

## **ONECA Post-Secondary Zoom Meeting November 4, 2020**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this meeting was as follows:

- Provide members with updates of meetings with the Executive of the Indigenous Peoples Education Circle (IPEC) of Colleges Ontario;
- Provide members with updates of meetings with the Reference Group on Aboriginal Education (RGAE), Council of Ontario Universities;
- Provide an update of the ONRCA Professional Development Series; and
- Hear updates from the members.

**Participants:** Twenty-six (26) participants registered signed on for the meeting, in addition to ONECA representatives Roxane Manitowabi and Gaya'dowęhs Lu Ann Hill-MacDonald.

### **1. Update on Meetings with IPEC**

ONECA continues to meet with the IPEC Executive bi-weekly to bring forward issues of concern and challenges expressed by ONECA members. In taking issues forward, it is difficult to get responses to issues on a system wide basis as getting the information may require contacting different people from different departments. IPEC was helpful in providing contact information which is available on the ONECA website.

### **2. Update on Meetings with RGAE**

ONECA tabled issues which included the administration of third-party sponsorships. ONECA articulated the need to know how best to assist and advocate for students trying to navigate the university administrative systems. The group agreed to examine their processes and report back at their next meeting. At that time, they would determine if more work needs to be done. The group meets quarterly.

### **3. ONECA reported on Upcoming Professional Development Sessions**

Information will be included in the newsletter as it becomes available. Please remember to complete the evaluation form after attending sessions.

### **4. Updates from the Members**

- One university has reported providing emergency aid for internet for students as well as Rocket Hubs after negotiating an agreement with Rogers. Student supports are online. Student engagement is low. Students respond to email.

- A few withdrawals due to online program delivery. Some students in residence were lonely so left residence to continue studies from home.
- Two withdrawals due to stress related to online learning. Two other students moved to winter intake. Some students are withdrawing from courses, others are adjusting.
- Struggling to reach out to students. We're all learning new skills. Some students requiring lab placements are on campus for the lab portion of the program.
- St. Clair College is having a Treaties Week webinar tonight.
- One First Nation has provided students with top ups to their living allowances to help with the additional costs of on-line program delivery. ONECA's Mental Health resources are great! There are being distributed as needed. Assisting students with yoga programming, healthy balance boxes, monthly check-ins and e-information sessions. 95% of families from K to grade 12 made the decision to home school their children. Learning Pods have been established to help them.
- Students adapting well. Some drop outs due to mental health challenges. Provided one-time bursaries for 2020 students to help with extra costs.
- Ten students withdrew. Using email and zoom to contact students. Provide laptops and access to six workstations with internet access for students needing it. Share mental health resources like the ONECA post-card with numbers to call. One student transferring to another college.
- Budgets have been cut but provided funding for students to travel to school, also providing funding for technology. Host zoom meetings with grade 12's. The community offered continuing students and grade 12 students the year off and fifteen students took it. This could create a two year wait to return to post-secondary.
- Students are finding online learning is not for them. The institution has provided virtual fun or information sessions but they are not being well attended. Hosting one on one sessions with students.
- ONECA resources are very helpful. I pass along the information to co-workers.
- Need help with financial literacy for young students.
- Providing access to equipment for online learning. There are some connectivity issues. Some students are starting in January instead of September. Providing assistance with mental health resources.
- Providing study spaces and tech services, virtual coffee breaks, assistance with scholarships and bursaries. We can only use student college email so we need to keep reminding students to check their college email.
- Request student updates – students must contact faculty to provide updates.
- Purchased chrome books for students, some internet issues, lots to navigate as counsellors and advisors even legal. We ask students about their challenges and meet with teachers to try to address the challenges.
- Provided additional funding to students for laptops and for specialized technology for specialized programs.
- The 24 communities north of Sioux Lookout pay for travel for all students to go to school for internet access.
- Emailing students works. Students are requesting help with time management and work life balance. Providing student incentives to keep students engaged.
- Communicating with parents to help students with transitions.

## **5. More ONECA Updates**

- ONECA is working in partnership with Skills Development and Mamaweswen to develop role model promotional materials for the skilled trades.
- ONECA is developing resources for schools. More information will follow.
- ONECA has development COVID resources in different languages which will be mailed to First Nations communities.

## **6. NEXT ZOOM MEETING – to be determined**