

Appendix III

Aaniin/Sago members of Fleming College AEC!

My name is Dana Wesley and I am the Biishkaa Coordinator in Fleming College's Aboriginal Student Services. I will be present at the next AEC meeting and I am seeking feedback about ways that the Biishkaa program can collaborate with local organizations and local First Nation communities for our summer orientation programming. Last year I ran the program at Trent University and we had various programming, including: visits to the Curve Lake Cultural Centre, Nijkiwendidda, the Alderville Black Oak Savanna, and the Petroglyphs. I would appreciate any suggestions that you might have about you would be able to help increase the students understanding of the land that they are guests on while at Fleming College. For a peek into what we did last year at Trent, please see a video that a student staff created: <https://youtu.be/EPgynSvuCYg>. Miigwech!

About the Biishkaa program at Fleming College:

This is the first year that the Biishkaa program (Ojibway for "rise up") is being offered to incoming Aboriginal students who are looking to strengthen their academic skills in an Indigenous knowledge centred program. The Biishkaa program takes place during the two weeks prior to the start of classes through an on-campus summer orientation and continues throughout the academic year via a mentorship arrangement. During this time, students will be paired with a Biishkaa Mentor to guide them through a living/learning approach to facilitate a successful transition into Fleming College.

The Biishkaa program provides a holistic approach to incoming Aboriginal students' well-being by utilizing Elders' teaching and experiences on the land. It is also intended to help new students familiarize themselves with the Fleming College campus, local First Nations, and the City of Peterborough. Overall, it's an exciting opportunity to participate and engage in community building activities that are grounded in Indigenous Knowledge.

Dana Wesley
Biishkaa Coordinator

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