



MEDIA RELEASE

21 OCTOBER 2011

Future proofing the engineering profession:

Evans & Peck announces recipient of their inaugural Indigenous Australian Undergraduate Scholarship Program

A long-term goal to attract the most talented students and increase the representation of Indigenous Australians in the engineering profession is behind a new undergraduate scholarship program for indigenous students.

Leading infrastructure-based advisory consultancy Evans & Peck today announced the first recipient of its Indigenous Australian Undergraduate Scholarship Program – former Narrabri (north-west NSW) resident Daniel Allan.

Daniel (20 yrs old) moved to Sydney in 2010 and is studying a Bachelor of Civil and Environmental Engineering and a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies (Chile) at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS).

The scholarship was organised by Evans & Peck with the support of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Indigenous Cadetship Support (ICS) scheme. Daniel receives financial support for his tuition and accommodation from Evans & Peck and the ICS. In addition, he participates in Evans & Peck's undergraduate development program each summer and works part-time for the firm during semester throughout the duration of his studies.

Managing Director of Evans & Peck, Mr Rob Aldis, said it made good business sense to expand the firm's undergraduate recruitment efforts into the Indigenous Australian community given its untapped potential as a source of future engineers.

"Indigenous Australians are under-represented in our profession compared to others such as health and education. There are many reasons for this, including the fact that non-indigenous adults are four times as likely (24 per cent) than Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (5 per cent) to continue on to complete a Bachelor degree or above," Mr Aldis said.

"The future sustainability of our firm and the broader engineering profession depends on our ability to attract the best and brightest young people, which is why we have invested in an undergraduate strategy to reach more students at the critical career planning time during Years 11 and 12."

Principal and Operations Manager Kay Salvair Smith has been one of the key driving forces behind Evans & Peck's Inaugural Australian Indigenous Scholarship. The scholarship itself has been almost three years in the making and is part of a much broader commitment by the firm to undergraduate and graduate recruitment.

"The Indigenous Scholarship is a new and important component of our overall strategy and it is complementary to our other programs which last year saw ten graduates and 15 undergraduates join our firm across our Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane offices," Ms Salvair Smith said.

1/2

Further information including media comment:

Kay Salvair Smith, Principal and Operations Manager
Evans & Peck (Chatswood, NSW)
www.evanspeck.com.au

T: 02 9495 0500

“How we find and attract talented and skilled young people is very important to the future of our firm and our profession. Engineering is not a common career path for indigenous students and we’re doing our best to highlight the opportunities it presents for a diverse and very rewarding career.”

Ms Salvair Smith said the work of Engineering Aid Australia, DEEWR and universities such as UTS, the University of Sydney, the University of NSW and Curtin University have been important partners for the firm as it developed and launched its first Indigenous Scholarship.

“Collectively we are all trying to achieve the same goals of identifying and developing talent and increasing the proportion of Indigenous Australians in a profession which has a lot to offer bright young people.”

The introduction of Evans & Peck’s Indigenous Scholarship was influenced by the work of Engineering Aid Australia’s (EEA) highly successful Indigenous Australian Engineering Summer School. This seven day live-in Summer School features a combination of engineering and social activities and provides potential engineers with a taste of the profession and what a future career could look like.

While scholarship recipient Daniel Allan didn’t attend EEA’s summer school, he says his advice to Years 11 and 12 students with an interest in the profession is to find out more about it and participate. He also suggests using the Internet to explore other graduate opportunities and not be afraid of making big changes in your life.

“The Evans & Peck Undergraduate Scholarship has given me more of a purpose in respect to my life and career plan. I’m working and studying hard and am motivated to be the best I can be. It’s also changed my perception of engineering as a profession and I’ve realised how much I’m interested in project management and the processes that support infrastructure development.”

About Daniel Allan

Daniel was born in Tamworth and his father’s family are Aboriginal people of the Kamilaroi /Gamilaraay area in the North-Western region of New South Wales. At 10 years of age, Daniel moved to Narrabri. He completed his Higher School Certificate at Narrabri High School, where he also was elected as School Captain.

Last year, Daniel moved to Sydney to commence a Bachelor of Engineering (Civil and Environmental), Bachelor of Arts in International Studies (Chile) and Diploma in Engineering Practice at the University of Technology, Sydney. Daniel’s results in the Higher School Certificate, enabled him to be eligible for the Vice-Chancellors’ Indigenous Scholarship, as well as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) Engineering Scholarship, both of which he currently holds.

Daniel has an interest in languages and other cultures, and is currently studying Spanish at his university. In 2013, Daniel will travel to Chile for 12 months on an exchange program that will assist him in becoming fluent in Spanish.

As an Undergraduate at Evans & Peck, Daniel has the option of working full-time over the Summer University break as well as part-time during the rest of the year. This opportunity will provide valuable experience as well as future job prospects for graduate employment at Evans & Peck.