

Media release

Tuesday 6 June 2016



Indigenous students receive uni boost from Arrow

Arrow Energy has awarded university scholarships to 20 Indigenous students at five of Queensland's leading universities.

The recipients are the latest members of the Arrow Energy *Indigenous University Scholarships program*.

"The scholarships are worth up to \$10,000 a year for each person's course and have been set up to provide access to higher education for Traditional Owner groups across Queensland," Arrow Energy Vice President External Relations & Tenure Management Leisa Elder said.

"We believe increasing participation in higher education is one of the key factors in closing the gap and these scholarships are part of that effort.

Arrow has been maintaining 25 to 30 scholarships for Indigenous students at universities around Queensland since launching the program in 2012.

"As students complete their studies, we have added new scholars to replace them – and these 20 students are the newest additions," Ms Elder said.

"We also have nine other Indigenous scholars that we have continued to support through the program as they progress with their degrees.

"From medical science or engineering to primary education or archaeology degrees, these students are determined to make a difference in their future careers and I'm proud we can support them along the way."

The program is in partnership with Central Queensland University, Griffith University, Queensland University of Technology, James Cook University and University of Southern Queensland.

The scholarships are a complete educational package that also includes mentoring, tutoring and peer network groups so students have the support to achieve their goals.

The latest recipients include:

- Dharug-Wiradjuri woman **Cherryl Luck**, from Townsville, who is completing a Bachelor of Arts (Indigenous and Archaeology) at James Cook University. Cherryl would like to build understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous culture through archaeological evidence to give acceptance to traditions and their value in a globalised world.
- **Caitlin Easton**, a Bundjalung woman who lives in Toowoomba, is undertaking a Master of Science program at University of Southern Queensland, with a focus on developing a suicide prevention framework for Indigenous youth.

- **Christie Wishart** from Bundaberg is a Ngugi woman who is completing a Bachelor of Medical Science at Central Queensland University. Christie would like to specialise in Indigenous healthcare as a dietician and provide her services to remote communities.

“As a single mother of three and full-time student, receiving this scholarship is a great benefit to both myself and my family,” Ms Wishart said.

“It removes some of the financial burden and allows me to concentrate on my studies.

“My interest in health began after many years living in regional and rural towns with large Indigenous populations – here I saw the disadvantages still faced by many people – even within my own family.

“It created my drive to pursue my dreams and gain the tertiary qualifications needed to help my local community attain better health outcomes.

“I am determined to make a difference in my community, set an example for my children, and be part of closing the health gap that many Indigenous people still face.”

Full recipient list follows.

For more information about Arrow’s Indigenous scholarships, visit:

<http://www.arrowenergy.com.au/sustainability/indigenous-relations/indigenous-scholarships>

ENDS

Media contact:

Phone: +61 7 3012 4390 / +61 400 693 248

Email: media@arrowenergy.com.au

Arrow Energy Pty Ltd

Arrow Energy is an integrated coal seam gas (CSG) company that explores and develops gas fields, produces and sells CSG and generates electricity. The company has been safely and sustainably developing CSG since 2000, supplying it commercially since 2004 and now delivers almost 20 per cent of Queensland’s gas from its five CSG fields in the Bowen and Surat basins. Arrow is working to meet the growing international demand for cleaner burning fuels through gas supply for liquefied natural gas. Arrow is owned by a joint venture company between Shell and PetroChina (50/50).

Scholarship recipients:

Central Queensland University

- **Christie Wishart - new recipient**
Christie of Bundaberg is completing a Bachelor of Medical Science. After experiencing first-hand the disadvantages in health that many Indigenous people face, Christie was inspired to make a difference in her community. Christie would like to specialise in Indigenous healthcare as a dietician and provide her services to remote communities.
- **Chloe Roff - new recipient**
Chloe of Bargara is undertaking a Bachelor of Nursing. Upon the completion of her degree, Chloe would like to work in pediatrics or mental health.
- **Taylor Gilbert - new recipient**
Mudjimba student Taylor is studying a Bachelor of Nursing. Taylor's motivation to complete her studies comes from her two children, who she hopes to show that putting in the hard work and completing a degree can provide great opportunities. Once she completes her degree, Taylor would like to work in Indigenous community health, particularly in women and maternal care.
- **Natasha Baggow – continuing recipient**
Natasha of Mackay is studying a Bachelor of Laws Degree. For the past 13 years, Natasha has worked as a Senior Constable of Police with the Queensland Police Service. Upon completion of her degree, Natasha hopes to work as a lawyer and to educate the younger generation on the laws of the land and to showcase the services that are available to help them achieve their goals.
- **Alan Rutherford – continuing recipient**
Alan is from Rockhampton and is completing a Bachelor of Engineering Co-op Diploma of Professional Practice (Engineering). Alan aspires to work as an electrical engineer within project management.
- **Lauren Roth – continuing recipient**
Lauren, who comes from Bundaberg, is studying a Bachelor of Nursing. She began her career as a primary health worker at the Bundaberg Indigenous Wellbeing Centre. Upon completing her studies she plans to work in remote Indigenous communities across the state.

James Cook University

- **Cherryl Luck – new recipient**
Dharug-Wiradjuri woman Cherryl, from Townsville, is completing a Bachelor of Arts (Indigenous and Archaeology). Cherryl seeks to build understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous culture through historical and archaeological evidence to give acceptance to traditions and their value in a globalised world.
- **Maddison Sivyer – new recipient**
Maddison of Woree is studying a Bachelor of Psychological Science. Maddison would like to work in the mental health sector, focusing on removing mental health stigmas and reducing youth suicides.
- **Paula Bobongie – new recipient**
Paula, from Mackay, is undertaking a Bachelor of Education (Primary). After completing a community based teacher education program and a Diploma of Education, Paula continued onto tertiary studies. Paula works as a teacher aide and a community education counsellor, and wants to be a positive role model to her four children and her students.

