

## Super effort from student volunteers



CMNHS Student volunteers pose with College staff at the conclusion of the FNU Open Day 2019.

About 20 hours before the Fiji National University (FNU) Open Day started, an army of student volunteers braved hot conditions as they tirelessly worked to set-up the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) booth at Valelevu Grounds.

Some took time out of their classes while others gave up their free time to offload boxes, nail finer details and decorate the booth.

Dean CMNHS Dr William May applauded the efforts of the student volunteers and staff for making the 2019 Open Day a great success.

"Indeed they put in a juggernaut effort throughout the two-day event being among the first few faces arriving early at the booth and the last ones to leave," said Dr May.

Pauline Faotusia, Year 5 Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) student, was among 130 student volunteers, who eagerly showed their passion and the pride they had for their respective programmes.

The charismatic student said she volunteered for the Open Day to highlight how interesting the MBBS programme was.

She said it was very important for the students to volunteer and give back to the community.

"It's important to give your time to help the younger generations choose their career pathways... and if I could help one person to decide what to do in future and go on to become a productive member of society, then that would be awesome," Faotusia said.

Originally from Tonga, she recognised the effort put in by her fellow colleagues saying they showed care to all visiting students and members of the public and made them feel valued.

"The visiting students make so much effort to come to the Open Day and we are glad that we have the opportunity to talk to them." Bachelor of Dental Surgery Year 4 student, Jone Tuiwai, added volunteering for such events built their characters.

"This provides us students with an opportunity to interact and deliver

our ideas in an effective and concise manner which is a very help skill to build upon."

Tuiwai said, other than promoting their programmes they were also creating awareness.

"We are also advocating for the importance of oral health to visiting students and community members so they are mindful that oral health is equally important to general health," Tuiwai highlighted.

Representing School of Public Health and Primary Care, Kirtika Raju said: "I volunteered to promote my course because I find it interesting and I want others to learn about it as well".

According to Raju, she met many exciting new faces and it has helped her gain more confidence while talking and delivering her thought process.

Meanwhile, Mohammed Talmeez believes that the event provided him an opportunity to reach out to prospective students and tell them about the various programmes offered at the College.

"It is important for us to be here for students who are in high school because they require someone to guide them and it makes me happy to be one of those people who will help them make a decision about the pathway they will take in future," Talmeez remarked.

For the first year Bachelor of Nursing student, Rosalia Raliwalala, participated as a volunteer to set an example that students from interior settings were not disadvantaged.

"I come from the interior of Ra province and I understand the hardships that the secondary school students in the remote areas are facing."

"I understand their needs and I am happy to talk to them and encourage them that the opportunities are endless and they just need to stay focused and work hard to achieve their dreams," Raliwalala said ecstatically.

More than 12,000 students visited the two-day Open Day at Valelevu Grounds Nasinu, Civic Center in Labasa and Natabua Campus.