



WORLD INDIGENOUS NATIONS HIGHER EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

# WINHEC Newsletter

## Issue 2018:3



**Greetings from the WINHEC Co-Chairs Laura Horton and Elmer Guy**

Miigwech to the Sami organizers of our WINHEC AGM, World Indigenous Research Education Conference and the International Youth Camp! Staff, family and friends of the Sami High School and Reindeer Husbandry School and the Sami University of Applied Sciences welcomed us in a most astonishing way! Evaluations have been reviewed and by all accounts, our gathering was a huge success. It takes organizers to prepare a space and of course all of us to fill the space. What a beautiful WINHEC family!!!!



It is always amazing to hear the many greetings in our languages- Aloha, Tansi, Aniin, Kia Ora, Boozhoo, Burris, Burris, Etlante and so many more! From our hearts to yours, we hope your new

academic year is progressing well. We are hearing from our members around the globe as they continue to meet one another at different research conferences, land-based gatherings and even in airports. We may have crossed paths before, but now people are recognizing friends made in the Arctic through WINHEC. We are making Indigenous spaces and know that working with like minded relations is far more satisfying, philosophically challenging and intellectually stimulating! Congratulations of all of us who are lifting the veil of colonization and opening our eyes, minds, spirits and hearts to our Indigenous ways. Spread our enthusiasm at home and bring your colleagues and youth to Taiwan in 2019.

This year, WINHEC recognizes that our international profile is growing. In such, we are in the process of “tidying up our business” so that we may move forward with Indigenous strength and confidence in our ways of being and doing. In Anishinaabemowin the process of Biskaabiyang is appropriate. We must look back to assess what we have dropped that needs to be retrieved; what we have picked up that needs to be releasing; what needs to be “smoothed to be a fine finished stone” and what is on the horizon that requires our attention and nurturing. With this, the Executive and Committee are finalizing, improving our practices so that we may move forward with strength and cultural integrity.

Elmer and I wish to remind you how the WINHEC now uses the term Higher.

***WINHEC meaning of Higher Education as accepted at WINHEC AGM 2016, Otaki.***

*Originally, WINHEC was designed for “Higher Education”, postsecondary or tertiary education. Originally, WINHEC accepted a specific western concept accepted from the mainstream education system. As Indigenous peoples we recognize that “education” is a lifelong process and occurs across time, space, and place and within relationships. As Indigenous peoples we also recognize the cycle of education as elders pass knowledge to those younger and the younger learn from all of creation through a lifetime of learning and sharing. During WINHEC’s early years, we have made space for P-12 and community programs that cross all ages. WINHEC has embraced like-minded Indigenous peoples in our journey to remember, share, and relearn our respective teachings. In doing so, we have been humbled by the depths and heights of knowledge held in our languages, songs, stories, and ceremonies. We now understand “Higher Education” as that which opens our Indigenous minds to all that has been given to us by Creator and challenges us to be who we were intended to be as Indigenous peoples. We must remember and take our place in this world and seek to stand on our highest ground, with our clearest Indigenous minds, hearts, spirit and body, reaching for Indigenous Higher Education.*

With that in mind, the WINHEC Board of Accreditation Handbook will identify its 3 sectors as Postsecondary, P-12 and Indigenous Teacher Education. We are all reaching for our highest ground.



## **WINHEC AGM 2018 Highlights**

### **WINHEC International Youth Camp (IYC)**

- Miigwech to the organizers of the IYC, it was a huge success with Sami students hosting youth from Aotearoa, Canada, USA and Elders from Australia. Together with teachers from Sami University of Applied Science (SUAS) and Sami High School & Reindeer Husbandry School (SHS&RHS), Aotearoa and Hawaii much was accomplished. They fished, crafted, laughed, cried, sang and taught each other yoiks and haka. They presented to us, and even made a presence on youtube!
- Our two IYC Ambassadors are Elle and Larve who continue to carry their WINHEC message forward
- The organizers of the IYC are creating some teacher materials to help others conduct a IYC. It is recognized by all that the Elders were a great part of the IYC. Elders presence, participation and interaction with the youth and organizers helped everyone the importance of multi-generational knowledge transfer. Indigenous education is on the land, with multiple ages and across disciplines. We are supportive of those who are able to capture thoughts for us to read.

