Students preparing for Indigenous cultural exchange study trip to Arizona

The second cohort of high-achieving University of Tasmania Aboriginal students are preparing for their upcoming cultural exchange to Arizona, United States.

Hobart-based students Reece Romagnoli-Townsend, Kaleb Thomas, Wendy Moore and Sally Blanden will join Caleb Nichols-Mansell, from the Cradle Coast campus, when they depart on Saturday, February 4, for Flagstaff, Arizona.

The students will be accompanied by Riawunna Head of Service Caroline Spotswood and Aboriginal Higher Education Officer Jacinta Vanderfeen.

The group will be joined by five students and two staff members from the University of Melbourne for the cultural exchange.

This trip, the students will spend one week at the University of Northern Arizona (NAU) in Flagstaff, before spending the second week at the University of Arizona in Tucson. Their itinerary includes formal study of Native American subjects and cultural exchange through interaction with Native American students, Elders and community members.

Time permitting, the students will also visit Monument Valley and parts of the Grand Canyon located on the Navajo Nation reservation with their host students.

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Aboriginal Research and Leadership) Professor Maggie Walter said the program was designed to challenge and inspire high-achieving Indigenous students, facilitate links into international Indigenous scholarly networks and expose students to the wider global field of Indigenous studies and scholarship.

“The trip gives our Aboriginal students the opportunity to experience other Indigenous communities and cultures, recognising the unique differences but also the many similarities,” Professor Walter said.

“We wish them safe travels as they embark on their trip and hope that they find the exchange an empowering and enlightening experience.”
Native American students from NAU will make their third trip to the University of Tasmania this winter.

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY

Hobart-based students taking part in the exchange will be available for interview TOMORROW, Wednesday, 1 February, at 11am, together with Pro Vice-Chancellor (Aboriginal Research and Leadership) Professor Maggie Walter.

They will meet at the Riawunna Centre, ground floor of Hytten Hall, French St., on the Sandy Bay campus (Ref. 40 at AW31 on the attached map).

Information released by:
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