

REFLECTIVE ESSAY: ADVENTURES IN RESEARCH

By Brii Brennan

As a student in the Faculty of Adventure, Culinary Arts and Tourism, Research opportunities weren't even on my radar. Research was an unknown and seemingly inaccessible option for me. I felt that being involved with research was similar to being a Ph.D. student or a Masters' student, that it was an entity all on its own and not something to do in collaboration. That is to say; my path has been different to a typical university student; I started at Thompson Rivers University as a mature student almost a decade after graduating from Randolph Academy for the Performing Arts. Yet, despite my Musical Theatre diploma and experience, most career aspirations require a degree. So, before my involvement with the research office, I had a clear plan to get in, get my degree, and get out.

Flash forward to a guest lecturer during my first semester at TRU, and I got to peek behind the curtain of research from a tourism perspective. Safe to say, I was hooked. Since then, I have been a Research Assistant, Research Work-Study participant, Research Apprentice, two-time Research Ambassador, a Community-Engaged Research Fellow and have taken every opportunity to connect with research in the classroom. As a kid, I always asked 'why' and was made to feel like my inquisitiveness was annoying but stepping into the world of research has allowed me not only the chance of exploring my curiosity but the support and encouragement to dive deeper.