

Student Voice: Understanding the Implications

Understanding that success is part of who we are

These students clearly articulated that success was part of who they were as Māori, not something they achieved “despite” being Māori.

- Māori are hard workers. That's what makes us successful.
- Regardless of your culture, your ethnicity, anyone can achieve anything. I mean, look at our Governor-General (Sir Jerry Mateparae).
- I saw this Māori fella on the fifty-dollar note, and I asked my dad: “Who’s this fella, Dad?” And he said: “Oh, that’s Api (Apirana Ngata). He was the first Māori to graduate from a university.” I know Api is a big inspiration for Māori, and I respect that. I want to be like that fella.

Māori students were quick to recognise that they can be successful in a ‘Europeanised education system’ even when they have multiple identities. They understand that the future must accommodate Māori success as Māori across cultural and academic contexts

- As both Māori and Cook Island, in a Europeanised education system, I can confidently say that I can pass between the three worlds, and not be a stranger. I mean, all three of us can stand on a stage and dance the hula, and be confident with ourselves. And then stand in a pōwhiri and be confident there too. I know how to do Level 1 algebra, or write a creative writing piece, that'll give me an Excellence. Those are successes that we are setting for ourselves today so that in 10 year’s time, maybe even sooner, that'll be the normal for Māori students when they're our age.
- I'd like for a new stereotype to be that there are Māori students achieving and that's just what they do.

“Understanding that success is part of who we are”

Understanding the Implications. <http://kep.org.nz/student-voice/about-the-themes>

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Activating our own agency by engaging others

Kia mau ki tō Māoritanga, tōku reo tōku ohooho.

Hold on to our Māoritanga/iwitanga, our language our inspiration.

How does/could your school recognise and promote this *new stereotype* of multi-dimensional success?

View the videos 4 and 5 in the *Culturally Responsive and Relational Pedagogy video kete* and consider how does the application of culturally responsive and relational pedagogy support the belief in students that they can aspire to this *new stereotype*?

- view: [the Culturally Responsive and Relational Pedagogy video kete](#)

You may also wish to see how one school has responded by explicitly supporting Māori students to achieve their goals.

view: the [Manutaki Māori video](#) in the Educationally Powerful Connections kete
see: [all student comments on this theme](#)