



## 15 Retention Practices at Red River College

### - The School of Indigenous Education

## Aboriginal Student Support & Community Relations

### The Centre Supports and Services

#### Awards, Bursaries and Scholarships

Awards booklets are available in the Centre and as a PDF online. Assisting students with the applications process as much as we can, we email deadline dates to help keep them informed, have printed copies of the applications available in the Centre, collect and mail applications so students do not have to worry about postage.

#### Keep Informed

Our students stay up-to-date with college events by receiving emails with information on events, conferences, awards, scholarships, career opportunities and much more.

#### R-Crew

The Resource Crew is made up of student volunteers from both Princess Street Campus and Notre Dame Campus that take on various roles aimed at easing new students into college life and engaging them into activities run in the centre. Students helping students!

### Committed to Student Success

#### Elders in Residence

Each one of our three Elders in Residence offers a unique and individual perspective and knowledge to Red River College. Mae Louise Campbell, Jules Lavallee and Levinia Brown are available for one-on-one session with staff and students, cultural teachings, workshops, sweats, in-class presentations and sharing circles.

#### The Aboriginal Recruitment Officer

The Recruiter is the first point of contact for Aboriginal students entering Red River College. The Recruitment Officer can facilitate tours of the college, coordinate sample sessions and provide information and answer questions regarding program information including advising.

#### The Counselors

Each of the counselors from Notre Dame Campus and Princess Street can act as a support for the student with their funding source, assist with student loan applications process, assist



students who may need emergency loans available through the college, and provide personal counseling and academic support.

#### Aboriginal Centre Coordinator

The Centre Coordinator develops events focused on uniting students whether it's seasonal feasts, holiday events, traditional teachings, the annual pow-wow or our Christmas Village.

#### Aboriginal Student Support Representative

The Student Support Representative is responsible for hosting the monthly Welcome Circle (for Inuit students attending post-secondary school in Winnipeg), Family Fun Night as well as Keep Informed emails, awards, bursaries and scholarships and mentorship/internship programs along with inviting guest speakers from industry.

#### Staff Learning Trips

Each month a department participates in a learning trip that involves either meeting with a staff member to become more familiar with information around the college or visiting an organization that may be of value to our student's.

#### Events (Retention Programs)

##### Community Kitchen

This program offers students the opportunity to create a healthy affordable meal. Students will learn how to prepare the meals, take home left over's and recipes so they can prepare the meal at home. Low cost, nutritious meals that unite students from various programs.

##### Family Fun Night

Students can bring friends, family or just themselves to participate in various activities after school to provide a break from their studies.

##### Time Out

The most important consideration in studies, finding the balance between family, fun and school, the Time Out program offers a break for students. Industry partners donate tickets to events around the city and student's names are drawn to receive a night out free of charge for themselves and their friends/families.

##### Welcome Circle

Held once a month, Welcome Circles connect Inuit students from any of the educational institutions in Winnipeg. Students are able to connect with others, create friendships and extend their support network all while learning about the city life and urban adjustment.

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### Community Circle

Once a month four students who are not as engaged in the Centre/College activities are invited to have lunch with the Aboriginal Student Support Representative and an R-Crew student so they can get to know the staff a little better and learn more about the services offered through the centre.

### Student Recognition Program

Every month six students are nominated by staff or faculty who either need a little encouragement or have been doing well and could use a pat on the back. Each student receives a card and a \$2 Red Card to buy a drink.

### Drumming

Women's Full Moon is organized for staff and students across the college. Everyone is encouraged to join the circle to learn about teachings surrounding the drum and participate in a drumming circle.

### Traditional Crafts

Open to all staff and students, traditional crafting is a fun activity that allows staff and students to gather in a more informal environment while getting to know one another. Every year the staff and students at Red River College participate in making the graduation gifts for the Pow Wow.

### Seasonal Feasts

Four times a year we celebrate the changing of the seasons with traditional feast where the food is donated by staff and students.

### Traditional Teaching Workshops

Open to all staff and students who want to learn more about Aboriginal culture, we run workshops throughout the year and during college week.

### Employer Presentations

Various employers are brought in to conduct presentations for the students.

### Unique events we hold to unite staff and community members

### Aboriginal Alumni

Red River College Aboriginal Alumni are invited to sign up as a mentor for our current students and participate actively with our student focused programs.

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### Christmas Village

For the past two years we have been inviting the community into the college and the centre to enjoy our Christmas Village. Each year over 700 guests were welcomed into the Aboriginal Centre that was transformed into a beautiful and festive Christmas Village. Each guest received a free 5 x7 picture, enjoyed cookies and milk with the elves and participated in various holiday crafts.

### Community Forum

Members from all across Manitoba were invited to the college to identify strategies that would enhance the role of Red River College in supporting Aboriginal Students.

### Fashion/Culture Shows

We have hosted three fashion shows and cultural displays to honor and celebrate First Nations, Métis and Inuit culture and most recently we hosted an Art Show (Aborigination) that displayed works of art from all of the respective nations.

### Fundraisers

A calendar was published and sold for both the Métis Fashion Show and the First Nations Fashion Show to offset the costs of student recognition programs.