Indigenous Māori learners success at University of Otago

Pearl Matahiki, University of Otago

Māori Learners success in tertiary studies is an Aotearoa New Zealand national priority education strategy. One mechanism to achieve Māori learner’s success is to implement cultural responsive support programmes and practises. University of Otago Te Huka Matauraka/ Māori Centre Student Support Indigenous model provides a range of support perspectives, which are underpinned by Māori concepts & values that derived directly from our cultural context.

Māori concepts and values underpin all programmes coordinated by the University of Otago’s, Te Huka Matauraka/ Māori Centre.

They are, whakawhanaungatanga working collectively; tikanga cultural protocols /practises; Manaakitanga providing service of care/support as Māori-to-Māori; Oranga ensuring health & wellbeing at all times when supporting Māori students; Ako teaching and learning in a culturally responsive way and Tika ensuring that staff are always modelling positive behaviour when working with Māori students.

This Presentation will illustrate and highlight how these concepts assist and supports Indigenous Māori students’ success that in turn supports the aspirations of each student; whanau family/hapu subtribe/ iwi/tribe development.

“We are “Whanau on Campus”

Learning outcomes
- How to put Indigenous concepts into action
- What does this look like for Māori learners
- What is Indigenous success

Presenter

Pearl Matahiki, University of Otago

I am Otago Alumni, currently employed as the Manager of the University of Otago, Te Huka Matauraka (THM) /Māori Centre a position I have held for the past 18 years. I am responsible with overseeing all activities and programmes coordinated by the Centre which includes managing the financial, human and physical resources and promoting the Centre as a central point for Indigenous Iwi Māori students.

I lead an amazing team of (7 staff) that delivers a top range of co-ordinated activities, which provide academic, cultural, financial, welfare, and counselling support that strives to recruit, encourage transition, participation, retention and assist with the achievement of Indigenous Māori students at Otago in a culturally competent and professional manner. With staff, (THM) work collaboratively with all Divisional professional & academic staff to assist students aspire towards academic excellence and success.

I established the following Memorandum of Understanding documents with Te Roopu Māori/Māori students Association; Seethesolutions online tutorials (STS) and Kia ora Hauora National Coordinator which benefits the Centre academic programmes and students.

I am on the several committees/roopu; both internal & external to the University including Taura Here Rep Ngati Porou Ki Otepoti, Mana Pounamu Awards and support local Māori community organisations.

Sir Apiriana Ngata “E tipu e rea mō ngā ra o tō ao - grasp the tools of the education of this modern world and hold the treasures of your ancestors as the guidance towards brighter futures.”

Pearl Matahiki
Tumuaki/Manager
Te Huka Mātauraka/Māori Centre