

Tuesday 31, 2018

Press Release

Empowering young women to take up leadership roles

Suva, Fiji Islands. Fiji National University (FNU) in conjunction with Fiji Women Rights Movement (FWRM) and the Emerging Leaders Forum Alumni (ELFA) hosted the inaugural Young Women Lead Initiative Workshop (YWLIW) at FNU Nasinu Campus.

The aim of the two-day workshop was to empower young female students to take up more leadership roles at the University.

Thirty students from the five Colleges of FNU in the central division attended the workshop which was held over the weekend.

FNU Assistant Registrar, Karishma Deo said such workshops were important as it created greater awareness and also empowered young women to embark at leadership roles.

Deo said such initiatives encourage students to make bold decisions.

“We have observed that young women are hesitant to take up leadership roles and by organizing such workshops we hope they are empowered to take on this challenge,” said Deo.

“This workshop enabled our young women to discover themselves, their rights and responsibilities and feel inspired, empowered and equipped to actively participate in University wide student activities and taking leadership roles in different student committees.”

“We want our students to feel confident about themselves and compete for leadership roles within the University,” Deo added.

Bachelor of Laws final year student, Ilisapeci Tunamena said, through the fun activities she has been able to discover that she possesses the qualities and the skills required to be at the helm.

“I have personally achieved a lot from these two days. I am skilled, challenged and at the same time being motivated to take up leadership roles at FNU,” said Tunamena.

“Women are more empathetic and passionate in what they do and that will be a good quality to be a wonderful and effective leader.”

Trade Diploma in Applied Computing student, Shagufta Aisha Begum said interacting with students from other Colleges during the workshop was a great learning experience.

“We were all from different Colleges and did not know each other prior to the workshop and it was incredible listening to the views of other girls about young women in leadership,” said Begum.

“Attending this workshop has been very fruitful for me.”

“I feel motivated and challenged to compete for leadership roles in the University student bodies. This is our training ground and we should make the most of it to be better prepared for future,” Begum added.

FNU has organized similar workshops at other campuses in the north and west.

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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).