Increasing the adoption of te reo & tikanga Māori within Student Services and Administration at Auckland University of Technology

Mike Shaw & Wiremu Tipuna, Auckland University of Technology

AUT’s Student Services and Administration Division aim to lead the way in respect to inclusivity and acceptance within our student and staff communities. Embracing Te Reo and Tikanga Māori internally is seen as an important step in achieving this and growing the cultural competence of our staff.

In 2018, Student Communications Director and MBA student Mike Shaw, partnered with Kaihautu Mātauranga Māori, Wiremu Tipuna, as part of his MBA Applied Business Project. The result was an increased understanding of the current bicultural awareness, knowledge and skills among staff and the creation of a framework for driving increased awareness and adoption of Te Reo and Tikanga Māori.

The discoveries made throughout the project proved insightful and have helped inform the current roll out of activities, which coincide with UN declaration that 2019 be declared the International Year of Indigenous Languages. Now being rolled out to the Division of more than 120 staff, the initiative is being positively received and helping increase the bi-cultural competence of staff underpinned by Change Management Theory.

Attendees at this session will have the opportunity to learn how change management theory was applied to a cultural context in order to develop a successful programme of staff development in the area of bi-cultural awareness, knowledge and skill development. Attendees will also enjoy a fun-filled interactive exercise based on some of the current workshop exercises, with the opportunity to learn how to pronounce Te Reo Māori, and gain a greater understanding of the traditional cultural values that underpin Tikanga Māori.

Learning outcomes
- How Change Management theory was applied to support cultural growth
- Pronunciation of te reo Māori, and the importance of getting it right.
- A greater understanding of the value that comes from embracing Tikanga rather than simply paying ‘lip service’ to meet obligations.
Presenters
Mike Shaw, Auckland University of Technology

Mike Shaw is Director of Student Communications at Auckland University of Technology (AUT), a group within the University’s Student Services & Administration Division brought together to enhance, transform and disrupt the ways in which the University, Faculties, Schools and Divisions communicate with around 30,000 current students.

A life-long learner, Mike’s background includes science, education, public relations, business and governance, often working at the intersection of these disciplines.

Wiremu Tipuna, Auckland University of Technology

Ko Whakapunake te Maunga
Ko Wairoa te awa
Ko Takitimu te waka
Ko Kahungunu te iwi
Ko Mākoro te hapū
Ko Whetu Mārama Mākoro te marae
Nō Wairoa ahau
Ko tāku kāinga noho nāianei,
Ko Operetu o Te Rakipaewhenua ki
Tāmaki Makaurau
Ko ahau tetahi Takawaenga Māori
o te Wānanga Aronui o Tāmaki
Ko ahau hoki te Kaihautu Mātauranga
Māori o Te Ara Whāriki
Wiremu Tipuna tāku ingoa

In addition to working with students as Takawaenga Māori, Wiremu Tipuna is also Kaihautu Mātauranga Māori, a role that sees him champion the development of bi-cultural understanding within the Student Services & Administration Division at AUT.