

Student Success Stories

Student Name: Brenna D. Clark (nee Latimer)

Post-Secondary Institution: Vancouver Island University

Program of Study / Diploma or Degree obtained:

Bachelor of Arts Degree - First Nations Studies

What are you doing now:

I am working for the National Centre for First Nations Governance (NCFNG) as the national Emerging Leadership Officer. I work with First Nations Youth across Canada in the area of leadership development and community visioning for self-governance and Nation rebuilding. NCFNG supports First Nations by providing relevant and innovative knowledge and development of governance services, products and events. NCFNG's vision is, "Rebuilding our Nations through the exercise of our inherent right to self-determination through strong, stable and culturally relevant systems of government." I reside in Vancouver with my husband Geordan Clark from the Kluane First Nation (Yukon territory) and I work on the Squamish Nation territory in West Vancouver, BC.

Future plans / Will you pursue further education:

I plan to pursue a Masters Degree in the near future. I would like to pursue a Masters in Professional Communications, Political Science or Business Administration. I also plan to continue working on my professional development and taking courses in grant-writing and so on.

Advice to future students:

My advice to future students would be to stick with their studies, as overwhelming as it can be at times, it really is worth it to build your capacity and skill set and it opens doors in terms of employment. Additional advice would be to get involved in initiatives for First Nations Youth and volunteer. I did volunteer

work with several Provincial Youth initiatives while doing my University studies. It helped me get some experience and build up my resume while I was going to school. When I finished my Degree I obtained employment almost immediately. Another useful experience was the internship I took part in with the Hamatla Treaty Society in 2004-2005. I was paired up with two mentors in the areas of Communications and Governance and the hands-on experience I obtained was invaluable. I would advise students to seek mentorship and internship opportunities wherever possible.

Here is a copy of my Bio from NCFNG's website at <http://www.fngovernance.org/staff/blatimer.htm>

Brenna Latimer

Emerging Leadership Officer

Brenna comes from the Kwakwaka'wakw/Laichkwiltach Nations on the Northern part of Vancouver Island. She resides in Vancouver British Columbia and is the Youth Engagement Officer for NCFNG. Ms. Latimer is a graduate of Malaspina University-College, receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree in First Nations Studies in 2005. Her studies have focused on First Nations Governance in the 21st Century, Criminology, History of First Nations Rights and Title, Research and Management, Communications and Public Relations and Elementary Education. Her experience has focused on youth and community including her own. In 2003, Brenna returned to her community to take part in a one year internship within her Nation's Treaty negotiation organization, Hamatla Treaty Society. There she was mentored in the communications and governance departments. Some of her projects included organizing a large Community Governance Forum, an Urban Members meeting in Vancouver, and dedicating considerable time to community Youth Initiatives including a Youth Traditional Territories tour and the facilitation of dialogue around Youth vision for Governance. While she was at home, Brenna participated in the preparations for her family's potlatch where she received her name "Nanokakeseelaga" and was trained in several dances that her family has maintained for countless generations. She witnessed marriage and adoption ceremonies, and the repatriation and reburial of one of her ancestors. Reinvigorated by witnessing the practice of her family's own traditional governance and spending time on the traditional territories of her ancestors, Brenna moved to Vancouver where she began work with the NCFNG. She has also been involved with several other Provincial Youth initiatives outside of her community including an Internship within the Aboriginal Education department of School District #71, the BC First Nations Youth Caucus, Building Our Legacy Together (BOLT) Youth forums. She was also a youth participant in the Joint Planning and Policy Development Forum. Brenna believes that being involved in this important work for First Nations is very important while always maintaining and remembering where she comes from



Student Success Stories

Student Name:

Coral Duncan

Post-Secondary Institution:

Camosun College

Program of Study / Diploma or Degree obtained:

Travel Counselling Certificate Program

Medical Office Assistant Certificate Program

What are you doing now:

Administrative Manager for Nanwakolas Council

Future plans / Will you pursue further education:

May do few courses here and there

Advice to future students:

Focus on grades in highschool. Upgrading takes up time, and why do courses over again if you had a chance to do well the first time? It's a regret you don't want.

ALSO get a parking pass, tickets haunt you.....but they do lower prices over time



Student Success Stories

Student Name:

J. Curtis Wilson

Post-Secondary Institution:

Malaspina-University College (Now Vancouver Island University)

Program of Study:

Bachelor of Arts in First Nations Studies

Canadian History

What are you doing now:

I currently work for Nanwakolas Council as a Referrals Officer, dealing with Crown land referrals for our member Nations.

