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## Unique leadership exchange program celebrates grads

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Graduates of Canada's first program aimed at helping aboriginal and non-aboriginal business people directly experience each other's corporate and communal world will celebrate their accomplishments at Celebrate the Journey, a ceremony on Thursday, March 25.

Simon Fraser University's Segal Graduate School of Business will host the 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. event, featuring speaker Steven L. Point, the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia and a Skowkale First Nation member.

Six senior community and business leaders have completed the inaugural offering of the Leadership Exchange Program. The Learning Strategies Group (LSG) at SFU Business and the Industry Council of Aboriginal Business (ICAB) launched the program in Nov. 2009.

Aboriginal and non-aboriginal leaders were paired up so that they could follow each other into their respective worlds of community and business relationships. The program encouraged knowledge exchange and supported students' learning in business environments that were free of politics and business pressures.

Graduates will share stories about how this unique approach to building mutual cross-cultural respect and understanding has helped them.

'This program will help support business and aboriginal partnership development,' says Rick Colbourne, LSG executive director at SFU Business. 'We are confident that understanding each other's work and cultural environment will result in better business relationships and help remove barriers to economic and social success.'