Alumni Profile

Summer Thorp
BA Hons ’11 Social Justice and Peace Studies

Current Career
Organization: Nokee Kwe
Title: Career Counsellor and Positive Voice Program Coordinator

Career Overview
My current project is the Positive Voice program, a bridging program for urban Indigenous women, that I developed after consulting with community. It has a dual purpose: one, to provide training to our participants; and two, to educate the community and other practitioners. The program assists women, 18 years of age and older, who are transitioning to further education or employment. We assist them with learning about writing, digital media, graphic design, photography, public speaking, and networking. We also bring in guests to mentor and teach including artists, photographers, social service practitioners, advocates, and government representatives. Nokee Kwe is a non-profit organization in London, Ontario.

As a career counsellor my work involves assisting clients with opportunities and community resources that increase their employability and access to education or training.

How has SJPS helped prepare you for your current work or helped you get where you are today?
My experience in the SJPS cemented my commitment to promoting social justice in my own backyard, the London, Ontario area. The inherent interdisciplinary nature of the SJPS program assisted me with developing an eclectic toolbox of knowledge and skills that I draw on every day. In addition to my core courses, my coursework in ethics, political science, philosophy, religious studies, and First Nations studies informs my interactions with clients from a diverse range of backgrounds, while being accountable to multiple funders and government policies and practices. Every client is unique and unpredictable, so I need to be prepared to meet them where they are at and create a plan that meets their individual needs and assists them with accomplishing their goals.

Have you volunteered with any organization or cause that seeks to promote social justice and peace?
I edit and source content for Aspiring Mormon Women, a non-profit organization that serves as a resource and source of mentorship for women. I prepare profiles of women who have overcome the odds to complete undergraduate and graduate degrees to inspire other aspiring women.

Further Degrees / Certifications
MEd Educational Studies (focus on First Nations post-secondary education policy)
Western University
Certificate in Knowledge Mobilization, University of Guelph