Swimming not drowning - Resilience as a key determinant of success for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pre-Tertiary Students

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It’s like I’ve learnt to swim again in the shallow end and slowly that water has been getting deeper and deeper until we’re fully in the deep end and not drowning!
Resilience and Learning Power

- Learning about learning
- Role of teachers and institutions
- Recognizing innate resilience

Diagram:
- Resilience
- Critical Curiosity
- Meaning Making
- Creativity
- Learning Relationships
- Changing and Learning
- Very much like me
- Strategic Awareness
- Resilience
ELLII and Resilience

Resilience as one of the 7 ELLII learning dimensions
Cultural capital - Bourdieu
Student centered learning
‘Both Ways’ and resilience
Student reflective stories

Hello world!

Posted in Uncategorized on April 3, 2012 by tertiarysuccess

Hi, my name is Catherine Maughan and I am the Course Coordinator for the Preparation for Tertiary Success (PTS) course. I’ve been working in this role for the past 12 months and have really loved being part of such an exciting course.

PTS is more than just a course; it is an exciting adventure into the world of succeeding at tertiary studies. We have a great team of lecturers who believe that learning should be engaging and enjoyable. We believe that everyone has learning potential and it’s our role to help students tap into their learning strengths.

The PTS students are an awesome group who come to the red heart of Central Australia to learn and work together. It’s an amazing learning journey for everyone and as one student said:

"Since I’ve started the course, I’m a lot happier... like a different person. I’ve stopped focusing on the negatives, I can see a future for myself."

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Low resilience due to negative experiences in the past

“During high school I dropped out when I was in year 12, only because I guess some of my teachers didn’t believe in me and I think I ended up with the wrong group” (Tertiary Success, 2014).

“...I was stuck in a perceived reality that I wasn't going to amount to anything” (Tertiary Success, 2014).
Shift from lack of confidence to self belief

“I just feel better as a person, and I’ve set myself goals now and I’m having a crack at them. ...doing the PTS course has been life changing really. I want to make some changes for myself and for my family, and it starts with me, it starts with us. I have much more confidence and am more self-assured now. I now know more about myself and how I learn after doing PTS” (Tertiary Success, 2014).

“My idea of my own self-worth and what I think I am capable of is much higher now than before I did PTS” (Tertiary Success, 2014)
‘Both Ways’ learning

“I really enjoyed developing my understanding of the concept of ‘Both Ways learning’ ... being Aboriginal I know there’s always different ways of learning and doing things that is helpful to me” (Tertiary Success, 2014)
Learning about learning

“...it was the knowledge about how important strength and resilience is for succeeding – that’s what I really got from PTS. The seven learning dispositions have helped me to understand who I am as a learner” (Tertiary Success, 2014).
Learning with others

“I made a lot of friends, really good friends… We’re all close and we are here for each other. We also motivate each other. It’s really important to have people around you that motivate you, a bit like having a gym buddy!” (Tertiary Success, 2014)
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