



**Report on the NCL Students' Association**

**AUGUST 2018**

**Student President: Cheree Fleming**

**Vice President Motherwell: Marisa Rose**

**Vice President Coatbridge: Dominika Gryska**

**Vice President Cumbernauld: David Penman**

**"Be Seen, Be Heard, Become the FUTURE!"**

### **The Student Association Team**

This year the Students' Association has changed their structure. In previous years there was a Student President and one Vice President. However, due to student feedback about there not being enough visibility from their Students' Association, the College decided to try something new this year.

This new structure would include a Student President plus three Vices. The Student President position will continue to be a full time role, whereas, the Vice President positions will be a 16-hour contract per week. The Vice President positions are given to current students of New College Lanarkshire - allowing students to earn and learn at the same time.

The benefits of this new structure is that each campus will have a Vice President who will present on campus throughout the year – potentially increasing student engagement.

Unfortunately, the Student President has had to step down from her position as Strathclyde University would not be willing to defer her place on the PGDE course next year.

### **Learner Engagement Team**

The Student Association will continue to work in partnership with the Learner Engagement team. The new programme that was introduced two years ago "Be Engaged" was a huge success, the evidence can be seen in the high amount of awards claimed by students during 2017-2018.

To support the programme further, the Students' Association has decided to advertise volunteer roles under the "Be Engaged" categories. There are eight themes in total covering a wide range of topics and interests which offer three stages of awards – Gold, Silver and Bronze.

This concept will hopefully appeal to students and encourage them to participate more within their College and within their Students' Association. By advertising positions as job roles and giving student responsibilities, volunteers will feel more valued and appreciated. Previous years there has been a large number of volunteers, however, none of which had specific roles within the Students' Association. Hopefully the new structure will see a change for the Students' Association in terms of achieving more for their students and representing their College at various events.

The Students' Association volunteers will be given more opportunities than before as they will also be able to work with Be Engaged on their projects. By doing this they will gain more skills and achieve more awards during their time of study – helping them progress further. Other students will see the potential of becoming a volunteer and in future years the roles will be more attractive to students.

### **NLC Student's Association Operational Plan**

During the summer the NCLSA have been working on their Operation Plan with the support from NUS officer Sinead McKenna. Sinead had been on two visits to the College to work on the NCLSA Operation Plan. The first initial visit was to meet and greet the new team while having a discussion about the NCLSA agenda for the year. The NCLSA officers had to prioritise and work together to put all their ideas together – making tasks realistic and achievable.

The second visit from NUS was to ensure the NCLSA fully understood what they have put in their operation plan and who was taking the lead on each area. The NCLSA have successfully completed their operational plan and are already taking action on working towards their goals for the coming year.

### **NCL Students' Association 3-year strategy**

The NCLSA are starting to work towards developing a 3-year strategy, with the aim of a draft copy being drawn up by January 2019. This document will provide a clear vision of the intended future for the NCLSA. The benefit of having this document will allow future officers in the NCLSA to work towards continuing goals while adding in their own agendas.

### **Student Inductions**

The NCLSA offered their time to help with student inductions over the summer. This was the perfect opportunity for new and continuing students to become familiar with their new President and Vice President on their campus.

### **NUS Training Events**

Over the summer the SA officers attended "Lead and Change" training event in Livingston. This was a two-day course where the officers had overnight accommodation. The event gave a clearer insight into the role of a successful Students' Association and what the NCLSA should be working towards this year for themselves, their students and their colleges. At the event the NCLSA were able to make new connections and talk to other associations about their experiences and proposals for the coming year. The NCLSA officers were awarded with certificates for their participation.

### **SPARQS Class Rep Training Course**

The NCLSA were asked to attend a training course by SPARQS on Class Rep training. This course educated the NCLSA on how to become a successful class rep and gather valuable feedback from students for the College to attain. The information delivered in the training gave the NCLSA better skills in conducting a class rep presentation, therefore preparing them for the student training on their own campuses.

The NCLSA have been looking into ideas on how to make sure that class rep information is fed back to the NCLSA and then passed onto the College. There needs to be more communication and the NCLSA plan on holding Class rep meeting within their campuses every two months to ensure that the student voice is heard.

### **SPARQS "That's Quality" Training Course**

During August the NCLSA attended another event hosted by SPARQS. The training described why working in partnerships is very important, as well as the external policy and quality in which NCLSA operate. The course allowed the NCLSA to understand how the quality procedure works and how to improve the students' learning experience. The NCLSA now have a greater understanding of how to involve student's opinions into the College institution.

### **Fresher's Fair**

All plans for Fresher's events have been finalised. Fresher's will run over three days, one day per campus. The dates for each campus are as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Campus</b>
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> August 2018	Coatbridge
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> August 2018	Motherwell
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> August 2018	Cumbernauld

This year the NCLSA have made more contact with external companies and added these onto the procurement list of suppliers.

Each campus will be consistent having the same suppliers and entertainment. So far the NCLSA have inflatables, face painting, selfie mirrors, photo booth and much more in terms of catering etc. Advertisements have been designed and uploaded to the CLAN and social media pages to promote the event. This year the NCLSA are trying to host Fresher's within the Association areas to help make students aware of their presence.

### **Scottish Student Sport**

The NCLSA organised a meeting for SSS to discuss getting sport groups within their campuses. With the help of College staff from the sports department there are plans to work together this year and ensure that the College get at least one team up and running with the potential to increase over the forth coming years.

### **ASSIT Suicide Prevention Training**

Raising awareness on mental health is the main focus of the year. The NCLSA attended an ASSIST training course that would widen their knowledge on mental health, the impact that this can have on a person's life and to make sure as the NCLSA we can act appropriately and refer to the correct member of staff within the College. This course has allowed the NCLSA to build and strengthen relationships with the College staff and ensure that all are working together in the best interest of student's health and wellbeing.

### **Working with Organisations**

Since the NCLSA officers started their roles they have attended various meeting with different organisations. One of the meetings the NCLSA attended was with VANL and CLIC SARGENT along with the Learner Engagement officer. The aim of this meeting was to increase student's employability during their time of study. This link had previously been established by Learner Engagement and had already been working with the two organisations.

Later the NCLSA was invited to attend a tour of CLIC SARGENT Marion's house in Glasgow. This was a rare opportunity and the NCLSA were very grateful for the invitation. The NCLSA and Learner Engagement plan on working together over the next year with the two organisations to help create more opportunity for their students.

### **Jordan's Fundraising Event**

The NCLSA heard from a member of staff, that her son – a student of New College Lanarkshire – was competing in a boxing event to raise awareness on mental health. The NCLSA felt that this is something that they should be supporting by encouraging their students trying to make a difference, make their voices heard.

After meeting with Jordan, Rivals Gym in Wishaw and Chris's house charity, the NCLSA decided to run an event to support Jordan, supporting mental health and to encourage students to come forward in anything they would like the NCLSA to be involved in.

The planning started off small and soon escalated which led to the NCLSA requiring staff support. The event will be running over the three main campuses to help raise as many funds as possible while the main objective is to interact with students and get them more engaged with some of the event activities associated with mental health.

Marketing was invited by the NCLSA to write a story on Jordan and his upcoming event “knockoutthestigma”. The story was published on the CLAN and soon later in the Daily Record newspaper.

This event has helped the NCLSA make new connections in the College and continue that partnership.