

NZTC GRADUATES CELEBRATED IN AUCKLAND

New Zealand Tertiary College (NZTC) celebrated the first of two graduation ceremonies in Auckland on Wednesday 13 April. 191 graduands congregated at the Victory Convention Centre to be capped, with a further celebration taking place in Christchurch on 27 April for graduates based in the South Island.



All graduates were honoured for their hard work, dedication and commitment to early childhood education with each receiving a special gift that we look forward to sharing with our wider NZTC community after our Christchurch graduation ceremony.

NZTC's values of *Vision, Heart, Competence* and *Spirit* are held dear by the College and underpin all initiatives undertaken every day.

Tereapii Aniterea and Binumon Thanangattu were acknowledged for displaying a true commitment to each of these values throughout their qualification as they were jointly awarded the special NZTC Values/Puawaitanga Award.

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Over the course of her study Tereapii became a role model for many students, demonstrating all of the NZTC values in the way she supported and respected her fellow students. For Tereapii, it was a special moment hearing her name called as one of the Values Award recipients, "It's very special and an honour. It helps me reflect on the support I got from my lecturers and also my fellow students so it's really special – and surprising too!"

Tereapii credits her family, particularly her mother and the support she gave Tereapii to complete her qualification while juggling her commitment to her faith, family, and work on top of study, readings and assignments. When reflecting on her study journey, Tereapii says "It's been really rewarding in so many ways."



International student Binumon, consistently held the College values in high regard throughout his practice and this was reflected in his study. "Binumon exemplifies every one of the NZTC values. He has made multiple resources as gifts for the various centres he did placements in, he supported other students in study and was active in fostering our community of learners," said NZTC lecturer Ra Keelan.

Similar to Tereapii, Binumon was inspired and supported by his family throughout his study journey. "I lost my mum at age 15, but she was a big inspiration in my life. I can see her holding these values and encouraging me," said Binumon.

Binumon also credited his lecturers for supporting his learning process. "I knew I could ask my lecturers questions and they would get back to me quickly. They gave corrections to my work in a way that was helpful to me, and I valued that support," he said.

When asked about their plans for the future, both graduates spoke about the ECE sector with excitement. Binumon has secured a role in a centre and looks forward to supporting the children, and Tereapii plans to continue with the centre she worked at during her studies, with a long term goal of managing her own centre.

NZTC Chief Executive Selena Fox shared a special message with graduates. "You have taken your love for children, and stepped up through hard work, determination, sheer grit and at times against all odds to realise your professional goal of a qualification specialising in early childhood education. We are so very proud of you," said Fox.

With 532 graduates to be celebrated this year, NZTC looks forward to the next graduation ceremony in Christchurch before sharing a special initiative with our wider community.



Tereapii Aniterea



Binumon Thanangattu (right) receives award from Glennie Oborn

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NZTC SYMPOSIUM

ECE LEADERSHIP IN OUR TIMES

The 6th annual NZTC Symposium is set to be held on Friday 5 August, and will focus on *ECE Leadership In Our Times*. The symposium will include papers, practical workshops, poster sessions, and a panel discussion which will be of interest to all those who are looking to expand their knowledge of leadership and management in early childhood education.



The symposium will feature international keynote speaker Luis A. Hernandez, early childhood education specialist at Western Kentucky University, and co-author of *Learning From the Bumps in the Road* – a compilation of presentations and conversations with leaders in early childhood education.

Luis will lead an interactive session discussing the importance of confidence as a key ingredient for working and playing in teams and creating a community of learners. The necessity for clear and concise communication skills for leaders will also be explored alongside discovering the significance of being curious to new ideas, trends and initiatives, as a part of personal and professional growth.

Registrations for this year's symposium are now open with a special early bird fee of \$125.00 until 1 June (includes light lunch and refreshments). Standard fee: \$150.00. Please note: Numbers are limited.

If you have any questions, please contact Katie Wilson by **eMail** or phone (09) 520 4000.

www.nztertiarycollege.ac.nz/symposium

INSPIRATIONAL ALUMNI

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Barbara Scanlan

Master of Education (Early Childhood Education)

Barbara Scanlan was inspired to begin her journey of obtaining a Master of Education (Early Childhood Education) through her passion for helping early childhood services grow and develop, and her great love for learning. Now graduated, Barbara has helped to inspire and inform other students with their research.



Having completed a Master of Education (Early Childhood Education) in November 2015, Barbara recently gave a presentation on her master's thesis to postgraduate and master's students enrolled in the College's 'Arts in Early Childhood Education' course.

Art and her own creativity helped to inspire Barbara's thesis on 'Deleuzian philosophy as a working theory for pedagogy in early childhood education'. Her thesis looks at Deleuzian theory and the use of mirrors, light, shadow and movement in early childhood education. It was also inspired by the work she did in her Postgraduate Diploma in Education (Early Childhood

Education), as well as her own childhood. "As a child I used to have heaps of fun using mirrors. I also had a grandmother who would always tell the best stories, and I used to act them out," Barbara explained.

With an NZTC Bachelor of Teaching (ECE) and Postgraduate Diploma in Education (ECE) also under her belt, Barbara has now promised her two young sons that she will take a break from study, although she feels it will be difficult to stay away from further learning. She believes that the knowledge she gained from her master's degree will better inform her as an early childhood educator, as well as give her additional career options for the future.



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