

ACR Aboriginal Programs Project Program Templates

Program Area:	2.0	Workforce Development
Sub Program:	2.1	Supporting Educational Opportunities
Template:	2.1.1	Aboriginal Education Awards Program
Sponsor(s):	<i>Husky Energy Inc.</i>	

1. Objective

To assist Aboriginal people in achieving greater career success by encouraging them to pursue an advanced education.

2. Description

Husky awards bursaries to seven new recipients each year under the Aboriginal Education Awards Program:

- Three awards of \$3,000 for university students, for a maximum of four years
- Two awards of \$2,500 for community or technical college students, for a maximum of two years
- Two awards of \$1,000 for secondary school students pursuing upgrading, for a maximum of one year

3. Implementation

Some of the key elements for implementation and management of this program include:

- All Aboriginal people (Inuit, Métis, status and non-status Indians) are eligible to apply for an Aboriginal Education Award.
- The Aboriginal Education Awards Program is communicated to high school guidance counsellors, First Nations student associations, Aboriginal career and employment centres and band offices. The program is also advertised in regional Aboriginal newspapers.
- A voluntary selection committee, comprised of a cross-section of Husky employees, selects the recipients based on:
 - Financial need
 - Proximity to Husky operations
 - Program of study and career objectives
 - Academic success
- In order to maintain funding throughout a student's academic career, recipients of the college and university bursaries are required to provide transcripts and proof of registration for the upcoming school year; they are not required to re-apply annually.

4. Timeframe for Results

The results of Husky's Aboriginal Education Awards Program are both immediate and long-term. In part, Husky seeks to provide bursaries to students in communities that are near its operations. This conveys to communities Husky's intention to support education and thus promotes a positive relationship between the community and Husky.

Depending on their academic path, Aboriginal students are able to cite completion of high school, college or university within one to four years. Husky follows the academic careers of bursary students and graduates are eligible for employment with the company. In the long-term, academic success equates to improved career success. Husky believes this positively impacts not only the current generation of Aboriginal people but generations to follow.

5. Measurable Criteria

Husky uses the following criteria to assess the success of the Aboriginal Education Awards Program:

- Number of applications received annually
- Number of applications received that meet or exceed the selection criteria
- Number of inquiries received from academic institutions and prospective students
- Number of bursary students who complete their program
- Number of students who, upon completion of their program, obtain employment
- Number of students who, upon completion of their program, are employed by Husky

6. Budget

Husky's annual budget for the Aboriginal Education Awards Program is \$48,000: \$16,000 per year for new students and \$32,000 for continuing students.

7. Partners and Sponsors

Husky Energy is the sole sponsor.

8. Experience with the Program

The Aboriginal Education Awards Program began in 1984 and was updated in 1998 to reflect the current approach, with particular emphasis on the upgrading bursary. As of 2005, 136 students had received financial support from Husky to pursue their academic goals.

9. General Applicability

The Husky Aboriginal Education Awards Program is generally transferable to other companies and industry sectors interested in increasing the number of Aboriginal students completing secondary and post-secondary education.

10. Additional Information or Support

Josie Pearce, Aboriginal Relations Administrator, Husky Energy Inc., 707-8th Avenue SW, Box 6525, Station D, Calgary, AB T2P 3G7
Telephone: (403) 750-1427

Email: Josie.Pearce@huskyenergy.ca

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