Indigenous Student Services Centre Update

By Conor Kerr

Happy spring everyone! We’ve had a busy few months since our last edition of the newsletter. There are a lot of new faces—students and staff—who are coming in and spending time with us in our centre. It’s great to hear the positive conversations and seeing how dedicated our students are to Indigenous education and being advocates for their communities and cultures.

We’ve also welcomed new staff to our team: Patricia Gladue has joined us as our RBC Indigenous Mentorship Liaison, and Robyn Fabiosa is our new Program Coordinator. Staff profiles will follow in future editions of this newsletter. I think both staff will be excellent additions to our team and will continue to provide the supports needed for our students to succeed at NorQuest College.

I would also like to thank everyone who’s been joining us for our Circle of Knowledge: Indigenous Speaker Series. We’ve had Matthew Wildcat and Lewis Cardinal join us as our featured speakers so far and both delivered informative and entertaining presentations to a packed Atrium.

Also, just a note that if you were not able to join us for the Speaker Series you can still listen to our podcast, available on all podcast formats, as well as the NorQuest website. Just visit norquest.ca and search ‘podcast’.

Land-Based Learning Symposium

On November 5 and 6, 2018, NorQuest College hosted the Land-Based Learning Symposium. This event saw a sold out crowd of 300 Indigenous and non-Indigenous educators, academics, public service staff and others come together to learn more about Land-Based Learning. Participants came from as far away as New Zealand to join us!

We want to thank everyone at the college for making sure that our guests were welcomed and made to feel at home on the campus. The event was emceed by Hunter Cardinal and he did a great job of keeping it light and entertaining. We also had amazing speakers who shared their knowledge.

Stay tuned for more updates on what NorQuest will be doing for Land-Based learning!
The RBC Indigenous Mentorship Program is back in action. Our meetings are held at the beginning of each month. We will also be featuring various speakers throughout the year. The next meeting is April 18 from noon to 1:00 pm in the Indigenous Student Centre.

If you have any questions about being a mentor, the programs and supports that are offered, or want to participate, please feel free to drop by the Indigenous Student Centre at anytime and chat with Patricia Gladue or send her an email at Patricia.Gladue@norquest.ca.

RBC Indigenous Mentorship Program Update

Tân’si! (Hello)

My name is Patricia Gladue. I am a proud and loving goalie mother of four children. I am an avid hockey enthusiastic individual. (GO VEGAS KNIGHTS GO)

I was born and raised in Kikino Metis Settlement up until I was nine years old. I moved to the big city to further my education as my parents believed that the lack of education was not sufficient enough in a small community. I was a previous student back in 2006, graduated from the Aboriginal Community Support worker program in 2010, and now have returned back to NorQuest College, to further my education in the Social Work field. After graduation, I was able to successfully obtain employment as an Indigenous Resource coordinator/Community Support worker and as well advance my career within the Alberta Justice and Solicitor General.

The reason why I applied for the RBC Indigenous Liaison position is to continue being a positive role model for ongoing and new students. My goal is to be a mentor to other students by creating a safe and welcoming support system through the Indigenous framework. I hope to be able to help assist students in creating a safe place to learn, grow, connect to their cultural grass-roots, and develop skills such as leadership and community engagement.

I am a proud metis woman who loves learning new techniques to build a stronger foundation for students by being a voice for other students. I personally believe that success is a shared responsibility. By effectively working together as a team, I believe that individuals can overcome challenges, build on their strengths and begin to recognize their full potential. By supporting the needs of students, I believe that everyone can learn and reach their full potential by providing the opportunities and appropriate tools used in and out of NorQuest College.
Indigenization Strategy—Best Practices

NorQuest College has established our Internal Indigenization Working group. This group represents different areas of the college who will be coming together to see how we can create actionable strategies and steps based off of our Indigenization Strategy. Our first meeting took place on March 1 and we created actionable items that different areas of the college can do to make Indigenization a priority.

This is something that everyone employed at the college has to consider. If we are to truly create a college that properly reflects Indigenous values, histories, and cultures, we need to come together as Indigenous and non-Indigenous to see how this works.

Staff Profile: Jamie Medicine Crane

Oki, Tans’I, my name is Jamie Medicine Crane, my traditional name is Ahksisstowni meaning Brave Woman. I am a Faculty Developer with College Learning and Teaching Development (CLTD).

I started this position in January. This is a new unique position as I will be working in three different areas: I am working with CLTD as a faculty developer assisting faculty to build capacity in regards to Indigenous perspectives and history; I will be working in Curriculum Development advising on new and existing programs to ensure Indigenous perspectives, experiences, and history are included in the curriculum; and I will be working with the internal team in regards to the Indigenization Strategy.

I am Blackfoot from Kainai and Piikani Nations in Southern Alberta and have been in Edmonton for almost 5 years. Previously I worked with Alberta Government as a curriculum developer, ensuring Indigenous perspectives and history was included in the K-12 curriculum in every subject.

In my spare time I enjoy family and working with the youth and community through performing and motivational speaking. I am an activist, advocate for Women and Indigenous rights, herbalist, traditional and contemporary dancer, flutist, fashion designer, actress and educator. I am very excited to be a part of NorQuest College and look forward to our journey together.

Upcoming Events:

**April 5** — Three Feathers film screening
6:00 – 8:00 pm
Singhmar Centre for Learning, Atrium

**April 11** — Making beaded keychains
11:00 am – 2:00 pm
Indigenous Student Centre

**April 24** — Creating Vision Boards
11:00 am – 2:00 pm
Indigenous Student Centre

**May 24** — Circle of Knowledge: Indigenous Speaker Series
Singhmar Centre for Learning, Atrium
Settler and Indigenous Relations Tips: Terminology

By Elliott Young

Through the years, there have been many different names for Indigenous people in Canada. From first contact to modern settler and Indigenous relations, names have ranged from Indian to Native to Aboriginal to, now, Indigenous. These changes coupled with each community and nation having different ways to identify themselves means that as a settler moving forward in a relationship with the Indigenous community can be intimidating from the offset. As paralyzing as this terminology can be, it shouldn’t be a deterrent to relationship building with Indigenous people. It can actually be a great starting point for this relationship.

As Chelsea Vowel writes in Indigenous Writes: A Guide to First Nations, Metis & Inuit Issues in Canada, exploring the appropriate terminology with Indigenous people is a good first step in developing that relationship and building your awareness of Indigenous people. Vowel provides a great summary text:

"No one can be expected to know all of the different names for every single people and community across Canada. A really powerful and beautiful start would be to simply learn the names in use, both historic and contemporary, for the Indigenous peoples in the area where you live... If you get confused, don’t be scared to ask! You just might get to an interesting history lesson of the area you are in, because names are so inextricable linked to that history."

If you want to practice this, please come down to the Indigenous Student Centre and start a conversation with one of the staff. We are always up for a conversation!