

Orillia Campus Report – March, 2014

PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

The Annual Trent University Elders Gathering held in Peterborough was the highlight outing for the students and professors that attended, as there was a full agenda of topics to choose from and 17 Elders on hand.

Work Shops with the Elder-in-Residence have taken place with more scheduled beginning February 12th – April.

- March 7th Elder-in-Residence Workshop on Stress
- March 18th Elder-in-Residence Workshop on Healing and Talking Circles
- March/April Elder-in-Residence Workshop, TBA

The Aboriginal Speakers Series Part I and II has concluded with a full line up of guest speakers covering topics from history, Native writers, to contemporary issue related to the Canadian Constitution and Aboriginal Rights hosted by Native Activist Russell Diabo and then to more traditional themes, such as wampum usage, the Medicine Wheel and a Mid-Winter Storytelling/Short Films Night where an old meets new format was introduced.

Further, it should be noted that the concept of the naming ceremony was introduced repeatedly throughout the series in the event some of our Aboriginal students wish to approach an Elder one day for a name.

This series was an excellent program to organize as it brings together community, students, staff and professors to meet, listen, learn and discuss Aboriginal Peoples issues past, present and future. The series also allowed for some grading schemes as part of campus courses and a guest speaker's book was even used in course reading.

Networking with the Rama First Nation has produced programming for Social Nights and Talking Circles for men, women and youth which are open and available to our students to partake. Rama staff has also been booked to demonstrate talking/healing circles on campus via workshop format as prep for community work.

This networking with the local Aboriginal organizations has produced other extra events that students can access off campus such as the Orillia Native Women's Group hosting Moon Ceremonies for women and Teaching Circles for all ages within the city. As well, the Enaatig Healing Lodge has offered to do sweat's for our students as part their calendar of events. Student's health needs have been met by networking with off campus organizations.

The Web Site designed for the Friends of the Indigenous Club and is being utilized to stay in contact with one another for campus news and events, scholarships, art, culture and the Ojibwe language, as well as for links to Aboriginal Web Sites.

ImageNative Film Fest Tour has been booked for on campus viewing of features from the festival along with some of the award winners.

As usual, students, staff, faculty and the community stakeholders are constantly informed of these upcoming Lakehead University Orillia events via email contact list(s) and the web site.

A lot of hot topics are brewing in the Aboriginal realm right now and ideas for guest speakers has commenced.

RECRUITMENT AND OUTREACH

Guidance Counsellors and the Native Studies Programs have been contacted about doing PowerPoint presentations for the classrooms under the condition we get to dispense Lakehead information. David Snake will relate his study/background years in native art, language and travel in the presentations and advocate for students to continue their studies and that Lakehead University Orillia is a viable option.

There are approximately 150 Aboriginal students within Orillia's 3 High Schools and Parry Sound High School has similar numbers...hence focus on this future pool of potential recruits.

Contact with Aboriginal organizations, First Nations, High School Guidance Departments and Native Studies instructors has been re-established with the latest information dispensed along with updates on planned events for campus.

Return visits and set-up dates are currently being booked for High School Native Studies classes and First Nation's Health and Career Fairs.

Aboriginal Days at Twin Lakes Secondary School - March 31 – April 4th with our recruitment booth.

APSIP has been contacted about joining them for the Georgian Bay, Lake Huron and Lake Simcoe leg of the recruitment campaign for fall 2014. This part of the tour represents 2 weeks of their recruitment schedule and will take David Snake beyond the 1 – 1.5 hour catchment area that has been instituted by the Orillia Office of Student Affairs.

The big event planned by the SCDSB for February 26th with Wab Kinew as part of Native Studies Day on the Rama First Nation was cancelled ...it was expected that over 300 Aboriginal and Native Studies High School students from throughout the Simcoe County District School Board would attend.

Recruiters Training @ Thunder Bay...should be a priority for 2014.

STATS/HIGHLIGHTS

The Aboriginal Speakers Series was popular with the core group of regulars from the community and also saw professors, current students and staff in attendance. Between 16 to a high of 60 people (full classes) attended these sessions.

Simcoe County District School Board reports 1300 identified Aboriginal students ...elementary/secondary.

It should be noted that Parry Sound High School, Near North District School Board has a notable Aboriginal student population comparable to the 3 Orillia High Schools. They service 5 First Nations and off-reserve population.

The Metis flag was hung in the commons for 5 days and flyers were spread to explain the reason.

One Aboriginal student at Lakehead University Orillia applied for and received 5 scholarships this year and showed her gratitude personally for being provided with application info.

Note correspondence and visits have taken place to each First Nation or their local high schools have been contacted about our programs and information dispersal.

Student Appreciation Day was held on March 5th with events planned
✦ a workshop on "The Medicine Wheel" with refreshments and food served

This March, visits commence to Native Studies classes in Orillia and Barrie with the possibility of adding Midland, Sutton and Parry Sound High Schools to the list.

A luncheon has been planned with the Dean, the Principal of First Nations, Metis and Inuit from the Simcoe County District School Board, Associate Vice-Provost Frank Cappadocia and David Snake.

Parry Sound High School's Aboriginal Youth Worker has been contacted for their numbers and about visits to their Native Studies Program.

Additional visits are planned for Midland, Penetang, Sutton and Parry Sound High School Guidance and Native Studies Programs.

The trip to the Nawash Career Fair while beyond the catchment area allowed for the opportunity to meet staff at the Blue Waters District School and to plan for return visits for recruitment and Native Studies. Information packages were dropped off to their guidance department, library, Native Studies course and 33 students were met at the career fair.

It is expected that well over 300 Aboriginal High School students will have been reached as part of the Aboriginal Recruitment and Outreach initiative which includes correspondence and meetings with guidance counsellors, First Nations and Aboriginal organizations, high school visits to Native Studies classes and set-up for First Nation's annual spring Health and Career Fairs.

The Aboriginal Liaison Advisor has been asked to attempt to bring in 10 Aboriginal students as part of the recruitment campaign and now that relations have been establish more travel is at the forefront.

A F.N's Day or Ojibwe Cultural Gathering of some sort needs to be organized on campus perhaps for this spring/summer as students will be out ...the dorms and classrooms will be open. This is one way to bring young students onto campus and it lets them experience a university setting. The 6 Tribal Council affiliates need to be catered to for this event.

During the summer, Native Peoples gather from all over at Powwow's in the area and it would a good time to use some of these dates as times to setup recruitment booths.