

# BU honours student leaders

Outstanding student leaders at Brandon University were recognized recently after completing a new program offered by the school.

The Student Leadership Certificate Program is a new, non-credit program developed through the student services office. The program offers free leadership seminars for current and emerging leaders at BU, and features a diverse group of 24 students in their second, third and fourth years of study.

Student participants received their certificates at a reception honouring their achievements on April 1.

“This inaugural, not-for-credit certificate is significant for our students, Brandon University and society because our students will benefit from having gained a broader understanding of themselves and of leadership skills,” said Tom Brophy, associate vice-president in charge of student services and enrolment, and the university’s registrar.

“As a university, we benefit from having students who are both aware of leadership skills and how they can use these skills to better themselves, those around them and society in general,” he said.

“This is important because research has shown that students who are leaders during their school years go on to be leaders in the community as well.”

Through participation in these seminars over the past academic year, students explored seven topics related to three key themes of leadership: team, individual and personal leadership skills.

Students gained an understanding of prominent leadership theories and developing group facilitation, teamwork, self-care and time management skills. Students also learned to appreciate the value of diversity and inclusion



Graduates of BU's Student Leadership Certificate Program pose at the reception honouring their achievements. RBC vice-president Terry Burgess, below, was the keynote speaker at the event. (Submitted)



“For me, more than anything, it was a great exercise in the development of skills, and then having the opportunity to put those skills into practice through workshops.”

A number of the student leaders who are parents were offered access to free childcare while attending workshops, which occurred on Wednesday evenings outside normal daycare and school hours.

BU student services is also in the process of planning other specialized student leadership certificates focusing on global leadership and aboriginal leadership.

“Leadership and citizenship are important at Brandon University,” said Heather Duncan, acting vice-president for academics. “We are all very proud of these students who committed time and energy to building their leadership skills. They are our leaders of tomorrow.”

Keynote speaker at the April 1 reception was Terry Burgess, regional vice-president at RBC, who shared his thoughts on leadership and important skills as the students enter the job market following graduation.

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in work and school life and how to implement effective inquiry skills.

“The program has taught me a lot of new skills and reinforced some skills like interpersonal communication,

dealing with groups, how to handle yourself as an individual and ways to deal with stress,” said Dustin Dilay, a fourth-year sociology student and recipient of the leadership certificate.