

CHOICES

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

FALL / WINTER 2018 • A TURTLE ISLAND NEWS PUBLICATION

GAP YEAR

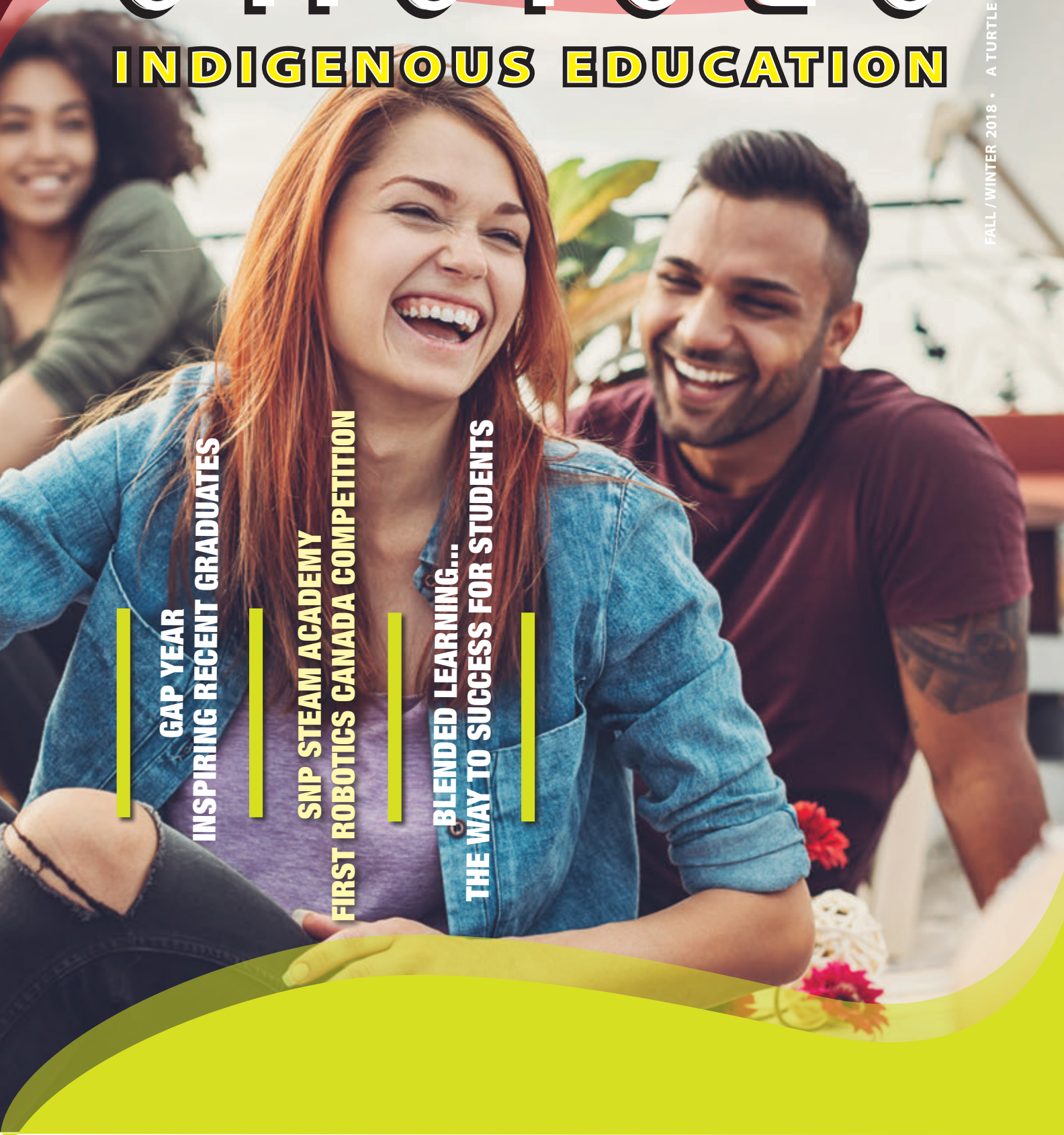
INSPIRING RECENT GRADUATES

SNP STEAM ACADEMY

FIRST ROBOTICS CANADA COMPETITION

BLENDED LEARNING...

THE WAY TO SUCCESS FOR STUDENTS



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**Gap Year...Taking a year off
after high school or post-
secondary can have many
benefits for young people**

Photo: NewsCanada

For more of the article
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She:koh Welcome to Choices

Choices is all about aboriginal youth, their future and giving them career path choices.

In planning our magazine we spoke to youth about what is important to them and the results were resoundingly clear they want to build a brighter future.

Whether they are from the north or south, east or west, aboriginal youth and young adults told us, they want to improve not just their lives,

but the lives of their families and friends.