I also am serving my 3rd year on Campbell River Band Chief and Council.

Advice to future students:

A good thing to know is your path and once you have that vision in place, REACH FOR THE STARS!

Future Plans:

- Some of the main things I want to be doing in the near future is to keep serving my community in the best ways possible.
- Furthering my education
- Continue to provide for my family

Student Success Stories

Student Name:

Deana Drake

Post-Secondary Institution:

Discovery Community College

Program of Study / Diploma or Degree obtained:

Business Management

What are you doing now:

Just looking for a new job after becoming a mom

Future plans / Will you pursue further education:

To utilize my education within a work place for now and then maybe at a later date continue my education.

Advice to future students:

It's not ever too late! After 10 years of being out of high school I did it.

Student Success Stories

Student Name: Dana Michelle Roberts

Post-Secondary Institution: University of Victoria

Program of Study / Diploma or Degree obtained:

Developmental Standard Term Certificate 2009

C.A.L.R. (Canadian Aboriginal Language Revitalization) 2007 Certificate

What are you doing now: I am currently completing the DSTC Program. I have been going to school for the past 6 years and will finish in July 2009.

Future plans / Will you pursue further education:

I am not 100% sure if I will go on to complete my Bachelor's Degree to become an Elementary teacher. I have an option of a two year program at UVIC. I am contemplating my options at this time. For this year I am going to complete my certificate program, and will see what happens next year.

Advice to future students: The journey of life is never easy. There are a lot of road blocks and bumps along the way. Don't give up on your dreams. Work and study hard, have a good support network surrounding you, because when you feel like giving up your network will hold you up until you grounded again.

I am grateful for the love of my family, the support from the Elders, the band and community and for the friends that have guided me along the way.

Gilakasla, Dana Roberts



Student Success Stories

Student Name: Jessica McIntyre (Cliffe)

Post-Secondary Institution: Campbell River Business College

Program of Study / Diploma or Degree obtained:

Computerized Bookkeeping

Office Administration

What are you doing now: Office Coordinator

Future plans / Will you pursue further education:

Would like to take Property Management Training

Advice to future students: Stay in school! It is very important. All jobs need some form of education. The basic graduation diploma does not do it anymore, the job field is very competitive and in order for you to succeed you need to obtain the education and training necessary to make YOU in demand.

Student Success Stories

Student Name: Jason Price

Post-Secondary Institution: Camosun College Interurban Campus in Victoria

Program of Study: Business Administration Diploma in General Business mainly management Courses.

What are you doing now: Working as the Land Code Coordinator for the Band as well as elected Councillor with the Education Portfolio.

Advice to future students:

- Don't sign up for 6 courses in one semester the work load is overwhelming. Sign up for at least 4 so you can put more effort into each course to get a good mark.
- Learn how to budget your time. If you can't study at home then stay at the school and go to the library.
- If you know that you're not going to pass the course you signed up for or it just isn't what you thought it would be then withdraw from the course before it shows up as a fail. The school has a set date to when you can withdraw; it's usually just before the midterm.
- Go to every class. Once you miss one class it is hard to catch up and you just end up falling farther and farther behind.
- Have an interest in what you're studying and try applying the concepts to what you want to do in life.
- Study, Study, Study

Student Success Stories

Student Name: James Quatell

Post-Secondary Institution: I live here on the Campbell River reserve, was born June 30th 1949. I went to school until maybe grade ten. Started work at a real young age never went back to get any kind of a education. Was out of the school system for along time . Went and took this course on Drug and Alcohol . it was in Nan. BC, at Tillicum Le Lum School I graduated from this course on June /07

Program of Study / Diploma or Degree obtained:

Drug and Alcohol Certificate

What are you doing now:

Aim now working at KDC Health as Mental Health Addiction Worker

Future plans / Will you pursue further education:

I may want to go and get more upgrading on this line of work. Now that I know I can do it.

Advice to future students: What I would like to say to them is follow your heart. You have given so much of your time into the school system. Don't throw it away. Go and achieve what you know you may want out of life. You are young so do it while you can. Why because you will be that much farther ahead in the world. Don't ever let someone tell you different.

Student Success Stories

Student Name:

Julie Ann Snowdon

Post-Secondary Institution:

North Island College, Discovery College, and BCIT

Program of Study / Diploma or Degree obtained:

- Program of Study/diploma or Degree Obtained: Applied Business Technology Certificate 1 and Two from North Island College.

