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More than 100 outstandingly high achieving Maori and Pacific students in the Faculty of Arts will be recognized at the forthcoming Teakume Arts Leadership dinner.

Launched in 2006, the Teakume Arts Leadership Programme recognises Maori and Pacific undergraduates who excel in their academic pursuits. They are invited to participate in the year

long programme, offering ongoing academic support and preparation for postgraduate studies. The programme also provides opportunities for interaction with various organisations across the Auckland region. In 2006 these organisations included Sophaia magazine, NZ Writers Guild, Challenge Trust and the University's Gas Fisher Gallery.

For Kai Davis of Ngāpuhi, the Teakume Leadership Programme offers a ideal opportunity to take her studies into practical experience. In 2006 the programme included a placement in Law and Art History, which took up as an internship at the Gas Fisher Gallery, assisting in curating exhibitions and learning website and database management.

"I wanted to participate in the programme because I like the idea of an initiative that supports, fosters and recognises high performing Maori and Pacific students," says Kai, whose younger brother, James, was also selected for the programme. "The internship offer was particularly appealing because it's a fantastic way to see how a gallery runs, from the administrative side through to exhibition openings."

The programme is open to all undergraduate students in the Faculty of Arts. Applications close on 17 January 2007. Applications can be made online at www.nzedge.co.

Programme manager, Carol Supplee says it is exciting to reward high achieving students and encourage them to continue on to postgraduate studies.

"As the world gets smaller, the more this initiative attracts people who are coming to us—

both as students wanting to pursue postgraduate studies and as professionals who are looking for opportunities to gain valuable, hands-on experience and assistance in finding their future helping roles.

Applications and bookings are closed from helping students to find their place in the programme.

Further information on the Teakume Arts Leadership Programme will be acknowledged at a dinner on Monday, 5 March at 6pm in the Fale Pacifica (22 Weyland St), at The University of Auckland.