

**“GRAND RIVER POST SECONDARY EDUCATION OFFICE FUNDING
INFORMATION NIGHT 2009”**

STUDENTS AND PARENTS ARE WELCOME

(Supper will be provided)

Wednesday February 18th, 2009

Six Nations Polytechnic

5:30 pm - 7 pm

Information will be presented to students on the application process for post secondary funding. To RSVP or if you have any questions call Susan Hill at (519) 445-1424. Register for this event by February 13th.

Anyone wanting to attend school in the Fall of 2009 should plan to attend ...bring your appetites as well as any questions.

(Please note this is the only application information session for 2009)

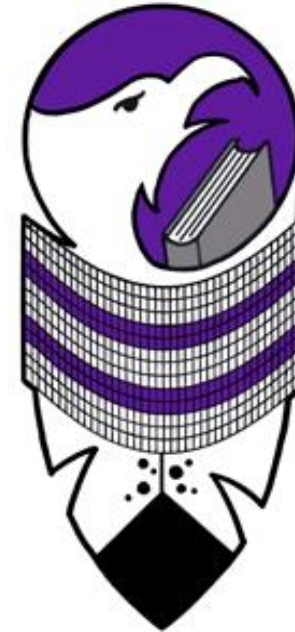
Application Calendar 2009

- May 17** Winter Marks/Progress Reports due for all continuing students. Levels 3 & 4 provide Letter of Good Academic Standing. Application Deadline for Fall or Fall/Winter semester(s) **Apply on-line!** Summer course registration/timetable and detailed tuition fees due.
- July 1** Official Transcripts due from students with any assistance following the previous July. For fall applicants, funds will be decommitted if the transcript is not received.
- Sept 17** Summer Marks/Progress Reports due for all continuing students. Levels 3 & 4 provide Letter of Good Academic Standing. Application deadline for Winter semester – **Apply on-line!** Fall course registration/timetable and detailed tuition fees due.
- Jan 17** Fall Marks/Progress Reports due for all continuing students. Levels 3 & 4 provide Letter of Good Academic Standing. Application deadline for Summer semester **Apply on-line!** Winter course registration/timetable and detailed tuition fees due.
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Other Post Secondary Dates and Events

- Feb 18** GRPSEO Funding Information Night 2009
May 18 Participation in Bread and Cheese Parade
July 17 Norm's Golf for Grads, Sundrim Golf Course
Aug 20 Student Recognition, Six Nations Polytechnic Student Centre
Oct 1 Graduate Photos due for publication
Nov Graduate Promotion/Grad Photo publication
Nov Post Secondary Information Day
Nov 20 Semester contact required from all students – check with your Counsellor
Dec Office Closed **December 24** and Reopens **January 4, 2010**
- Please, listen to CKRZ 100.3 fm, check the local newspapers and our website at www.grpseo.org or give us a call at (519) 445-2219 for more information.

EDUCATION...A PATH TO TOMORROW



**GRAND RIVER
POST
SECONDARY
BOARD
NEWSLETTER**

Winter 2009
Issue 37

P.O. Box 339
Ohsweken ON, N0A 1M0
Phone: (519) 445-2219
Toll Free: 1 877-837-5180
Fax: (519) 445-4296

located at 2160 Fourth Line

E-mail:
grpseo@worldchat.com
Website: www.grpseo.org

**Onkwehon:we
with Grand River Territory
lineage are empowered
through higher education
within available resources.**

Grand River Post Secondary

Board Members

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Victoria Racette is Upper Cayuga – Wolf Clan from Six Nations.

After graduating from McKinnon Park Secondary School, as an Ontario Scholar, in Caledonia, Victoria enrolled full-time at Wilfrid Laurier University, in Brantford, in a 2 x 4 Program - General Contemporary Studies at Laurier and Graphic Design at Mohawk College.

Near the end of her 2 years, at Laurier, she decided advertising was where she really wanted to be, and added another year to her studies when she enrolled in the 3-year Advertising Program at Mohawk College, Fennell Campus.

The choice of switching programs removed her from receiving full transfer credits from the initial 2 x 4 Program. She still had to finish credits from Laurier, in order to obtain her Bachelor of Arts. She decided to attend Mohawk full-time during the school year, of September to April, and attend Laurier during the summer months. Victoria graduated both post-secondary institutions in 2008.

She is currently working, full-time, at 2008's Strategy Agency of the Year: TAXI Advertising, in Toronto and loving it. Her hopes are to continue learning about the always evolving industry and some day become a Production Director.

Going into this industry, she was told there were not many Native graduates of the Advertising Program. Victoria saw this as an opportunity to change the norm and hopefully encourage others to do the same. She chose to **rise against doubts and confrontation**. "People may think you can't do something, so **prove them wrong** and do it. They may think you can only pull off mediocre, shock them and pull off extraordinary."

Throughout her years in post-secondary, Victoria received a 2008 nomination for The Michael Reles Alumni Third Year Peer Award and made the Dean's Honour List in multiple semesters.

In 2008/09 she was the Mohawk College representative for Arts & Communications and Aboriginal Programs & Services, and received a CSEP Honorarium.

When Victoria graduated, from Mohawk College, she received the Bronze President's Medal for Contribution to the Community.

At Mohawk College, she was employed as the Advertising Assistant in Marketing & Communications Department in 2007/08. She continues to write blogs for Mohawk College on student and graduate life.

Victoria feels her biggest accomplishment has been from volunteering with non-profit organizations. She has volunteered with the Bay Area Leadership & Volunteer Hamilton, Childcan, Woodland Cultural Centre and the Hamilton Regional Indian Centre. She has also volunteered with the Aboriginal Services & Programs Department at Mohawk College and was a Delegate of Six Nations Youth.

One of the main hurdles Victoria has had to overcome, over the years, is coming to know and understand her Native heritage and culture; having been raised in a non-Native community by non-Native Grandparents. She believes volunteering with Native organizations is one way to "get in touch" with her culture. She hopes to continue volunteering with Native non-profit organizations in the future. For Victoria, **volunteering** is also her way to **give back** what she's fortunate enough to have been given – **knowledge and experience**. She feels she will always **put herself out there to help** anyone she can.

In the future, following a few years in the advertising industry, she hopes to return to post-secondary, while working full-time, to obtain her Masters in Business Administration, followed by a Doctorate in Business Administration. These are just a couple more goals Victoria has set for herself to work towards.

Victoria feels **education** should be **encouraged**. "It's not a bad thing." She feels, today, there are still some negative feelings towards education for Native individuals. She feels we

need to encourage youth to use those **negative connotations as motivation** for a positive future.

She advises students to **enjoy every aspect of life**, time with family, friends and even getting up to go to those 8 am classes.

"Education is a privilege." Be a **"sponge"** and soak up as much knowledge as you can. Always **ask for help**, and in return **lend a helping hand**. "Remember **you can't always plan everything**. Things happen that you don't have any control over, but, that doesn't mean you can't **set goals** for yourself. They help guide you to the path you want. **Endure the ups and downs** with a **good-natured spirit** and make the **choices** that are **right for you!**"

Victoria believes, in the long run it's worth it. **"With sacrifices come great rewards."** **Sticking to it** undoubtedly makes you a **stronger person** all around.

Victoria sends a thank-you to everyone at the Grand River Post Secondary Education Office, Mohawk College, Wilfrid Laurier University, TAXI Advertising, friends and family.

A special thank-you goes out to her Nanna and Pappa for always supporting her every decision.

"Without you none of this would have been possible!"