### **Board of Accreditation**

- Miigwech to the BoA Co-Chairs for their untiring work to assist Institutes/Organizations/Schools/Programs work through our accreditation process
- The draft WINHEC BoA Handbook was reviewed by the BoA Board. It combines all 3 handbooks into a succinct document which articulates the thinking behind the process and guides the user through the various stages.
- Congratulations to all who have begun their accreditation journey and to those who have attained new or renewed accreditation. Hearing story of Site Visits truly helps us all understand the transformational process of our cultural accreditation process.

### **WINHEC MOU with Indigenous Advanced Education and Skills Council**

- WINHEC signed an MOU with IAESC to partner for purposes of accreditation. The Executive is working through a process as we lead the world with our way of looking and accrediting our cultural scholarship. The MOU will be followed with a Limited Use Agreement and we are reaching for the highest quality partnership steeped in Truth, Respect and Integrity.

### **WINHEC Izhichigewin Practice Handbook (WIPH) and Organization Framework- under development**

- The draft WIPH was presented to the WINHEC Executive Board. Sylvia Hussey, Exec. Brd member and Hawaiian Country/Nation Representative read and listened with great interest. She also recognized areas of concern that were not addressed in the handbook. She quickly drafted a visual representation of WINHEC with options of how to address

our operational and fiscal shortcomings. We asked that she focus on the third option, a hybrid of old and new practices. During the WINHEC Exec + Committee meeting held Nov. 5-9, Sylvia presented draft 1 of the combined WIPH and Operational policies. Many decisions were made to recognizing WINHEC's history as we grew from its embryonic state, birthed to a founding body now maturing as recognizable and respected international organization complete with accreditation, research, publication, youth engagement leading to our university, WINU.

### World Indigenous Nations University

- Miigwech to outgoing Chancellor Jan Henry Keskitalo for his many years of service to WINU.
- Miigwech to Dr. Hohaia Collier for accepting the role of WINU Chancellor.
- The WINU Constitution and Handbook outlines was discussed with Hohaia Collier drafting the document for their Board of Governors.
- The first WINU Co-badged graduation occurs with Sami University of Applied Sciences. There will be graduates in Dec. Congratulations WINU Chancellor Hohaia Collier and SUAS Rektor Gunvor Guttorm.



### WINHEC 2018 Leadership Update

#### Key Changes in Executive Leadership Roles 2018

WINHEC Executive Co-Chair Hohaia Collier stepped down, accepting position as WINU Chancellor. Dr. Elmer Guy accepted position as WINHEC Executive Co-Chair for the final year of a three year term.

#### WINHEC Executive: (3 year term ends 2019)

Co-Chairs: Dr Laura Horton Dr Elmer Guy  
 Treasurer/Secretary: Umi Jensen

#### WINHEC Executive Board

##### Executive plus Country/Nation Representatives

Country/Region	Representative	Representative
U.S.A. Mainland (4)	Carrie Billy Roxanne DeLille	Jim Green Jill Mackin
Hawaii (2)	Konia Freitas	Sylvia Hussey
Alaska (2)	Dr. Ray Barnhardt	Dr. Sean Topkok
Aotearoa (2)	Dr. Hohaia Collier	Roimata Nicolas
Australia (4)	Prof. Boni Robertson Dr. Berice Anning	Dr. Leanne Holt Vicky-Ann Speechley-Golden
Canada (4)	Amelia Clark Dr. Delbert Horton	Dr. Rebecca Jamieson Dr. Laura Horton
Sapmi (2)	Elisabeth Utsi-Gaup	Ellen Inga O. Heatta

Asia/Taiwan (2)                      Dr. Jolan Hsieh                      Yusin Wang

**WINHEC Board of Accreditation Executive:**

Co-Chair PSE                      Dr. Ray Barnhardt  
Co-Chairs P-12 & ITE              Dr. Keiki Kawai'ae'a              Dr. Walter Kahumok

**WINHEC BoA Executive Board Country Voting Members:**

Roxanne DeLille                      Prof. Peter Buckskin  
Dr. Peter Hanohano                  Lisa Baal                              Dr. Delbert Horton

**Global Indigenous Elders Alliance:**

Co-Chairs                              Aunty Anne Leisha                  Dr. Delbert Horton

**Indigenous Youth Ambassadors**

Elle Ravdre                              Lavre Johan Eire

**World Indigenous Research Alliance:**

Co-Chairs                              Dr. Paul Whitinui                      Dr. Onawa McIvor

**WINHEC Journal**

Journal Editor                          vacant

**Student Access and Engagement:**

Co-Chairs                              Rene Dubay

**World Indigenous Nations University Executive: (3 year term)**

Chancellor                              Dr. Hohaia Collier  
Deputy Chancellor                      Prof. Boni Robertson  
Vice Chancellor                          Dr. Peter Hanohano



*Learn about our new WINHEC Executive Co-Chair*

Dr. Elmer J. Guy has had a long and distinguished career in indigenous education. The President of Navajo Technical University (NTU), the largest tribal college/university among the 37 U.S. institutions of higher learning, Dr. Guy previously was the Executive Director and Deputy Director of the Navajo Nation's Department of Education, a position appointed by the Navajo Nation President.

