

## Fiji National University (FNU) students scoop top awards at the National Model United Nations Competition

The Fiji National University (FNU) team which participated at the National Model United Nations Competition (MUN) in Washington, DC United States was awarded the honourable mention in the category of best delegation and best position paper award.

While welcoming the nine member female team, Dr Eci Nabalarua Dean College of Humanities and Education (CHE) congratulated the team on showcasing excellent leadership qualities and setting a standard for others.

“We are proud of your achievements and this sets a benchmark for the initiatives which we want to undertake when we are providing leadership training not only for young women but young men,” she said.

Miliana Sadrata and Apisaki Tupou’s Position Paper won acclaim for the best position paper and the team outnumbered 75 universities from around the world to win the best delegation honour.

Head of delegation and final year bachelor of Education (Primary) student Maria Matai Ratulutu said all the sacrifice was worthwhile.

“After all the struggles and sleepless nights our efforts were finally rewarded when we represented the team and won acclaim for one of our papers. We surely displayed the true essence of working as a team, she said.

According to US Peace Corps volunteer and team coach, Sara Conklin the students represented Canada as their adopted country in simulation, participated in a simulation of the UN in 6 separate committees finding solutions to issues in climate



*Team MUN at the welcome ceremony at Natabua Campus*

change, food security, natural disasters, HIV/AIDS prevention, chemical weapons, and renewable energy.

“The other advisors and I are very proud of the team’s performance during the 3-day conference. It was a rigorous, intensive, and demanding process that required our students to push beyond the limits of their normally-perceived abilities. . And most importantly, every teammate succeeded beyond our expectations in delivering their personal best at the conference she said.

According to Conklin, the students networked, delivered speeches, wrote papers, collaborated on tough solutions to world issues, and overall demonstrated the strength of young Fijian women.

“Most of all, I am proud that these young women have learned their fullest potential. They stretched their personal limits and supported each other the entire way. We became a family. It was an honour to be their coach” said delighted Conklin.

The Model United Nations is an activity that provides an educational simulation of international politics, diplomacy, and foreign affairs.

The Fiji Women’s Model United Nations team facilitated by the Ministry of Youth and Sports with support of the FNU, and the US Peace Corps, participated in the National Model United Nations Conference with over 400 other students from around the world.



*Dr Eci Nabalarua Dean College of Humanities and Education welcoming the model united nations team.*