UNESCO Project Update: Aboriginal Education Council Meeting, April 12, 2018

BACKGROUND

Dr. Charles Hopkins, UNESCO lead for Education for Sustainable Development and Teacher Trainer orientation, is leading a project “Reorienting Education and Training Systems to Improve the Lives of Indigenous and Marginalized Youth”. This is a three-year research project with publication in 2020. The project vision is “a global research project aims to improve the lives of Indigenous youth, in or from traditional communities by enhancing the quality of their education”.

There are 70 research and partner institutions involved. The stated goals of the project, which connect strongly to the UNSECSO 17 SDGs and Agenda 2030 <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>, are:

* disseminate research findings to assist governments and Ministries of Education, school systems and communities to meet national goals for education 2030 and SDG targets
* share and build upon current successful teaching and learning approaches
* create an international research network with a focus on SDG Target 4.5
* Develop local approaches to improve the education and training of school aged indigenous youth
* Improve the overall level of individuals and Indigenous community well-being
* If applicable, additional local objectives.

Charles Hopkins contacted Fleming and indicated that they were expanding the research to include “training” in the post-secondary system and had discussions with Trent (Shirley Williams and Dan Longboat) about Trent’s involvement and the connection to the Peterborough Kawartha Haliburton Regional Centre of Expertise(RCE) for Sustainability Education <https://www.rcekawarthas.com/> . Trent representatives specifically mentioned Fleming as a potential research partner because of our strong “training” programs.

CURRENT STATUS

There is a strong alignment between Fleming’s commitment in the Indigenous Education Protocol and the goals of the RCE, and Fleming’s involvement in this international research project would be positive from both a learning (successful success/retention strategies) and reputational perspective. However, resources will be required for participation as there is currently no specific funding to carry out this research.

Fleming has decided to participate in this project to the extent that resources are available. Kylie Fox will be the project lead for Fleming, and in working with Dan Longboat as lead for Trent University. Dan will be working to hire a graduate student to lead the research and FASS will contribute to wages where possible, and coordinate logistics of research held on campus.