

## 143 graduate from FNU's College of Humanities and Education



*Bachelor of Education (Primary) graduate, Salesh Sumit Prasad receiving his certificate from Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts, Alison Burchell.*

**W**e need graduates who can question and be able to identify creative solutions to solve problems and find new ways forward.

These were the comments made by the chief guest, Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts, Alison Burchell at Fiji National University's (FNU) College of Humanities and Education (CHE) graduation ceremony held at the FMF Gymnasium on Friday afternoon.

Burchell urged the 143 graduates to be empathetic, creative thinkers and innovators.

"We are looking for people with excellence, aspirations, goals and targets that are achievable."

"I want to encourage you that when you go out into employment – fight against your comfort zones. It is far challenging yet interesting to continuously progress with qualifications and skills."

Burchell challenged the teacher graduates to change the methodology to teaching according to the needs of the individual students.

"We want student-centered teaching and learning. We need to treat people with dignity and understand the physical, auditory or the visual disability and make sure that we are catering for all Fijians," said PS Burchell.

"We need to ensure that our classrooms are inclusive and safe so everyone feels valued in our education system. We need to show empathy and not sympathy."

"We want to make sure that we have an ethos in our schooling system of continuous professional development. We talk too gullibly of life-long education but we don't actually make any commitment ourselves to life-long education."

For more pictures, visit the [FNU Facebook page](#).

FNU Vice Chancellor, Professor Nigel Healey reiterated to the students the importance of continuous skills upgrading.

"Succeeding in the years ahead will require you to be adaptable, open to change and prepared to return to university from time to time to upgrade your skills and qualifications," said Professor Healey.

"You are on the brink of the next stage of your lives. You live in exciting times. During your working lives, the world will change in ways that we cannot yet envisage."

"We have given you the skills, competencies and mindset to get started with your career – or reskill you for a new career – and we are confident that you will have a flying start," added VC Healey.

Bachelor of Education (Primary) graduate, Salesh Sumit Prasad acknowledged his parents for their continuous support towards his education.

Prasad's family travelled from Korovatu, Labasa to attend his graduation ceremony.

He has been in the teaching field for the past five years and is currently teaching at Khamendra Central School in Savusavu.

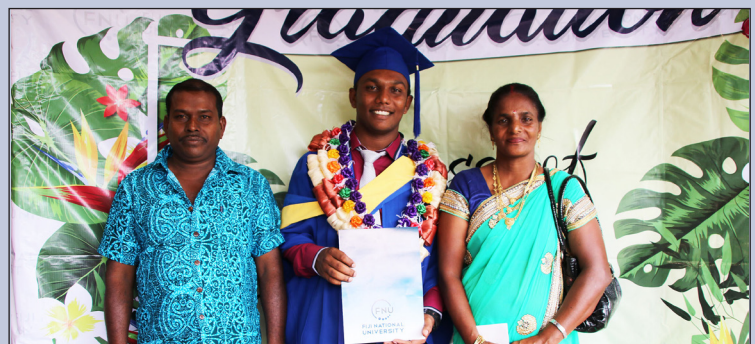
"Teaching is a great profession and so far I am enjoying it. It was my dream from childhood to assist the students and here I am today," said Prasad.

"I had a Diploma in Primary Education but it is always good to keep upgrading your qualification and skills. During the undergraduate studies I have realised the need of being on par with the current developments in the teaching field."

"The field is evolving with the current technological advancements and this needs to be considered while we are in the classroom," Prasad added.

His dad, Saten Prasad was proud of his son's achievements and said the challenges did not deter him from getting his son through to the University.

"Although I was just a casual seasonal worker at FSC, I made sure that my children went to school. It is hard for me to express in words how proud and happy I am to see my son upgrade his qualification," said Prasad.



*Bachelor of Education (Primary) student, Salesh Sumit Prasad with his parents after the graduation ceremony.*