



# GHC NATIVE PATHWAYS

**GHC NATIVE PATHWAYS PROGRAM NEWSLETTER**

**June 2020**



**FAWN SHARP, FORMER GRAYS HARBOR COLLEGE BOARD MEMBER AND PRESIDENT OF THE NCAI AND THE QUINAUTL INDIAN NATION, SENDS A MESSAGE**

(Below are excerpts from Fawn's letter appearing on the NCAI website)

Dear Friends,

We're here for you. The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) stands with you in these uncertain and difficult times. We're here to help. We're here to listen. We're here to work. We're here to heal.

We simply want you to know that we are working every day to help bring positive change to your nations, communities, and citizens. We've had the honor and responsibility to carry out this sacred charge for more than 75 years and we won't ever stop. Please know that you are not alone.

Despite what some proclaim, America's greatness depends not on the degree to which this nation advances policies of racial and economic inequality that privilege one group of people at the expense of all others. To the contrary, America's greatness has always risen and fallen on the degree to which this nation embraces its incredible diversity and provides equal footing to all Americans to seize opportunities, enabling them to realize their full potential. As the first peoples of this land, Native people are an integral part of the American mosaic, and we will not rest until we secure our rightful place in this country's future and equal opportunities to thrive.

I call on you as leaders to come together and rise to the occasion. We must turn this crisis into an opportunity to shape the future for the next seven generations. We can do this together. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of your [NCAI Board representatives](#) and [NCAI staff members](#) so we can learn more about how NCAI can best support you.

Siokwil,  
Fawn R. Sharp (Quinault Indian Nation)  
NCAI President

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## 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.



## Grays Harbor College's Graduation Goes Virtual

June 17, 2020

Grays Harbor College will celebrate its students' academic achievements with a virtual graduation ceremony, on June 26th 2020 at 6pm PST. “While a bit different than an in-person ceremony, we are committed to providing an experience as close to it as possible for our students, their families, and their friends,” said GHC President Jim Minkler.

The ceremony will highlight Top Scholars, Student of Year, and Faculty of the Year. It will include speeches from GHC's President as well as keynote speaker, Ben Winkelman, Mayor of Hoquiam, and recognize the individual accomplishments of each of the graduates.

“We encourage all students to start thinking outside of the box for how they can celebrate their accomplishments with their families. Perhaps hold a virtual viewing party with family and friends,” Dr. Minkler stated. The live ceremony will take place on June 26th, but you can watch the ceremony online anytime as it will be available to stream. You can find information on graduation and access the online ceremony at [ghc.edu/graduation](http://ghc.edu/graduation). Graduates who would like to participate in an in-person graduation ceremony, in addition to the virtual graduation, are invited to do so in June 2021.

Dr. Minkler added, “To all of our graduates, congratulations on this accomplishment! We hope as many people as possible join us in celebrating our remarkable, overcome-all-challenges, GHC class of 2020.”

## GHC Native Pathways Service Area

The GHC Lower division Native Pathways AA program degree serves students from Nisqually, Quinalt, Queets, Squaxin Island, Chehalis, Shoalwater Bay/Aberdeen, Tacoma, Suquamish, Puyallup and Makah. Students from other reservations or urban areas are also welcome to join the program.



### THE GHC NATIVE PATHWAYS PROGRAM

#### 5 Steps toward enrollment in GHC Native Pathways Program

1. Apply for admission- application may be printed off of our homepage and faxed or postal mailed to our college. However the quickest method is to apply online. Please submit admissions application as soon as possible .

2. Submit any and all “Official Transcripts” to our college to the attention of “Admissions and Records” department so the college can determine if you have any transfer credits.

3. Do college placement test - contact Native Pathways Degree Coordinator, Gary Arthur. [gary.arthur@ghc.edu](mailto:gary.arthur@ghc.edu) (360) 538-4209

4. Do “entry advising” Call or email Gary Arthur to coordinate your registration of classes.

5. Submit the Tribal Aid Application (if applicable) and FAFSA or Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) ([www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov))

Registration for fall quarter is now open!  
Classes begin on September 21<sup>st</sup> !



2020

## GHC & EVERGREEN

### GRADUATES



Lia Frenchman



Lisa McKinney



Aiyana Underwood



Sky Upham

**The GHC AA Degree Native Pathways Program articulates with the upper division Evergreen Native Pathways Degree Program and we honor the graduates of both in this edition of the GHC NPP Newsletter.**

My name is Lia Frenchman and I am an enrolled member of the Quinault Indian Nation. I am Chinook, Assiniboine Sioux, and Delaware (Lenape). The GHC Native Pathways Program has helped me accomplish my goal of earning my AA after seven long years. I was able to maintain my full time job along with many other community activities I love to participate in. This is the first time I've been successful and I think that's due to all the support of the advisors in the program. I am hoping to continue with my BA, but for now I am honored to share this moment with my two kids and my family.