- Interior Finishing and Renovations, Discovery Community College

- Fundamentals of Insurance, auto insurance level 1, BCIT

What are you doing now:

After several applications handed out and many interviews later I have now successfully secured a job with HSBC Bank.

Future plans / Will you pursue further education:

My future plans entail a secure job. I have worked very hard to achieve a job that will be both satisfying and give me the challenge I need to continue to better myself. I am sure that I will continue to educate myself because the power of education will make me a more employable person.

Advice to future students:

My advice to future students would be to never quit! Keep on going until you have finished what you have started. Choose wisely, only go for the course that best suites you and will give you the employability most in demand for today's economy.

I would like to thank the Campbell River Indian band for always giving me a hand when I need it, and for being a huge part of my educational success. I will achieve what I have worked very hard to get and when I do, I'll let you no



Student Success Stories

Student Name: Kara Henderson Price

Post-Secondary Institution: Discovery Community College

Program of Study / Diploma or Degree obtained:

Residential Home Care Attendant

What are you doing now: I work with the Elders in our community. I feel honoured to be able to provide my skills and knowledge to the elders in our community. I work with six different elders on a daily basis providing holistic care and enjoy it very much. I also learn our culture and language working with them.

Advice to future students:

Do not be scared to follow your dream. It is worth it in the end and you feel a great deal of relief after finishing your studies. You feel you have accomplished your dreams and can now move forward in life. Good luck to all future students!

Student Success Stories

Student Name: Lisa (Campbell) Day

Post-Secondary Institution: West Coast College of Massage Therapy

Program of Study / Diploma or Degree obtained: Degree of Massage Therapy and Registered Massage Therapist of BC

What are you doing now: I own my own business; I have a massage therapy practice in which I maintain cliental which I built over the last few years. I offer mobile home visits as well as office visits. I have been invited to take part in working with a first nation's medical clinic in Saanich starting this fall.

Future plans / Will you pursue further education: I am continuing in the massage therapy line of practice...I am now starting to focus more of my learning on pre and postnatal care as well as infant massage classes offered to parents.

Advice to future students: Stick with it! You may not succeed the first, second, third time with a class, if you give up you are another statistic for the government....don't give them the excuses to take away future funding for first nations students. The gift that we receive as students, having our education paid for.....it's a privilege not a right. Be a productive member of your communities and help our people shine.

Student Success Stories

Student Name:

Mary Henderson

Post-Secondary Institution:

North Island College

Program of Study / Diploma or Degree obtained:

Tourism and Hospitality Management

What are you doing now:

I am currently the Community Health Worker Representative for the Campbell River Band through the Kwakiutl District Council.

Future plans / Will you pursue further education:

I would like to consider other healthy field positions, but I am currently gaining knowledge and experience as the CHR for my home community.

Advice to future students:

Focus on your long term goals and use the best possible ways to achieve them.

Student Success Stories

Student Name:

Peggy Dick

Post-Secondary Institution:

Discovery Community College

Program of Study / Diploma or Degree obtained:

Community Support Worker Program

What are you doing now:

Working with the School District #72

Future plans / Will you pursue further education:

maybe to get more training for working with children

Advice to future students:

to make sure the school is organized and worth the money that is spent for your training.

Student Success Stories

Student Name:

- Robert W. Price

Post-Secondary Institution:

- North Island College and Camosun College

Program of Study / Diploma or Degree obtained:

- E-business Diploma obtained, Management Diploma obtained, Accounting Diploma obtained
- Obtained many Certificates through Aboriginal Financial Officer's Association of Canada

What are you doing now:

- Working as the Financial Controller at the Campbell River Indian Band.
- Worked before as the Finance Administrator at the Laich-Kwil-Tach Treaty Society & as the Finance Officer at the Songhee's First Nation.

Future plans / Will you pursue further education:

- Currently pursuing the Certified Aboriginal Financial Manager (CAFM) Designation & the Certified Management Accountant (CMA) Designation.

Advice to future students:

- Go as far as you can with your education as long as you like what you're doing. But don't pursue accounting because I don't want any competition for my job, and it gives me job security (lol).



