



office of aboriginal education & engagement

Welcome to the second issue of the Office of Aboriginal Education and Engagement newsletter. We've had some new people join our team this month, so the unintended theme of this newsletter is introductions! Please join us in welcoming Hayden, Sheena, Sheldon, and Carrie! Read more about them and their roles below.

Meet the 'su'luqw'a' Mentors!

Meet Hayden and Sheldon who will be 'su'luqw'a' (cousins) for the digital summer mentorship program *Thuy'she'num Tu Smun'eem: Building a foundation for our Youth*. See below for details. Please contact Sylvia.Scow@viu.ca for more information and/or if you have students in grades 11/12 or 8/9 who would like to be part of the program.



Hayden Taylor knows that successful students become successful adults. He completed his first bachelor's degree in Arts and Science at Quest University, focusing on Indigenous identity. Hayden is continuing his education at Vancouver Island University to receive his second bachelor's degree in education. As a father of two, Hayden knows the vital role that education plays in a child's life. Hayden is passionate about his educational journey and looks forward to inspiring other students to reach their full potentials.



My name is Sheldon Scow, my traditional name is Nu'yam'tsa. My family comes from the Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis (Gilford Island) and Liidlil Kue (Fort Simpson N.W.T.). I am going into my final semester at VIU to finish my B.A. with a major in Indigenous/Xwulmuxw Studies.

Online Summer Programming for Indigenous Youth in Vancouver Island School Districts

Vancouver Island University and the 'su'luqw'a Community Cousins are happy to announce we will be partnering with School District #68 and Kwumut Lelum to offer an Online Summer Mentorship Program for Indigenous youth in grades 8-12. VIU's 'su'luqw'a Community Cousins will work together with a group of Indigenous youth on Vancouver Island to promote relationships through mentorship, create opportunities for shared learning, and build leadership skills in a nurturing and supportive community. This mentorship program seeks to extend through the isolation of COVID-19 and connect young Indigenous leaders from school districts on Vancouver Island.

The program's structure is for VIU Community Cousins to prepare youth in grades 11 and 12 to mentor their younger peers in grades 8 and 9 to continue the cycle of mentorship. Each 'su'luqw'a' Cousin will mentor five students from grades 11 and 12. Each youth mentor (grade 11/12) will then mentor five students in grades 8 and 9. Weekly and monthly activities will work to build relationships between all levels of mentorship.

Please contact Sylvia Scow for more information and for an application: Sylvia.Scow@viu.ca

Meet Sheena Robinson, Indigenous Education Navigator, Cowichan Campus

Sheena Robinson will be taking over the role of Indigenous Education Navigator for Tasha Brooks while she is away on maternity leave. Sheena is from Bella Bella, and also has a Norwegian and English background. Though she is from the Heiltsuk First Nation, she has lived most of her life all over Coast Salish territory, and acknowledges their beautiful and diverse land. In 2018 she graduated from VIU with a BA in First Nations Studies and Creative Writing and is currently a part time MA student at Royal Roads University. She is



a Shush u 'yulh (older sister) who has been in the Community Cousins family for four years, mentoring other Indigenous students and sharing her educational journey. Sheena is a good listener, easy to talk to, and loves to laugh and share stories. Building meaningful relationships with students, families, and community members is especially important to Sheena, and she looks forward to working in the Cowichan Valley. Sheena is currently working part time and can be reached at sheena.robinson@viu.ca.

Have a post-secondary waitlist? Contact an Indigenous Education Navigator today

EleV is a collaborative learning partnership funded by the Mastercard Foundation. For every student eligible to be funded under existing Post Secondary Student Support or Partnership funding and policy, EleV will match with identical funding and policy. This means more students from your community or organization who would otherwise be placed on a waitlist can attend post-secondary.

Indigenous Education Navigators are now accepting applications for you upcoming September 2020 - August 2021 academic year for all Indigenous, Métis, Inuit VIU students in a Bachelor, Diploma, Trades, and Certificate program. **For more information, please contact any one of our Indigenous Education Navigators listed below.**

Naomi Bailey: Naomi.Bailey@viu.ca

Robert Mahikwa: Robert.Mahikwa@viu.ca

Sherry Mattice: Sherry.Mattice@viu.ca

[Find out more](#)



Community Based Summer Internship/Mentorship Opportunities 2020

We are looking for communities and students that are interested in a paid summer internship or mentorship.

An internship or a mentorship intends to provide applied and practical learning opportunities that benefit the community, student, and VIU. While the student is an employee, they remain a student who is engaged in a paid for credit internship course OR in a paid not-for-credit mentorship course.

A remote/virtual work experience: allows the student to apply and enhance skills and knowledge acquired in the classroom; allows the community an opportunity to have input into the students' professional development while also receiving a student who is engaged and focused on the position they were hired to accomplish; and VIU will make a commitment to support and provide guidance to communities and students throughout the internship/mentorship period.

For more information contact:

Cheryl Stone, Indigenous Employment Navigator at Cheryl.Stone@viu.ca or call at 250-618-1077



New Digital Media Intern in the OAEE!

Wachay! I am Carrie Davis, and I am a Moose Cree Anishinaabe Media Studies student majoring in Digital Media and have a special interest in film making and I'll be joining the Office of Aboriginal Education and Engagment this summer as a Digital Media Intern.

While I was born Moose Cree, at two years old, I was taken from my mother and given up for adoption. I eventually ended up in an Anishinaabe home from Wikwemikong and they brought me up to the Yukon where I was raised. After being given up by them too, I dealt with alcoholism and the deep hole of not knowing my heritage because of my past but I eventually found my birth family through Facebook. A lot has happened since then such as getting sober and signing up for school. I now have a certificate in Digital Communications



and am one semester away from my Bachelor of Arts.

I am not ashamed of my past and because of it, much of my work has to do with healing people and communities by giving them a voice through my films.

Two of my works include Ageing Out which is about what happens when youth leave the group homes and foster care system, the problems and how to solve them. And the second is Xe Xe Smun Eem (Sacred Children): Victoria Orange Shirt Day which is about Eddy Charlie and Kristin Spray's journey to bringing Phyllis Webstad's Orange Shirt Day event to Victoria BC.

I hope to continue making films to bring light to important issues when I leave school as well.

Miigwech.



We'd love to hear from you...

If you have a story, a link, or helpful advice/information you would like to share with everyone about how your community is adapting to the current situation we invite you to get in touch with us!

Contact Heather.Burke@viu.ca to share your story.

Helpful Links and Resources

[VIU COVID-19 Update](#)

[Remote Work Tools for Indigenous Organizations](#)

[VIU Dates and Deadlines](#)



[Essentials of Remote Working](#)

[Emergency Community Support Fund](#)

[Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#)

[Indigenous Community Support Fund](#)

[Prime Minister announces additional support for Indigenous peoples living in urban centres and off reserve](#)

[Connecting British Columbia Fund](#)