Dr. Guy earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Special Education at the University of Arizona and then went on to earn a Masters degree in Rehabilitation Administration at the University of San Francisco in California and his doctorate in Rehabilitation and Special Education Leadership at the University of Arizona.

As the President at NTU Dr. Guy has led an institution that has become one of the most prestigious universities in the U.S., specializing in Navajo culture and language, science, technology, engineering, math, and health education. When he first came to the presidency NTU had 316 mostly Navajo students, but has grown so that it now has four accredited instructional sites and over 1,700 students.

In addition to his presidency Dr. Guy serves on the Board of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, the College Board's Community Colleges Advisory Panel, and a number of other regional and national associations. He is also deeply involved in the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium (WINHEC), which held a major conference at NTU's Crownpoint campus in 2013 where the World Indigenous Nations University awarded its first Honorary Doctoral degrees.

On a personal level, my wife is working on her PhD in Educational Leadership. She has an extensive background in special education and early childhood. Retired from the Arizona school system, she currently directs the early childhood program for Pascua Yaqui Nation located in Arizona. We have four children, two daughters and two sons.

I come from a strong Navajo family. My mom didn't go to any European school, but has a very strong Navajo language and culture background. She was an Herbalist, excellent traditional cook, and parent. My dad served in the United States Marine Corp as a Code talker in World War II and then worked for the federal government for 36 years.



### **World Indigenous Research and Education Conference 2018**

Miigwech to the WIRA Board, the WIREC Planning Committee and Rektor Gunvor Guttorm for hosting a highly successful WIREC! Your space, place, and hospitality were most appreciated. The Keynote speakers caused us to reflect on what we think we know and how we must continue to challenge the status quo. We must never get too comfortable. There is always more to do as we remember and imagine how to make a better place. The sessions were well attended with much networking following sessions. Great work everyone, keep learning, reflecting and writing. Many depend on your research to create better programing and delivery systems.

WINHEC encourages presenters to submit their articles to the WINHEC Journal to WIRA Co-Chair Paul Whitinui, [whitinui@uvic.ca](mailto:whitinui@uvic.ca).



### **WINHEC Executive + Committee Meeting, Nov. 4-9, Waimanalo, HI**

The WINHEC Executive + Committee met to address the work arising from the 2018 AGM. Our core group of five shared a house, cooking, laughin

g and philosophizing throughout the week. Various Chairs and WINHEC Executive Board members were ZOOM'ed in for video conferences. It was a highly productive week with much work completed. Minutes will be distributed to WINHEC Board Members as well as all Chairs.



### **2019 WINHEC AGM, July 28-Aug 2, 2019 Hualien, Taiwan**

Mark your calendars!!! Our meeting place will be Hualien, Taiwan at the National Dong Hwa University hosted by Jolan Hsieh and her team. Dates have been set for July 28-Aug 2 with the Executive Board meeting on Sun., July 28th. All Country/Nation Representatives are to attend the Executive Board meeting. Vacant seats will be filled by Country/Nation representatives in attendance. The AGM begins Mon., July 29.

2019 will be year 1 of our 3 year WINHEC AGM cycle. This is a 5 day WINHEC year with special attention to community. Jolan and her team have begun preparing for us. Our host will highlight their worldview, nations, place and host our International Elders-Youth Camp as well. We will have our Cultural welcome plus Taiwan celebrates Indigenous Nations Day on Aug 1st. We will join their events and add our Indigenous flavour to the day. WINHEC members can help with cross cultural education. The possibilities are exciting. More details will be coming so mark this on your calendar and get the buzz growing.



### **Membership and Accreditation**

WINHEC Membership Categories and Fees will be changing to meet the growing demands and needs. The WINHEC Executive Board will meet virtually in the new year to discuss. Talk to your respective WINHEC Executive Board member in the new year for details. Membership is a choice we make to be part of our vibrant and strongly Indigenous Consortium.