

Engaging Support Services for Indigenous Student Success

The College of Engineering at the University of Saskatchewan undertook a two-year pilot - the Indigenous Student Success Program (ISSP), in 2018 to create a support system for Indigenous students. The program intended to provide first-year Indigenous engineering students with a comprehensive summer bridging orientation prior to starting school in September and provide mentoring and support throughout the school year.

The summer bridging program aimed to provide students with information and tools to navigate the transition from high school to university and to become familiar with the University of Saskatchewan campus and the City of Saskatoon. The orientation included an introduction to university courses and course tools, an introduction to the College of Engineering and the engineering profession, study skills, Indigenous student resources, scholarship applications and an introduction to research opportunities.

Student success programs were planned to act as financial, cultural, and academic supports for Indigenous students during the academic year.

Student ambassadors were recruited, and developed a variety of workshops and events for the program including:

- ❖ a scholarship preparation workshop,
- ❖ three social events,
- ❖ six employment information session, and
- ❖ two “science-camp” workshops for ASAP STEM students.



Student ambassadors Dannielle Brewster, Connor Theoret, Harrison Bull

The ambassadors also helped establish the first University of Saskatchewan chapter of the Canadian Indigenous Science and Engineering Society (usask.caISES) and thirteen Indigenous engineering students (four from the ISSP program) attended the .caISES conference held in Montreal in March 2019.

The student ambassadors also participated in recruitment activities at Northlands College in La Ronge and volunteered as judges at the Nutrien Mini-Science Fair in April 2019.

**Number of students in
Summer Bridging Program**

15

**Number of Indigenous
Student Ambassadors**

5

Highlights



Summer Bridging Program Seminars



Employment Information Session

"I enjoyed my experience in this program, it was very helpful and full of information. Everyone who was involved in running the program all had a great attitude and I felt like they were there to really help me out and send me in the direction of success."

"I was very satisfied with the program as it allowed me to connect with everyone and didn't make me feel like a small number. I felt very comfortable with the instructors, and they made me feel very excited about the path I was choosing."



Watercraft Demonstration Exercise



.caISES Conference, Montreal, QC

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Project Duration: March 2018 to April 2020

Project Cost: **\$46,443**

IMII Contribution: \$29,943

U of S: \$16,500