

A success scholarship model for Maori and Pacific learners

Abstract

A major concern UNITEC Applied Technology Institute (UATI) had in 1998 was the high attrition rate for Maori and Pacific Island students. Senior management had to face the pressing issue of why Maori and Pacific Island students would complete their first year pre employed carpentry course and seldomly return to complete their National Certificate in Carpentry. To complete the theoretical component of the National certificate in Carpentry students are required to return for a second year block course and continue to work in the building industry for a further three years. The implications of students not completing the second year block course is twofold. Maori and Pacific Island builders become semi-skilled labourers who remain in the lower paid jobs and are unlikely to obtain managerial positions or own their own building businesses. The implication for Unitec is the high attrition rate suggests Unitec is failing to successfully serve the education needs of the Maori and Pacific Island community.

This paper identifies the key issues and offers recommendations to the UATI senior management team.

The main issues concerned were located in the organisation's structure, management style and implementation of the programme regulations. Findings will be reported to the management with recommendations to review management style, programme regulations and implementation of appropriate enhancements to ensure retention and success of Maori and Pacific Island students.

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