

Thursday 25 October 2018

Press Release

FNU Academic awarded South Pacific Bursary Program Scholarship

Lautoka, Fiji Islands. Hard work and dedication paid off for Fiji National University (FNU) academic, Fabiano Tikoinavuso after been announced the inaugural recipient of the South Pacific Bursary Program to attend the Australian Association for Research in Education (AARE) National Conference.

Senior lecturer with College of Humanities and Education (CHE), Tikoinavuso will deliver a conference paper, *'Challenges of Practicum for Pre Service Teachers in Fiji'*, which aligns with his current research for Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) studies.

According to Tikoinavuso, "the paper focuses on the voices, views and challenges the teacher trainees experience while on practicum engagement."

The former school teacher said he was deeply honoured and privileged to be a recipient of the award and to present at a prestigious conference.

"It is indeed a milestone achievement personally and to the University as a whole. It is always an exciting opportunity and experience to be part of an international conference such as this. Special thanks to the AARE for this newest initiative and for accepting me to present my paper," he said.

Professor Eileen Honan, who is supervising Tikoinavuso's PhD studies and is a long term member of AARE, said this was a great honour for him as well as an indication of the high standard of educational research being conducted by staff of CHE.

"Our aim at CHE is to have research published that is of international quality, and the recognition of this research by AARE is an important indicator of that quality," said Professor Honan.

The data for the research was collected in 2016 during a project funded by FNU staff research grants and is centred on the challenges of practicum for pre-service teachers in Fiji.

In 2018, as part of their goal to support the capacity of education researchers within the Pacific Region, AARE initiated the South Pacific Bursary Program to support AARE conference attendance in 2018.

Applications were open to all Research Higher Degree students enrolled in educational research programmes.

AARE is a large, national, member-run organisation for those interested in education in Australia and internationally. They hold as a strong principle the goal of improving education for all. Members include education researchers from universities in Australia and overseas, policy and government research officers, teachers and educators working in early childhood, schooling, vocational, university and community education contexts.

Ends.

For further information, please contact Saleshni Chaudhary on Email: saleshni.chaudhary@fnu.ac.fj or Phone: 6667355 ext. 7097

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).