- **Kirby Brennan – *new recipient***
Kirby Brennan of Townsville is currently completing a Bachelor of Arts Indigenous Australian Studies at JCU. Kirby enjoys working as a mentor to other Indigenous students at the university. Kirby hopes to work in the industry of improvements for aboriginal people.
- **Cindy Holman – *continuing recipient***
Cindy of Burketown is studying a Bachelor of Education (Primary). After working as a teacher aide for many years, Cindy is committed to achieving her career aspiration of becoming a qualified Primary School Teacher.

Queensland University of Technology

- **Corey Curran - *new recipient***
Mansfield student, Corey Curran is studying a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Justice (Policy and Governance). Corey's career aspiration is to become a Barrister and continue to run 'Project Imba' aimed at promoting a pathway towards further tertiary education for Indigenous high school students.
- **Heidi Noon - *new recipient***
Western Wakka Wakka woman, Heidi Noon is completing a Bachelor of Human Services and would like to work for the Department of Human Services to help close the gap in Indigenous health.
- **Jed Fraser - *new recipient***
Mandandanji man, Jed is completing a Bachelor of Exercise Movement Science. Jed has received the Queensland government's Indigenous Future Leaders Award and twice received the Neville Bonner Award. Jed is a student ambassador, and wants to show other young Indigenous people that with focus and commitment, you can achieve anything you set your mind to.
- **Joanne Allen - *new recipient***
Joanne of Strathpine is completing a Bachelor of Creative Industries, majoring in creative and professional writing. Joanne's career aspiration is to write novels and to change people's lives through her writing.
- **Joshua Loyd - *new recipient***
Originally from Western Australia, Joshua is undertaking a Bachelor of Engineering, majoring in Civil and Environmental. Joshua hopes to raise awareness of the importance of further education and assist with closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.
- **Shekira Cardona – *continuing recipient***
Skekira from Mount Gravatt is completing a Bachelor of Business (Marketing) / Bachelor of Laws (Honours). Shekira's career aspiration is to become a human rights lawyer.

University of Southern Queensland

- **Caitlin Easton - *new recipient***
Bundjalung woman Caitlin Easton is undertaking a Master of Science (by Research) program, with a focus on developing a suicide prevention framework for Indigenous youth. After completing a Bachelor of General Studies - Indigenous Studies at USQ, Caitlin continues to pursue her passion for the health and wellbeing of Indigenous people with this research program.
- **Adam Sinden - *new recipient***
Adam Sinden of Warwick is completing a Bachelor of Science – Mathematics at USQ. In his spare time, Adam has recently broken the Guinness World Record for the fastest 100 meters on spring loaded stilts. After completing his studies, Adam hopes to pursue a career in mathematical sciences.

- **Brooke Hagan - new recipient**
Brooke of Stafford is studying a Bachelor of Education. Upon completing her studies, Brooke would like to teach Indigenous children in rural areas.
- **Tracie Morrison - new recipient**
Tracie is completing a Bachelor of Education (Primary). While studying, Tracie also works as a tutor to other Indigenous students at multiple universities across Brisbane. Tracie has received several awards for her achievements in equity and diversity. Tracie hopes to be considered an invaluable contributor to the educative outcomes of Indigenous people.
- **Brittni Brady - new recipient**
Brittni of Maryborough is studying a Bachelor of Education (Secondary), majoring in English. Brittni's career aspiration is to prepare young people with the skills and attitudes required to commence cultural transformation in their community.
- **Ashleigh Hyland - new recipient**
Ashleigh is completing a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Environment and Sustainability. From an early age, Ashleigh's passion for the environment has inspired her to pursue tertiary education towards a career as a site environmentalist in the infrastructure industry.
- **Ryan Stephenson – continuing recipient**
Ryan Stephenson of Gatton is studying a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) at USQ. After significant influence from Wagga Wagga High School, Ryan hopes to actively participate in high school mentoring programs to inspire others to pursue a career in engineering. Upon completing his studies, Ryan looks forward to a career in the power generation and transmission industry.

Griffith University

- **Tayla Emmerson - new recipient**
Tayla is undertaking a Bachelor of Oral Health in Dental Technology. Tayla hopes to improve the health of Indigenous Australians by reducing waiting lists for patients and providing communities with access to oral health education and resources.
- **Shenay Corey - new recipient**
Shenay is studying a Bachelor in Nursing at Griffith University. Shenay had an interest in medicine from a very early age, which encouraged her to work in aged care and pursue tertiary studies. After graduation, Shenay aspires to work in an emergency department before moving into nursing with the Army.
- **Jemila Darr – continuing recipient**
Jemila of Springfield is studying a Bachelor of Environmental Engineering. Jemila's career choice was inspired by participating in an Indigenous engineering summer school. She received Woodcrest State College's Indigenous Leaders award during her senior schooling and aims to be a role model and mentor for other young people, particularly young girls, in her community.
- **Dean Sarra – continuing recipient**
Dean of Karalee is a mature-age student completing a Bachelor of Law. His studies follow a successful career in the Queensland public service. Dean is a proud Gooreng Gooreng/Bunda man, father of two children and a grandfather whose goal is to pursue a career in law to advocate for disadvantaged groups. Dean hopes to inspire other parents by showing it is never too late to make a positive career change
- **Amarina Smith – continuing recipient**
Amarina from Rockhampton is completing a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Government and International Relations at Griffith University. Amarina is a member of the Griffith University Honours College and is enthusiastically involved in community activities, evacuation and flood relief assistance, children's activities and volunteer mission trips to China in 2011 and Cambodia in 2012. Amarina aims to be an active member of the international legal community.