So our new magazine is geared to support our youth and features choices along their educational path that we hope will help them make their decisions for a brighter future.

With the aboriginal population the fastest growing in the country, Turtle Island News Publications is reaching out to our youth in numbers that no other publications have.

We firmly believe in our youth. They are indeed tomorrow's leaders who will make

PUBLISHER'S

Letter

choices today that will set the future of our nations and their energy is exhilarating.

Their caring for their communities and people is touching. They truly want a better tomorrow.

We hope that with the help of Choices, and our educational partners and corporation supporters our youth will be able to plan their path to a brighter future for themselves and our extended communities.

So welcome to Choices, a new frontier for, and with aboriginal youth!

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SNP STEAM ACADEMY

WAS VICTORIOUS IN THE 'First Robotics Canada' competition!

For the first time ever, Six Nations Polytechnic's (SNP) STEAM Academy participated in a FIRST Robotics Canada competition and won the STEMley Cup Championship, beating out the previous champion after an intense day of competition. With just one week of training using a borrowed robot, the STEAM Academy team and their alliance were able to gather enough points in a close final match to de-throne the former titleholders; a feat which is virtually unheard of for a rookie team.

Members of STEAMteam Robotics consisted of SNP STEAM Academy students Nicodemus Allan, Nathan Denecamp, Erick Martin, Jarrod Wardell, Paul Whiddett, STEAM Academy teacher Peter Gehbauer, and Vice Principal Trevor Gerard. The STEAM team competed against some of the best robotics teams in the world to achieve their first championship victory. When the final scores were tallied they gained an additional 50 points to secure their victory by a close four points.

"The camaraderie and professionalism displayed by all teams was inspiring," said STEAM Academy Vice Principal Trevor Gerard. "Teams lent tools, parts and expertise to keep all robots from other teams operating throughout the competition. SNP STEAM Academy would like

to thank MakeShift Robotics for their support and the use of their robot in STEAM's first competition; the volunteers for helping make the STEMley Cup possible; and the supportive staff of FIRST Robotics Canada for their support in getting us started this year. Congratulations to each of the 32 teams who competed, we look forward to seeing you in the 2019 competitions!"

FIRST Robotics Canada is a registered charity that inspires high school students to pursue a future in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The competition that the STEAM Academy participated in was an off-season FIRST Robotics Canada event hosted by MakeShift Robotics and Celt-X.

The Six Nations Polytechnic STEAM Academy is the first STEAM-focused (Sci-

ence, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) school in Canada that incorporates both the regular Ontario Secondary School Diploma, as well as a two-year "Computer Software Engineering Technician" college diploma. Although it is a private school, there is no tuition; at SNP, we want to ensure that our program is open and accessible to everyone regardless of their cultural or social background.



Members of STEAMteam Robotics team proudly displaying their winning trophy & entry.

gap year



A gap year, also known as a sabbatical year, is typically a year-long break between high school and college/university. During the gap year a student normally travels or maintains some type of regular work.

ideas to inspire recent graduates

Are you soon finishing school? Many young people benefit greatly from a gap year, whether it's after completing high school or post-secondary, or between degrees or years of schooling. Here are some smart ways they can make the most of this time to gain skills and experiences to help with future job opportunities.

Travel on a working holiday. This rewarding twist on seeing the world combines the cultural learnings of travel with the opportunity to earn money to fund the experience

or start saving. Thanks to International Experience Canada, a government program for youth ages 18 to 35, your child could spend their gap year exploring Australia, France or another of over 30 partner countries while gaining international work experience and earning money in the process.

Local or global volunteering. Spending some time helping others or supporting a worthy cause is a great way for young people to gain skills and valuable life experience while working to find their purpose. Con-

necting with like-minded people and contributing to a greater good can help your son or daughter discover their priorities and what truly matters to them. Depending on their goals for their gap year, they can volunteer at community-based initiatives near home or abroad.

Test-drive an industry. Committing a chunk of a gap year to an internship and getting work experience is an excellent idea for kids who are looking for a break but still want to get ahead. Interning looks great on any

resume, and lets young people try out an industry with little risk before signing up to a full-time job. It's also possible to do an internship in another country through IEC. Whether it's done at home or abroad, at the end of the internship, your child will know they either need to keep exploring or are on the right track, with the bonus of having made valuable connections in the field.

Find more information on working holiday and internship opportunities for young Canadians at canada.ca/iec. -NC-

Best countries

gap year



taking a year off after high school or post-secondary can have many benefits for young people. For example, research shows that high school grads who take gap years before university or college are often more mature, more focused and attain higher GPAs when pursuing their post-secondary education.

But to reap the benefits, it's important to use a gap year wisely. International Experience Canada is a government program that makes it easier for youth to obtain the information and necessary permits to work and travel abroad in over 30 partner countries and territories.

