

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Monday 20 July 2015

First indigenous exchange students arrive in new partnership with Northern Arizona

The University of Tasmania will today welcome a delegation from the United States' Northern Arizona University, the first in an indigenous exchange program established late last year.

University of Tasmania Provost Professor Mike Calford said the program was also a great opportunity for the University's high-achieving Aboriginal students, five of whom will be selected in August for the return visit to NAU in January 2016.

"It is a great honour to welcome this delegation today, and we thank them for joining with us in this initiative to broaden the academic horizons of our indigenous students and support them to explore globally what it means to be a first citizen in the world today," he said.

The delegation includes the NAU's Applied Indigenous Studies program director Chad Hamill, Navajo Elder Lorenzo Max, Kathleen Frank, of the Native American Cultural Centre, and 10 Native American students.

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Aboriginal Research and Leadership) Maggie Walter said the students would spend this week with assigned "mates" and attend classes as well as cultural on-country excursions, including trips to Bruny Island and tebrekunna country in the State's far north east, guided by members of the local Aboriginal community.

"We're looking forward to sharing stories about our Aboriginal culture and heritage with this delegation while they are here, and more broadly to building international networks to address the global under-representation of Indigenous students in post-graduate education," she said.

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