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Press Release

FNU Drama Festival becomes a platform for holistic learning

Suva, Fiji Islands. The Fiji National University (FNU) Language and Literature students portrayed real life social issues such as Climate Change and Teenage Pregnancy through a Drama Festival organised by FNU's College of Humanities and Education (CHE) at the Nasinu Campus today.

The annual event, which is part of the curriculum of Foundation programme, aims to strengthen the strategic skills of the students.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, FNU Pro Vice Chancellor, Professor James Pounder said Drama is a creative tool through which students can enhance their human resources skills.

Professor Pounder said inclusion of such events as part of the curriculum, prepares the students to 'hit the ground running' when they join the workforce.

"Drama falls into the category of creativity. It is regarded as a mechanism through which you are not only able to execute your creativity but learn to work with differences in a group," said the Pro VC.

Professor Pounder said FNU continuously strives to produce graduates who are trained in the vocational and professional skills.

"The University is committed to providing life-skills; skills that cross professions and industry. These skills, which are embedded in the person, can be carried across a variety of occupations."

Head of School of Communication, Language and Literature, Dr Zakia Ali-Chand said the Drama Festival gave an opportunity to the students to work as a team.

She said the event was meant to boost the students' confidence and enable them to discover their talents.

"This Festival has given the students a hands-on experience in producing a play. The team work that students have displayed today is astounding," said Dr Ali-Chand.

"The students have been actively involved in the planning, strategizing and execution of this Festival which has improved their leadership and time management skills."

Foundation Science student, Abigail Leotoga was amazed at the response from the audience as the curtain drew indicating the end of their play 'Climate Change: It's No More a Fairy Tale.'

Dressed in mermaid attire, excited Leotoga said it was an overwhelming experience to perform at a public space.

"I felt very nervous at first but as I went on the stage, I felt confident and it intrigued to me that this is what we are preparing for through this event – to develop such real life theatrical and soft skills that we may not have achieved in the classroom teaching."

"Through our drama we tried to make the audience ponder on what we have done to our environment. From the response that we received from the audience, I believe we were able to deliver the message through great team work."

“We had group members from different nationalities but that never got into the way of our preparations. We were able to put our differences aside and strive together as a team. I will cherish this experience for the rest of my life,” said the Niue national.

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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).