Student Success Stories

Student Name: Sherry Breckon

Post-Secondary Institution: North Island College

Program of Study: Human Services Worker Diploma

What are you doing now: I now have two positions after graduating. The first one is an assistant Co-ordinator for the Crisis Line in Campbell River. The other one is a Peer Support Worker for Grandparents raising their grandchildren, this also includes work with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. I hold this position with the Campbell River and District Associating for Community Living. With this education I completed I can in the future work on a degree and take additional education to qualify as an Education Assistant or Community Support Worker.



Student Success Stories

Student Name: Terria Hanuse

Post-Secondary Institution:

NIC (North Island College).

Program of Study / Diploma or Degree obtained:

Will have obtained certification in Applied Business technology programs which include Business Administrative Assistant and Bookkeeping.

What are you doing now?

Working as a bookkeeper for the Campbell River Indian Band Office.

Future plans / Will you pursue further education:

I will be returning to college in September to follow through with becoming a CMA (Certified Management Accountant).

Advice to future students:

Don't hold off on what you can do today.

Student Success Stories

Student Name: Jennifer Christoffersen (Shade)

Post-Secondary Institution's: University of Victoria, Vancouver Island University (formerly known as Malaspina University-College) and Royal Road University.

Program of Study / Diploma or Degree obtained:

May 2002 - University of Victoria: Masters of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies, Specialization in Indigenous Governance, Law and Sociology

June 1997 - University of Victoria/Malaspina University- College:
Bachelor of Arts in Child and Youth Care

June 1995 - University of Victoria/Malaspina University- College:
Child and Youth Care Diploma

June 1994 - University of Victoria/Malaspina University- College: Early
Childhood Education and Care Certificate

May 2003 - Royal Roads University: Indigenous Corporate Relations Certificate
(sent as a Campbell River Indian Band representative)

What are you doing now:

I work at Vancouver Island University in First Nations Student Services as an Education Advisor. I have been working for VIU (formerly Malaspina) for just about 11 years. I enjoy working with students and helping them reach their potential

Future plans / Will you pursue further education:

I am not too sure at this time if I will pursue a Doctorate degree. I would be inclined to say no, but I would never close that door. Something might come up in the future that may persuade me to continue my studies.

Advice to future students:

Take advantage of opportunities that arise. Follow your heart with what you want to do with your life, whether it is going on to University in an academic program or taking a Trade and joining the work force. Don't be afraid to ask for help, most institutions offer a variety of services for First Nations students. Good luck!

Success Stories

Student Name: Amanda Anderson

Post-Secondary Institutions: Simon Fraser University

Program of Study / Diploma or Degree obtained:

Bachelor of Arts Degree (major English, minor Psychology)

Professional Development Diploma (Indigenous Peoples Teacher Education Module – IPTeM)

Supporting Diverse Learners Diploma

What are you doing now:

Teaching K/1 at Seabird Island Community School

Future plans / Will you pursue further education:

Complete my Masters (I am half way there) and then maybe a PhD. I want to pursue a leading role improving the education of First Nation Students. If Campbell River ever gets a school on reserve I would love to teach there!

Advice to future students:

Follow YOUR dreams. No matter how hard it seems at the beginning and even during do not give up. The end result is always worth it. Set goals and stick to them. Always make sure you are working towards a goal. These may change lots but as long as you know what you are working towards you will get there. Find a good support network. Your family and current friends may not fit here. I found my family did not understand what I was going through and many of my friends at that time were not supportive. Find new friends in your classes. Go see your professors. I found it helped to go see them when I needed help working on my papers; that is what they are there for.

Student Success Stories

Student Name:

- Carly Roberts

Post-Secondary Institution:

- British Columbia Institute of Technology

Program of Study / Diploma or Degree obtained:

- Diploma of Marketing Management – Communications
- Bachelor of Business Administration

What are you doing now:

- Working as a Marketing Manager for a cosmetic training institute

Future plans / Will you pursue further education:

- Hope to become a Brand/Product Manager or work in business development for a pharmaceutical company

Advice to future students:

My personal advice to students looking to go into business:

- Apply to a school where they have small class-size, as well as teach hands-on and industry related skills
- Take any advantage to build your resume while you're in school, whether it be co-op, internship, volunteer or contract work. Anything to build your resume and get connected to the industry.
- Go to networking events. Smile, and don't be afraid to speak to people.
- Read industry news
- Stay on top of your classes. Seek help through tutors or instructors when you are struggling
- Don't be afraid to ask questions in class.
- Stay organized, and take notes always keep a day-timer on you (and use it!)
- Take advantage of instructor/professor office hours. Stop in and ask them questions, it always helps