Indigenous learners find support in education

When Tania Joseph completed Native Education College’s (NEC) family and community counselling diploma program in 2008, it wasn’t her first experience with the school — and it wouldn’t be her last. That’s because three generations of Joseph’s family have attended the college that offers a supportive and cultural learning environment to Indigenous learners.

“My mom, sister and son all completed their education here,” she says. “And my daughter started at NEC and went onto Simon Fraser University.”

“It’s a place that allowed us to obtain an education but also where we started to heal. For my mom, especially, it had a huge impact because she was a factor of residential schools and when she completed her education, we saw a different glow in her.”

Joseph credits her time at NEC with also helping her to delve further into her cultural background. With parents from two different Nations, she says it was sometimes difficult to reconcile the differences and NEC gave her a safe space to do so.

“For example, in my dad’s nation, women aren’t allowed to hold the drum, while in my mom’s women are the drum bearers,” she explains. “At NEC there are welcoming spaces and people who understand. It was the first place I held the drum.”

Today, after obtaining her bachelor of social work from Nicola Valley Institute of Technology and working in various areas of the social work field, Joseph is a team leader of a child protection team at a delegated Aboriginal agency. She also serves as a board member on NEC’s board of directors.

“I was interested in giving back,” she says. “I’m so grateful that my healing happened here and want to ensure others feel as welcome as I did. You can see the cultural and spiritual presence at NEC and it’s a place where you can find your way.”

Why choose NEC?

- Peer Mentoring
- Small Class Sizes
- Accredited Programs
- University Transferable

Apply to NEC for Certificate and Diploma Programs

Upcoming Events
Sept 8 – All Programs Info Session
Sept 22 – Post-HCA Info Session
Sept 28 – 50th Anniversary Celebration

2018 Winter Programs
- Aboriginal Adult Basic Education
- Northwest Coast Jewellery Arts
- Office Administration

Register Today!
604.873.3772 ext. 328
admissions@necvancouver.org
www.necvancouver.org/programs

I’m so grateful that my healing happened here and want to ensure others feel as welcome as I did.
– Tania Joseph, former NEC student