

First Nation Students Visit Centurion University in November 2017 in Collaboration with TAFE NSW

Centurion University and Gram Tarang hosted a group of First Nation student scholars from the TAFE New South Wales, in November 2017. The group which consisted of 10 students and 2 faculty members, visited our campuses and engaged in classroom training, action learning labs, social enterprises and cultural excursions. This visit was the result of the collaboration between Centurion University and TAFE NSW and supported by the Australian Government through their Outward Bound Mobility Programme.

TAFE NSW and Centurion University partnership was privy to Australia-India Council (AIC) Grant in 2016-17 under which there were visits at leadership levels.

The students, who belonged to indigenous communities, were in age group from 21 to 50 years. Each one came with the ardent expectations to experience and learn something from this visit to upskill them to be better productive and contribute to their communities and serve their fellow members for greater empowerment.

Their skill sets allowed them to teach English and crafts in our classrooms using interactive tools they had brought with them. The Chief Mentor of the university taught and guided them in Yoga and Meditation for a week and all participants received a certificate for the training - this was a highlight for the group.

Both Gram Tarang students and TAFE student scholars enjoyed interacting with each other greatly. The group visited our rural campus in Paralakhemundi and surrounding villages with our mobilisers and trainers to learn about the entire skill training value chain at Gram Tarang.

This collaboration has enriched both institutions to engage in intercultural dialogue and share best practices institutionally.



I have found it to be a very positive and happy place for both the students and the teachers. I was able to be involved in a class for differently abled students. They were very welcoming and hard working. I enjoyed my experience there and was able to converse with the teacher and students effortlessly.

=Sam Sutton (Faculty)=

My highlight has been going to the tribal village in Parlamukmndi where we experienced a village that is being engaged via the mobilisers. It was amazing and such a special aspect for me to be involved in personally and professionally. The students and myself would have loved to spend more time at the MicroBusiness Centre – in what capacity I'm not totally sure, but I think this would be advantageous.

=Sharna Dean (Faculty)=

Some Excerpts from the Students' Feedback About the Visit:

It was apparent that this no ordinary University, witnessing the vision and passion with a keen outlook and strong passion for the future. Gave me the affirmation of moving forward and how remarkable Centurion University is in changing countless lives in so many ways and more to come in the future.

=Damien=

I think the real highlight of my visit to Centurion has been seeing and experiencing the holistic, person centered approach they have when working with people with disabilities OR the differently abled, as Centurion would say.

= Chloe Herbert=

CUTM and Gram Tarang have taken micro business opportunities to the communities that require the most help, the Bhubaneswar campus, the Palakamundi campus and the Urban Micro business Centre are great examples of this where they find opportunities to study and increase their potential income.

=David Hicks=

You can tell the university really cares about improving the quality of life, confidence and skills they provide to each student. The tours I went on that the university provided where all so eye opening and great to see that they are so accepting of their indigenous cultures, by keeping their traditions alive so these people hoping they don't lose their heritage.

=Cassandra=

The experience I have met with during the visits to Centurion were very humbling but also made me feel that having such educational facilities in India is extremely important for the growth of the people and society as well as economy.

=Lucinda=

The infrastructure within the campuses of Centurion University is a world class educational facility. The Gram Tarang and University classroom buildings, student accommodation, the training equipment, through to the environmental purposes of the campus with producing food, farming animals and composting is producing a holistically environment for everyone to teach and learn.

=Kelly=

I thank you for such a holistic hands-on experience. The village visit was the high light for me. Seeing where/how recruitment process started and the support etc. that followed was commendable. I believe your model o be ingenious and one I hope to be followed and interpreted worldwide.

=Sharen Campbell=

My time here has taught me to better appreciate my community and my standard of living. I have met some very interesting people along the way. I have been witness to many of the social and economic issues that plague India today. I truly believe you have enhanced my ability to address social issues through innovation.

=Bryan Theobald=

The model in which the employability program is based on is something I think we in Australia should implement in our education facilities. The continuous improvement and forward thinking has shown we need to listen to our community and empower our young people by giving them something to strive towards.

=Julianne Rose=

I then had the opportunity to access the Centurion University campus. The staff and students were incredible. The will of the students to learn and strive for more prosperous futures for themselves and their families was simply astounding and once again, I had the fortune to experience all of the qualities mentioned previously.

=Scot Dorin=