Hello, I'm Lisa Rose McKinney, a proud Quinault woman. I'm a mother of 2 daughters and 1 son who I share with my high school sweetheart Larry of 14 years. I work for the Quinault Indian Nation TANF Program as a Caseworker, I've been there for 4 years; I love my job. The past two years have been an eye opening experience. Indigenous studies is a very heavy subject, I felt a spiritual awakening with each quarter at Evergreen. I'm very happy that I decided to join this program, it has helped me heal, a part of me that I didn't know was broken. I want to thank my instructor Gary Arthur for the ongoing support throughout my Native Pathways Program journey. I thank the Quinault Indian Nation for continuing to support my education. I want to thank my mother for always being there for me and my family for supporting late night of classes, missed dinners, & homework. I want to thank my Grandma Dolly, she is my heart and supports me and believes in me for just about everything. I also want to congratulate my fellow students Aiyana Underwood and Sky Upham, we did it!! Love you all!

My name is Co-Use-Gilar, my English name is Aiyana Underwood. I am a proud Quinault. My parents are Michael Underwood Sr. and Melissa Capoeman. My grandparents are Richard & Geneva Underwood and the late Horton & Charlene Capoeman. I am a mother of two boys. I work for the Quinault Indian Nation as a TANF Caseworker. I started at QIN TANF as a college intern in 2014 and moved into the caseworker role in 2018. My mother graduated from the then "Reservation Based program" at Evergreen in 2002. She has been my inspiration and has always been my biggest supporter. It hasn't always been easy, but I am so grateful for the Native Pathways Program and the curriculum we studied. It opened my mind to many things, and I have learned so much over the years focusing on Indigenous Studies. I wouldn't have been able to do this without the support of my family - Robert, my significant other who held down the fort while I was away for weeknight classes, weekend classes and countless hours of homework - My mother and father who have shown me unconditional love and pushed me to get my education, and for making me the person I am today - My grandparents who have always believed in me and would always help me anyway they could - and Gary Arthur, my instructor for being a tremendous help throughout my time spent at Evergreen - and The Quinault Indian Nation who has supported me in getting my education. I plan on continuing to work for the Quinault Indian Nation and serving my people. I would love to enter the MPA program or another graduate program eventually. For now I'm going to spend some much needed time with my family.

My name is Sky Lynn Upham; I am 31 years old and I am Quinault, Gros Ventre, Fort Belknap Assiniboine, Lake Traverse Sioux, Salish, and Pend O'reille. I grew up in Taholah, Neah Bay, and Tumwater, Wa. My parents are Tracy (Charley) Parker, Justin Parker, and Robert Upham. My grandparents, Lois & Richard "Inky" Charley, have played a huge part in my upbringing. I am a proud mother and have been blessed with 5 beautiful daughters named Kara, Dominique, Kiana, Naquoia, & Sophia. I currently live in Taholah with my boyfriend, Gary Blodgett and our children, where I work at the Quinault Early Head Start program as the Associate Director. I love my community and have had so much support from my family while I have worked towards earning my BA. I have really enjoyed being in the Native Pathways Program where I have been able to complete my BA while taking classes within my community. I would like to give a huge thank you to the staff of the NPP program! Thank you all and keep up your good work in our communities!



# Olympia artists paint 90-foot mural to honor George Floyd and other victims of police

BY KATIE HAYES *CONTRIBUTING WRITER*, JUNE 15, 2020 For full article, see at <https://www.theolympian.com/news/local/article243433186.html>

As children play on the sidewalk, multiple artists are priming plywood and painting scenes while a small crowd watches. Earlier, a 4-year-old girl contributed a salmon that dances across the bright wall filled with names and portraits. Her work helps tell the story of oppression.

The little girl's grandfather, Robert Upham, sits on a burgundy office chair on the sidewalk. Upham is the artist facilitating the project, and has spent 16 hours a day on the mural. He will continue to do so until the plywood comes down.

"They took his breath away," said Upham in reference to George Floyd. "So this artwork — for all of us participating — it's our breath, it's our art, it's our statement and it's a representation of the lives of these people."

The 90-foot mural is on Fifth Avenue, directly across from Capitol Theater. Local artists have painted large portraits of Black people, indigenous people and people of color who have died. Many were killed by the police.

Upham is an activist, storyteller and artist who rents office space in the building that the mural covers. When he learned his building would be mostly covered in plywood, he began planning a mural as his form of protest. It was one that didn't require him to be in a large crowd during COVID-19.

Upham primarily creates ledger art on antique accounting ledger paper. He is a Dakota Sioux and Salish Indian, as well as part Irish. His art promotes his history and culture.

Upham said he isn't trying to co-opt the Black Lives Matter movement, but he believes that Black people, indigenous people and people of color are bound together by the oppressive nature of Euro-centric history.

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**Robert Upham is the father of Sky Upham, an Evergreen 2020 Native Pathways Degree Graduate. Robert's daughters and grandchildren are enrolled Quinault.**

## Native artist creates Olympia community mural honoring George Floyd & racial equity

Utilizing plywood covering the former Burial Grounds coffee shop along with his adjacent office to serve as a community mural space, Robert Upham has gathered a group of artists to create a memorial to George Floyd along Olympia's 5th Ave. Photo BY STEVE BLOOM

