

2014 Conference Highlights

Main Conference Theme

The Champions for Change second annual conference is themed around Success in Indigenous Education: Building Strategies for Indigenous Partners in Education. Champions for Change also marks the announcement of the bursary recipients as a result of success from the 2013 conference. The Champions for Change conference series continues as the core fundraising event for purposes of raising necessary funds for student success in post-secondary education at Polytechnic.

Conference centre pieces were designed to reflect Indigenous Knowledge and the conference theme Champions for Change.



Speaker Gift:



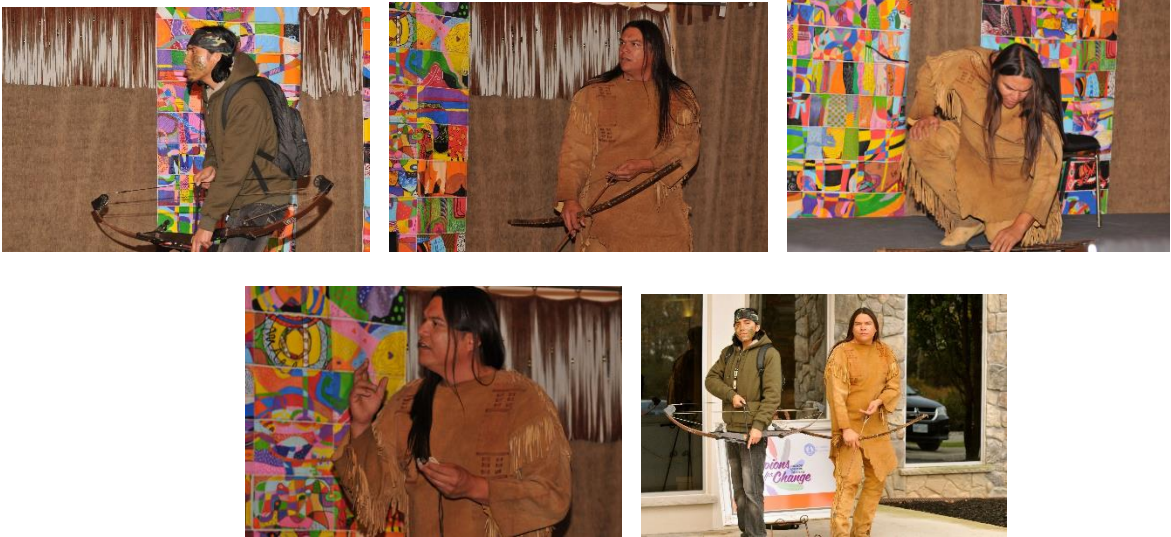
The Conference Emcee, Stan Wesley presented each speaker with a replica of the Six Nations Polytechnic logo. Each speaker received a speaker gift in appreciation of their presentation and participation in the conference.

A key aspect of Six Nations Polytechnic's Champions for Change conference includes a skit that begins each day of the conference.

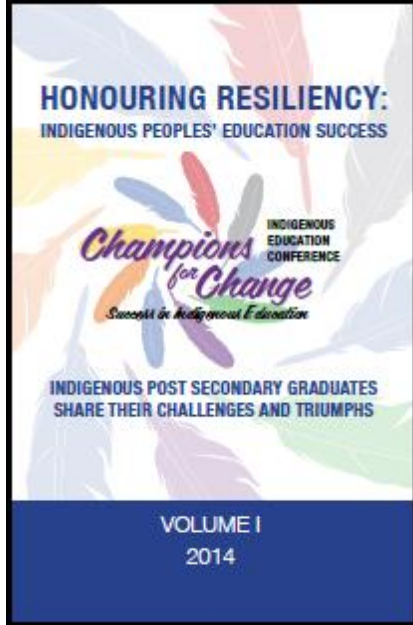
"Four Brothers"



"The Hunt"



Honouring Resiliency:



In honour and recognition of the resiliency of Indigenous students and to recognize the many challenges that Indigenous students face in completing post-secondary education, "Honouring Resiliency: Indigenous Peoples Education Success Volume 1", was unveiled. Fifteen post-graduate students from Six Nations shared their stories of challenges, incites and triumphs. Each of the gala guest received a complimentary copy of the booklet. Story contributors were invited to the luncheon and introduced to the conference participants. Graduates were asked to stand and receive the warm applause of appreciation and recognition from the participants.



Darren Thomas



Serene Porter, Robin Fraser and Erin Smith



Amber Skye, Kayla Anderson, and Stephanie Joy Styres-Dery



Adrienne Lickers

Partner Recognition:

Eight replicas of the Covenant Chain wampum belt was designed featuring three human figures, one at each end representing SNP and the Post-secondary Partner, with a third figure in the middle representing the learners. The belt codifies the respectful and reciprocal nature of the partnership as it shows the fires of each institute connected by a path of peace, understanding, commitment and cooperation. Each University partner’s plaque was accompanied with a scroll describing the significance of the belt. (Appendix B)

The following education institution partners were presented with a Covenant Chain replica; McMaster University, Brock University, Wilfrid Laurier University, University of Guelph, University of Waterloo, Western University, Niagara College and Mohawk College. Each commemoration was personalized with the institutions name and the following inscription:

**Honouring Western University’s commitment and support
for Indigenous post-secondary education in partnership with Six Nations Polytechnic.
October 22, 2014**

Western University



Dr. Bonnie Lickers, Rebecca Jamieson, Dr. John Doerksen, Amit Chakma, Rick Hill