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Cherie is of Tahitian (Faa'a) and Chinese descent. As a lecturer at the School of Education Studies, Victoria University of Wellington, she teaches in a range of human development, Pacific education and multiethnic education courses. Cherie's academic interests are in exploring and understanding how young people can be mentored into leadership roles, and this is currently the topic of her doctoral studies.

Understanding Pacific Student Leadership: An Exploration From Community to the University

This paper will endeavour to provide an exploration of the understandings of leadership for a group of Pacific Island students from Victoria University of Wellington. The discussion will be based on an initial student's leadership forum and some of the student's personal definitions and understandings of leadership in a Pacific context. The paper aims to explore the extent to which these perspectives represent the wider understanding of leadership from the community. Do academic understandings of leadership fit with Pacific notions of leadership and how does the academic world engage and demonstrate leadership for Pacific communities, and if not, can these be reconciled?