If you are considering a gap year, here are some great places to consider for a working holiday, in-

ternship or work placement:

Chile. Chile is an attractive destination for young people, many of whom go for working holidays or internships. With a robust labour market that's strongly oriented towards service and natural resource-based industries like mining, forestry and agriculture as well as solar energy farms, there are plenty of opportunities in diverse fields. During downtime, activities like scuba diving, surfing, skiing in the mountains or sandboarding in the dunes can keep your child active.

Denmark. If your child is a bike enthusiast, Denmark is the place to be for a work abroad experience. In Copenhagen alone, bikes outnumber cars five

to one. Danish workplace culture is rather informal, with no dress code, a flat hierarchy, flexible working hours and the use of first names to address others.

Austria. This country offers rich heritage and culture in multiple locations, like Vienna, Hallstatt village, and the Alps. With so much on offer, it's no wonder Austria has a thriving hospitality industry that's ideal for seasonal workers during peak tourism seasons. Centrally located between Western and Eastern Europe, Austria is also a great base for working during the week and exploring major European cities on weekends.

New Zealand. Fans of the Lord of the Rings books and movies will enjoy scouting out the landscapes and filming locations that stood in for Middle Earth in the popular series. Tourism is a major economic driver, as is the country's wine industry, which is famous for its Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc and its dense Pinot Noir. New Zealand is also renowned for its gorgeous scenery and outdoor activities, including kayaking, sailing, island-hopping and visiting waterfalls and forests.

Find more information on work and travel abroad at canada.ca/iec. -NC-



3 tips to jump-start your career in 2019

It's hard to avoid the popular phrase "new year, new you" when reflecting on the past and making plans for the year ahead. Whether striving for personal or professional growth, it is a good time to embrace change.

Career development and renewed commitment to achieving professional goals can be a daunting process, one that many of us are unsure how to start. Whether you're looking to kick-start your career or make a shift to a new role, here are three career-boosting tips to get you on the

right track.

Make networking a priority. Whether you're just starting your career or are a seasoned professional, networking benefits everyone. While there are a million reasons why you might brush off a networking event, regular networking can help you reach your career goals and introduce you to people with common interests. It will give you an edge over your peers and can help get you where you want to go, sometimes even faster.

Find a mentor. When looking for a mentor,

consider programs that match people based on their career interests. But don't overlook the value of colleagues, family and friends pointing you in the right direction. What's crucial in this process is finding someone who is invested in helping you achieve your goals. A mentor can be invaluable, both at the start of your career and when looking to advance professionally.

Consider continued learning opportunities. Ongoing learning is essential for career growth. When contemplating a

post-graduate program, the first step is to determine if it aligns with your aspirations. The Graduate Diploma in Business at Smith School of Business at Queen's University is designed to broaden career opportunities and open doors that would not be available otherwise. The four-month summer program builds the fundamental business skills needed to succeed in today's competitive job market and expands on the soft skills that complement today's workforce. - NC-

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HOW TO PREPARE FOR SUCCESS AFTER GRADUATION

In what seems like a few months, university students will be crossing the stage to accept their degrees. With the celebration often comes the important question of what's next, which can worry both parents and students alike.

If you or your child is graduating this year, you know that choosing a career to love and land a job in that chosen industry can be challenging. Before your or your child

university, shares three tips to help prepare for what comes after graduation.

Explore the best path for you. While some graduates pursue more traditional careers, others may consider opportunities with startup ventures or even starting their own businesses. Understanding what they desire in a job and the risks they're willing to take is important in helping young people determine the best career path. Connecting with

Photo above: A Simon Fraser University student wears a Coast Salish First Nations woven cedar hat as she waits to receive her degree. Documents show the number of First Nations students receiving financial support for post-secondary education has declined 18.3 per cent since 1997. (Darryl Dyck/Canadian Press)

RESEARCH SKILL SETS REQUIRED

Understand what employers are looking for. What one employer is looking for may be different from another, so it's best for your child to research the organizations that pique their interest. Looking into the qualifications for their desired stream of business can

of continuing their education, especially if they feel unsure about how to achieve their career goals. Programs like the Graduate Diploma in Business at Smith School of Business, a four-month summer program that covers the business fundamentals, can open doors to a field they had not considered in the past, like starting a new venture.

With credits counting towards an MBA, business essentials programs can serve as a stepping stone to a role in the business sector. -NC-

EXPLORE THE BEST PATH FOR YOU

jump into their job search, you first need to consider whether the skills and education needed to secure a desired position has been attained.

Paul Bowman, a career Coach at Smith School of Business, Queen's Uni-

people in the industry or researching those they admire will paint a better picture of where they want to be and how to get there.

CONNECT WITH PEOPLE IN THE INDUSTRY

help them determine the experience and skills they need.

