

**TUESDAY 17 JULY, 2018**

## **Press Release**

### **Strong turn-out of schools expected at the Fiji National University Open Day**

**Suva, Fiji Islands.** More than one hundred secondary schools have confirmed their participation at the Fiji National University (FNU) Open Day scheduled for Thursday and Friday 19 and 20 July, 2018.

This important University event is being hosted at three centres, Central, West and North, enabling students and members of the public from all divisions to visit the nearest Open Day venue to explore the wide range of programmes the Fiji National University offers.

The venues for the Open Days are as follows: Nasinu Campus (Central Division), Natabua Campus, Lautoka (Western Division) and Labasa Civic Centre (Northern Division).

Fiji National University Vice Chancellor Professor Nigel Healey said Open Days are both important and exciting as it provides important information to students regarding programmes on offer and a guide on how they can work towards their career goals.

Professor Healey said it's also an opportunity for students and interested people to explore the facilities, interact with academics and current students to find out more about the University and programmes.

"Keeping in touch with the University is the best way to learn about the wide range of programmes on offer. Open Days are a good way for students to browse, while deciding a broad area of study for example engineering, agriculture, medicine or business. Students can then focus and decide which particular course they are interested in for example in engineering programmes are offered in the fields of civil, mechanical or electrical," said VC Healey.

"I'm informed that we so far have around 104 secondary schools confirmed to visit the different Open Day venues. This is certainly great response from the schools and we are expecting confirmation from a few more before Thursday.

"It's going to be a very busy week for staff at the University as we are preparing to host around 10,000 students and visitors over the two days. All the Colleges are heavily involved, there will be lots of displays and information available for prospective students and parents.

"We also have lots of fun activities and entertainment planned so it's going to be really exciting for the students. We have also invited several important stakeholders such as the Tertiary Scholarship and Loans Board (TSLB) from whom students can get important information if they need financial assistance while pursuing their tertiary studies with us," said VC Healey.

FNU has a proud history, dating back to the foundation of Suva Medical School in 1885 – of offering both technical and vocational training as well as higher education programmes that lead to a successful career.

Students who want to work as a mechanic or an electrician, a doctor or a nurse, a teacher or a lawyer, FNU has a programme that can help students achieve their dream job.

“All universities these days offer students libraries, computer labs, campus-wide wifi and sporting facilities. But because FNU is a vocational university, we also offer students the workshops, laboratories, clinics, simulators and training restaurants that they need to ensure they graduate with practical, hands-on skills, as well as a strong theoretical grounding,” said Professor Healey.

Since FNU’s programmes have a strong vocational focus, it is important for prospective students to think carefully about the career they want to have and need to choose the right programme and major. For example, if a student wants to become an accountant, they need to select the right courses to meet the requirements for a Certified Professional Accountant accreditation. While changing programmes and majors is possible, it often prolongs the period of studies for students.

The all the venues will feature displays from all five Colleges of the Fiji National University namely the College of Humanities and Education (CHE), College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS), College of Engineering, Science and Technology (CEST), College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies (CBHTS) and the College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (CAFF).

The Open Day will be from 9am – 5pm on both Thursday and Friday.

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**About the Fiji National University:** The Fiji National University (FNU) was established through the merger of 7 government-owned tertiary institutions in Fiji, and commenced operations from 1 January 2010. The constituent institutions are found at over 40 different locations across Fiji, and collectively offer Certificates, Diplomas, Advanced Diplomas, Degrees, Postgraduate qualifications and Skills Upgrading for those who are already in employment. Approximately 30,000 students pass through the University each year. Over the last six years of its operations, the University has registered major achievements with regard to new programme delivery, quality improvements and contribution to research and publications via its 5 Colleges: The College of Humanities & Education (CHE), the College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences (CMNHS), the College of Engineering, Science & Technology (CEST), the College of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry (CAFF), the College of Business, Hospitality & Tourism Studies (CBHTS) and the National Training & Productivity Centre (NTPC).