



GHC NATIVE PATHWAYS

GRAYS HARBOR COLLEGE NATIVE PATHWAYS NEWSLETTER

May 2021

Dr. Ed Brewster to Continue as Interim President

GHC Vice President For Instruction, Nicole Lacroix reported on May 18th regarding the Board of Trustees' announcement that Dr. Brewster will continue as Interim President of GHC through the 2022/2023 academic year. She highlighted how this move supports clear direction and institutional stability over the next two years. The appointment is scheduled for approval during the June Board meeting.

DAC To Submit Land Acknowledgement

During a May 25th meeting, the GHC Diversity Advisory Committee (DAC) approved a draft of a proposed Land Acknowledgement that will be presented to the college administration and board for acceptance. This statement will be announced at the beginning of campus meetings to honor the Indigenous ancestral caregivers of the land, past and present. The college will also seek tribal approval of this document.

Native Scholarship Fund Established with the GHC Foundation

A scholarship fund has been established with the Grays Harbor College Foundation to support native students enrolled in the Native Pathways Program at Grays Harbor College. According to the Foundation's Executive Director, Lisa J. Smith, "this scholarship is being funded through the generosity of faculty, staff, and community members." The scholarship will be awarded on a yearly basis to a qualified applicant and would support expenses connected to a course of study. Interested applicants can learn more about the GHC Foundation scholarship cycles by visiting www.ghc.edu/foundation/scholarships.

NOTABLE UPCOMING DATES

May 24 Current and Returning Student Registration

May 26 Virtual Admissions Information Session

May 27 New student registration

May 31 Memorial Day No Classes

June 3 "W" Day Spring Qtr.

June 10 Summer Tuition Due Date

June 21 Last Day of Instruction

June 22—24 Final Exams

June 25 Graduation

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GRAYS HARBOR COLLEGE

The Native Pathways AA Degree Program

The Grays Harbor College Native Pathways is a direct transfer Associate of Arts (AA) degree. This degree can be transferred to any four-year college or university, in most cases satisfying the general education degree requirements. An online degree with a hybrid component makes it truly unique and tailored for the students we serve.

Grays Harbor College provides meaningful education and cultural enrichment through academic transfer, workforce preparation, basic skills and service to community.

The benefits of earning the Native Pathways Degree are evident in the areas of achievement and upward mobility. Many of our students go on to earn upper division degrees as well as employment and employment upgrades. Many used acquired skills to improve and enrich their tribal communities.

The Native Pathways Program is referred to as a “Bridge Program” that articulates with the upper Division Native Pathways Program at The Evergreen State College. The Humanities classes are held on two separate weekends at the Evergreen Longhouse for lecture and seminar in connection with the Evergreen upper division students.



How the Program Works

In order to better accommodate our students, GHC has created an **online degree** with a complimentary **hybrid** component. This means that the bulk of the courses for the degree are offered online complemented by face to face instruction two weekends during each quarter. The weekend meetings feature skills classes and seminars using breakout sessions on Indigenous topics, providing the cultural component to the degree. Weekend sessions take place at **The Evergreen State College Longhouse** and are referred to as “**Longhouse Gatherings**” highlighting the challenges presented in Indian Country through case studies, lecture, seminar, film, and guest speakers. Students from at least eight different tribal sites attend these sessions.

Course Load

A full time course load for the quarter would include two online courses plus the Weekend session courses. 12 to 13 credits are considered a full time load. Scheduling is flexible according to student personal and work schedules. A part time schedule of less than 12 credits is also an option, but may affect financial aid situations.

The Online Component

Online courses at GHC are delivered through a program referred to as CANVAS.

Canvas is a web-based online learning system that allows students to log in for access to their classrooms. Features include reading information, inputting responses to instructors or classmates, printing host documents, testing and emailing.

Some of the benefits of online classes are that they require little to no commuting to campus. They can be done at home. They are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and generally one only needs a computer and Internet access in order to do the courses. Online classes are very compatible with working and changing family schedules.

For more information on the GHC Native Pathways Degree Program or assistance with admission processes, financial aid, and course schedules contact Degree Coordinator, Gary Arthur. (gary.arthur@ghc.edu) - (360) 538-4209.

