe and welcomed they feel in the Native Nurses Lounge. It truly is a positive learning space.

Office space in the NNEP Lounge is now being utilized by the Lakehead University School of Nursing. Professor Catherine Schoales and Clinical Coordinator, Roberta Wood is in offices BB1045 A and B respectively. This interaction has been a very positive, enriching, influence on both the NNEP Students and the NNEP Coordinator.

As well, 1 teleconferenced BScN nursing course will be offered in the New Year using the NNEP Boardroom teleconferencing equipment. These interactions have proved to be positive.

Cultural Support

NNEP is very thankful for the ongoing support and relationship with ACSS. Students have been encouraged to attend ACSS feasts and educational offerings and smudges.

Students are also encouraged to visit Elder Gerry Martin for support when needed.

Elder and Professor Emeritus Delores Wawia attended the student's Communications Class on 2 occasions this term and her cultural teachings were appreciated very much. Dolores has become an invaluable asset to the NNEP Program and the NNEP Coordinator is very thankful for this positive connection.

NNEP had a Christmas Tea on December 2nd with hot and cold food items, this was well received.

The NAP/NNEP Christmas Feast on the evening of December 5, 2016 was well attended and enjoyed very much by the students, their families and supports. Elder and Professor Emeritus Delores Wawia provided the opening prayer.

The 2016/17 NNEP Class will participate in the "Blanket Exercise" in the new year along with first year BSCN Nursing students, the date and time for this will be consolidated soon.

Native Nurses Entry Program Advisory Committee

The next Advisory Committee meeting will be held in January 16, 2017. At this time a review of the 2015/16 cohort will take place upon examination of the 'Evaluation of the NNEP Thirtieth Intake'. The report is included with this update for OAGC members to peruse.

NNEP Coordinator: Community Linkages and Ongoing Education

The NNEP Coordinator remains a member of the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre Indigenous Advisory Committee which meets quarterly.

On November 24, 2016 the NNEP Coordinator attended the Gerontological Nursing Association NW Chapter educational offering titled "Positive Aging- A Personal and Lifelong Learning" at CERAH presented by Brian Nieminen.

The NNEP Coordinator attended the "Social Justice and Activism in North Western ON" Conference at the Bora Laskin Auditorium on December 6, 2017. This was a conference organized by the students of the Social Justice Studies Program, Women's and Gender Studies Student Association (WGSSA) and the Department of Women's Studies. The keynote speaker was Leanna Marshall who was the co-lead for Walking with Our Sisters in 2014.

Recruitment Activities for the 32nd Cohort

- The coordinator has had email contact with 8 students interested in the NNEP Program and has received one application for the 2017/18 school year.
- The NNEP Coordinator attended the Gull Bay FN Christmas Party on Dec 16, 2016 and valuable connections were made to promote the program.
- A provincial and national mail- out is planned for early January 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

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Coordinator Native Nurses Entry Program