

Aboriginal Liaison/Consultant

Jurisdiction: Manitoba

Contact: Rick Lavalee

Level: Post Secondary

Theme: Transitions and linkages

Description of Practice:

The position's primary responsibility is to reduce barriers to post-secondary education (PSE) for Aboriginal students. This is accomplished by research, liaison and consulting services to Aboriginal organizations (i.e. Band Councils), participating on Aboriginal PSE committees, and creating awareness of services available to potential students.

Background:

Research suggests that Aboriginal participation in PSE is underrepresented. In order to address this, Manitoba Student Aid developed the Aboriginal Liaison initiative. This initiative was to promote awareness of PSE to potential Aboriginal students and to create awareness of the barriers Aboriginal students face when pursuing a PSE.

Development:

Manitoba Student Aid developed several counsellor and advisory positions in early 2000. Part of this development was an initiative to better serve the needs of Aboriginal students. As a result of this, it was determined that a position be created that would deal specifically with Aboriginal issues and work with the Aboriginal people regarding Manitoba Student Aid and PSE.

Evidence:

There have been significant accomplishments of this initiative. Some of these are: increased awareness of the needs of Aboriginal students, partnerships with Band Councils and the Manitoba Métis Federation, established links between northern remote communities and the south, and increased awareness among Aboriginal people of the benefits of a PSE.

Adaptability

The intent of this initiative is to maximize Aboriginal student enrolment in PSE.

Further information:

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