FIVE STEPS TOWARD ENROLLMENT AT GHC

1. Apply for admission on GHC Website
2. Submit any “Official Transcripts” from other colleges you have attended to our “Admissions and Records” department.
3. Do college placement test - contact Gary Arthur
gary.arthur@ghc.edu (360) 538-4209
4. Do “entry advising” Meet with an advisor and go over some intake questions (You can see me –Gary Arthur– about this)
gary.arthur@ghc.edu (360) 538-4209
5. Submit the Tribal Aid Application (if applicable) and FAFSA or Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Submitting this application will determine if you are eligible for any of this funding. This is a free process. Go to (www.fafsa.ed.gov) to fill out this application

The GHC Native Pathways AA Degree Program serves students from Nisqually, Quinault, Queets, Squaxin Island, Chehalis, Shoalwater Bay/Aberdeen, Tacoma, Suquamish, Puyallup, Skokomish, and Makah. Students from other tribal communities and urban areas are also welcome to join the program.



Three weekends during each quarter, **GHC Native Pathways Students** gather with the upper division Evergreen Native Pathways students for lecture and seminar. The gatherings address the Evergreen course themes each quarter. This quarter’s theme is “Seascapes and Landscapes.” The weekend gatherings have been held virtually over the last year due to covid.

During these weekend gatherings, guest speakers are invited to enrich the course of study for all students in attendance. For the May 8th gathering this quarter, Indigenous Poet from the Pacific NW **Sasha Lapointe** shared inspirational poetry and stories. Below is an excerpt from one of her published poems:

Lifting The Sky by Sasha Lapointe

in the distance
the clouds begin to fall
grey rain too far
to matter ...

now the sky is black
the waves only exist
because we can hear them
beyond the driftwood
my grandmother
tells how the people
worked together
and I know the story
could recite it from memory
but I like the sounds
of Lushootseed
of English
I do not interrupt
I do not stop her
I do not say
Grandmother
I’ve heard this one
I know how it ends

and though it’s quiet
they’re always out there
with that big pole
saying all together now
as they get the sky up
where it belongs
and lift the world
out of darkness
again



Gene Tagaban Featured in National Geographic

(National Geographic 6/21)

An article in the June issue of National Geographic is entitled the “Race Card Project” that shares thoughts and ideas from ten people of color about race and identity. Gene Tagaban whose Tlinglit name is Guuy Yaau , is featured in this article and shares that “We are not being acknowledged on our own lands, our own continents, our own territories and in the history books ... but here we are, the invisible peoples.” The article goes on to say that “He strives to keep his people’s ancestral history alive through story telling, mentoring, and learning. He is from the Pacific Northwest.



Gene Tagaban



Groundbreaking State Law Will Provide Billions for Tribes

(Fawn Sharp (left) is a human rights attorney who serves as the President of the National Congress of American Indians and the Vice President of the Quinault Nation. She served as the five-term President of the Quinault Nation from 2006-2021.)

After fifteen years of relentless effort, this year Washington State Tribal Nations finally succeeded in passing America’s most aggressive and revolutionary climate change policy, the Climate Commitment Act, and securing unprecedented human rights protections and over a billion dollars in state funding for Tribes over the first fifteen years of the policy. “For years we worked on behalf of the Quinault Nation, as the ancestral coastal rainforest villages of Taholah and Queets on the Pacific Coast faced increasing flooding from sea level rise – and Quinault was only one of a half-dozen Tribes facing urgent crises from sea level rise across the state,” said NCAI President and QIN Vice President Fawn Sharp.

(article by *Matthew Randazzo V*)

NATIVE PROGRAMS MEET

On May 13th, area educators and educational administrators gathered to once again share ideas and strategies to support student success in the classroom and beyond. Highlights of what was talked about had much to do with the current educational environment due to covid, and the challenges students and educators are faced with.

The following points of interest and concern were discussed:

- * GHC’s commitment to policy level support for diversity and equity issues
- * Weekly virtual drop-in hours for student support at GHC
- * The need for tutoring to help with writing, preparation, and testing in K-12
- * Attendance and performance issues due to mandated virtual learning modalities in K-12
- * Tutoring programs that exist need to be expanded
- * The need for support in the areas of behavioral health

Those in Attendance: Carly Martin, Quinault Nation Education Director; Indian Ed Coordinators Sandy Warynick-Ruiz Hoquiam School District, and Hailey Pfeifer, Aberdeen School District; Dr. Ed Brewster, Grays Harbor College President; Gary Arthur, Grays Harbor College Native Pathways Degree Coordinator; Diane Golab, Principal Lake Quinault School District.