Broaden career opportunities. Encourage your child to consider the idea

BLENDING LEARNING is the way to success for graduate

By Jeanette Laird

Education in South West Ontario is about to change through the merger of the Southwestern Ontario arm of Medix Colleges and Westervelt College. This new powerhouse in education will operate under the Westervelt College name, maintaining the identity of the oldest college in Canada which was formed in 1885.

The integrity of this new institution will remain the same as always using blended, hands-on learning as a key to success. The focus at the new college, as with all career colleges, is employment. The heart of education at Westervelt is based on teaching students to learn the skills and gain the certification required to get a job and build

a career in their chosen field.

The skills being taught include life skills and thought patterns used by successful professionals. Every graduate must complete the Strategies 4 Success program, which educates on communication, development of habits, attitudes, goal setting and personal finance. A graduate from Westervelt is looking for a career, not just a job. They are taught from their first day about essential workplace skills and how to develop as a person.

The 5 A's of employment and the 5 C's of the core values are fundamental to perpetuating the learning and expectations of a professional. The 5 A's are Attitude, Attendance, Appearance, Academics and Accountability

which speak to the expectations of employers and colleagues. The 5 C's, Character, Connection, Communication, Consistency and Competence, speak to the expectations of professional relationships. These values are embedded in all the skills and certifications being taught to students while in class and are essential in the externship/clinical rotation that each student must receive in order to graduate.

Communication from employers adds the next level of commitment, as Westervelt uses employer input to build courses that match as closely as possible to community needs. Job postings are now asking for "Westervelt-level" training ensuring that the college is delivering on em-

ployers' expectations. Westervelt has many community employers/partners sharing in their education process. St. Elizabeth, one of Canada's largest social enterprises and top employer in the home and community sector, being the most recent.

Westervelt programs are typically one year in length and can cost up to \$12,000. Classes follow a set schedule, for example 9am to 1pm, five days a week, as many students also have jobs or family responsibilities and must schedule around their classes.

The blending of hard and soft skills is crucial to maintaining the impressive graduation and employment rates that are in the high 80 percent range, which all of the southwest campuses can boast.



Celebrating and encourage excellence in the Aboriginal community 2018 Inspire Award Winners

Indspire 2018 marks 25 years of honouring the Indigenous people and their successes. The Indspire Awards have honoured 350 First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people who have shown outstanding achievement in their fields. Indspire is a national charity providing funding and programming to Indigenous students.

The 2018 Indspire Awards honour the following thirteen

First Nations, Inuit, and Métis individuals from across the country:

- **Lifetime Achievement** – Dr. Gloria Cranmer Webster, 'Namgis First Nation, BC
- **Arts** – Greg Hill, Kanyen'kehaka at Six Nations of the Grand River Territory, ON
- **Business & Commerce** – Nicole Bourque - Bouchier, Mikisew Cree First Nation, AB

- **Culture, Heritage & Spirituality** – Kye7e Cecilia Dick DeRose, Secwepemc Nation, BC
- **Culture, Heritage & Spirituality** – Theland Kicknosway, Walpole Island Bkejwanong Territory, ON
- **Education** – Dr. Lorna Wanosts'a7 Williams, Lil'wat Nation, BC
- **Health** – Dr. Evelyn Voyageur, Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw, BC
- **Law & Justice** – Paul Chartrand, Métis, St. Laurent, MB

Photo - Back row, from left to right: Dr. Mike DeGagne, Speaker of the House of Commons Geoff Regan, Greg Hill, Paul Chartrand. Front row, from left to right: Michael Linklater, Nicole Bourque-Bouchier, Dr. Evelyn Voyageur, Dr. Donna May Kimmaliardjuk, Tracie Leost, Kye7e Cecilia DeRose, Dr. Lorna Wanosts'a7 Williams, Theland Kicknosway, Ashley Callingbull and elder Verna McGregor. (Photo: Courtesy Indspire)

- **Public Service** – Dr. Mike DeGagné, Animakee Wa Zhing #37, ON
- **Sports** – Michael Linklater, Thunderchild First Nation, SK
- **Youth (First Nation)** – Ashley Callingbull, Enoch Cree Nation, AB
- **Youth (Inuit)** – Dr. Donna May Kimmaliardjuk, Igluligaarjuk, NU
- **Youth (Métis)** – Tracie Léost, Métis, St. Laurent, MB

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– Jean Becker
Senior Advisor: Indigenous Initiatives

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- Indigenous Field of Study, MSW Program, Kitchener Location
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For more information come and see us or check out our website to view our monthly schedule of events!

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 Academic and personal counseling • Visiting Elders Program
 Peer Mentor Program • Indigenous Student Association (ISA)
 Regular gatherings and feasts • Community Garden



[wlu.ca/indigenous](https://www.wlu.ca/indigenous)

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