



WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY

Indigenous Engineering **ASPIRE** Program

INDIGENOUS ENGINEERING EDUCATION
INDUSTRY PARTNERS

INDIGENOUS ENGINEERING ASPIRE PROGRAM

THE UNIVERSITY HAS ALWAYS ACKNOWLEDGED THE TRADITIONAL ABORIGINAL OWNERS OF THE LANDS UPON WHICH IT IS LOCATED IN WESTERN SYDNEY.

The relationship with the Indigenous community is very important and the University aspires to be the institution to serve Indigenous communities in Greater Western Sydney, an area with the highest concentration of Indigenous peoples. Western Sydney University's Indigenous Strategy 2020-2025, has a strong focus on Indigenous engagement: students; employment; research; learning and teaching; community engagement; leadership; and cultural viability and knowledge. The targets for the University are:

1. 3% of all enrolled domestic students are Indigenous by 2025
2. 3% of all completing students are Indigenous by 2025.

In order to fulfil the strategy, the School of Engineering wants to build on its track record of advancing equality and is committed to improving the promotion and retention of Indigenous People in Technology and Engineering.

The ASPIRE Program began in 2020 and aims to support the career development of Indigenous students, studying in Engineering and increase the representation of Indigenous students in these sectors. The Western Sydney University ASPIRE Program is unique. The program connects students with industry partners to enhance their professional skills and networks while undertaking their Engineering degree.

DEAN'S ADDRESS ABOUT ASPIRE PROGRAM, PROFESSOR MIKE KAGIOGLOU, DEAN ENGINEERING

“It is a pleasure to see the school's strong engagement with industry being focused on Indigenous students. Working in partnership, we can provide unique opportunities for valuable internships and placements to mobilise our Indigenous students and activate company specific goals. I know that this collaboration will bring significant benefits to all parties and I look forward to the development of this unique national and global initiative. “



PVC INDIGENOUS ADDRESS ABOUT ASPIRE PROGRAM, PROFESSOR MICHELLE TRUDGETT, PVC OFFICE OF PVC ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER EDUCATION, STRATEGY AND CONSULTATION

“Across the higher education sector, engineering is traditionally a discipline that has not been successful in attracting many Indigenous students. Western Sydney University seeks to change past practices by ensuring that Indigenous students are well supported throughout their entire engineering degrees. This program provides an excellent opportunity for industry partners to contribute to being part of the journey that will establish the next generation of Indigenous engineers.”



INDIGENOUS ENGINEERING EDUCATION INTERNSHIP

THE ASPIRE PROGRAM IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INDUSTRY PARTNERS TO CONNECT WITH A TALENTED POOL OF INDIGENOUS STUDENTS THROUGH INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES WHILE THEY ARE UNDERTAKING THEIR ENGINEERING DEGREE AT WESTERN.

Industry partners can participate in the program voluntarily by:

- Offering Internship opportunities from the second semester of the student's degree
- Mentoring an Undergraduate Student
- Offering workplace training
- Providing live case studies and briefs within an Indigenous context
- Providing opportunities for global mobility through company branch locations.

There are also sponsorship and philanthropic opportunities for industry partners to better connect with and provide opportunities for our Indigenous students.

These include:

- Sponsoring ASPIRE Program Events
- Supporting Conference Grants to provide students the opportunity to attend industry events
- Donating towards Scholarships and Prizes.



INDUSTRY PARTNERS ADDRESSES

PETA HEFFERNAN, NATIONAL MANAGER, DESIGN AND ESTIMATING FROM WACKO KWIKFORM GROUP

“In partnering with the University of Western Sydney, Waco Kwikform sees the offering of internships to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islands as a valuable way to help students gain insight into the engineering field, providing the students with an opportunity to build relevant skills to complement their study, network and connect with people in the industry. Access to well-trained capable resources is key to our business, our people are our assets. Waco Kwikform is committed to creating a diverse, culturally inclusive workforce, addressing the inequalities that Indigenous people face in Australia.”

MARIE VICTOR, SENIOR TALENT ACQUISITION CONSULTANT FROM WSP

“We exist to create equitable, inclusive and sustainable societies for today and future generations. We recognise the unique role Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples play in the country’s heritage and our future. We believe that reconciliation is a means to bring about mutual understanding and learning that will ultimately serve to create a sustainable, vibrant and connected future for all Australians. WSP is glad to partner with The University of Western Sydney in creating career pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders into the industry and offering internships and cadetships in a range of disciplines.”

KATE KUKLA, ALUMNI AND PROJECT MANAGER FOR SYDNEY AIRPORT CORPORATION

“Indigenous culture and heritage play a significant role in all phases of many construction projects. There is a great need for both female and male Indigenous people within the engineering sector to assist in protection through working first hand onsite, education and consulting on best practise in delivery of work to ensure preservation of country.”

INDIGENOUS ENGINEERING PROGRAM

THE ASPIRE PROGRAM IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS TO CONNECT WITH INDIGENOUS STUDENTS TO PROVIDE INTERNSHIPS AND MENTORSHIP SUPPORT AND CAREER ADVICE TO FUTURE EMPLOYEES.

Once an internship match has been made, the ASPIRE Program Team will be in contact to let you know. The students will commence the program by contacting their industry partners through a platform provided.

The arrangements for the internship, such as mode and frequency of contact, are discussed between the School, Industry Partners and students.

Companies can express their interest in this program, or indeed any other engagement opportunities with the School of Engineering, by contacting Associate Dean Engagement for School of Engineering for further discussion.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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