

Aboriginal Students and Women: Opportunities in a time of economic crisis

Senator Lillian E. Dyck, PhD, DLitt

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1. Suggestions for struggling students?

- 1st stage – complete high school
 - this is the key entry point for further education and for getting a job.
 - completion brings enormous rewards – economic, self-worth, etc.
 - fear of not getting a job, or any fear, is fear of the future – it is ungrounded, needless worry.
 - the remedy is increase one's spiritual practices

- 2nd stage – PSE:
 - Find support through student services, friends, family, Elders.
 - Talk to your profs.
 - Listen to uplifting music (eg. Dream like mine), messages (eg., positive affirmations)
 - Refuse to give up!
 - Avoid naysayers – think positively.
 - Don't worry about taking the right path – make mistakes; that's how you learn what's right.
 - Trust your intuition, your gut feelings.

Often overlooked but very important aspects of 'success'

- Ideally, someone recognizes your potential and helps you achieve your goals.
- Ideally, this happens during your learning, training and on the job activities.
- Ideally, people see your strengths and help you build on them.
- Ideally, people are willing to give you a break!

- Success requires discipline and effort.
- Success is a team effort – it's best to have helpers, trainers, mentors, good teachers, etc.

2. Examples of fresh strategies?

- PS students are in short supply – you are being ‘courted’. You are valuable.
- Some PS institutions, like UofS, are entering partnerships with companies and govts to create more spaces or scholarships for Aboriginal students.
- Egs.: NASA, ABSS, SIIT, UofS Agric
- Volunteer to work for free to gain experience
- Consider contract or limited term jobs

3. Need for special services?

- Most Aboriginal students have always been under severe economic recession-like conditions!
- Services provided to date include:
 - Abor student centres
 - Elders
 - Tutorial services
 - Career fairs

- **Other desirable services:**
 - **Role models – eg. Edwards School of Business**
 - **Child care support for single moms/dads**
 - **Support for older, mature students**
 - **Programs for retraining older students**
 - **Reality based career counselling**
 - **Co-op programs**
 - **Summer jobs**

4. Ways to inspire Aboriginal women? Best case scenarios?

- Role models
- Female friendships – laughter, fun
- Join Women's groups and organizations
- Read Abor women's stories – written, oral

- Best cases – Aboriginal PS institutions,
UofS

Bear Woman

Painting by Susan Boulet

The Bear Spirit brings the Medicine of Healing and Strength.

She walked before us

Painting by Patricia Wyatt

“She bring us the medicine of determination” (Susan Freilicher)

***Her Gift is the Power of Wisdom
& the Beauty of Spirit***