

# GHC NATIVE PATHWAYS

Grays Harbor College Native Pathways Program Newsletter

January 2024



## WINTER QTR NOTABLE DATES

Jan 3, First Day of Classes

\*Evergreen Weekend Gathering Dates (Feb. 3&4; March 2&3)

\* January 15, Martin Luther King Jr. Day

\* February 22, Last day to withdraw a single class

\*March 18, Last Day of Instruction

\* March 19 – 21 Final Exams

## GHC Native Pathways Program

In order to better accommodate our students, GHC has created an online degree with a hybrid component. This means that the bulk of the courses for the degree are offered online complimented 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 themes and issues connected to Native Culture through case studies, lecture, seminar, film, and guest speakers.

Students from at least eight different tribal nation sites attend these sessions.

## GHC Native Pathways Students Engage Winter Course Curriculum

*GHC Native Pathways students have begun courses of study for winter quarter. Core Curricular course work as well as the classes with direct cultural relevance are the approaches engaging NPP students this winter. Many core course faculty also use Native Case Studies in their courses to further support the cultural relevance of the degree.*

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## NATIVE CASES INITIATIVE HISTORY

An important component that supports the GHC Native Pathways Degree Curriculum is the use of Native Case Studies accessed on The Evergreen State College Enduring Legacies Website. Beginning in 2005, The Native Cases Initiative was developed by Barbara Leigh Smith and Linda Moon Stumpff as a curriculum development and faculty development initiative to fill a void in the available Native American curriculum. The cases focus on important contemporary issues in Native communities and populations.

**PHASES OF DEVELOPMENT** – The Native Cases Project was a small part of grant funding which built the Grays Harbor Bridge Program (GHC) and supported the Reservation Based Program which was the original name of the now Native Pathways Degree Program. The term Bridge Program refers to the GHC connection to the upper division Evergreen Native Pathways Degree. The development of this supportive educational initiative can be viewed in three phases under the direction of project leader, Barbara Smith.

- **Phase One** - In the first phase of the Native Cases Initiative very large funding came from a 2005 grant from the Lumina Foundation. The bridge program was initially a new online AA degree with courses provided by a large number of other institutions. This was at the beginning of the online course development effort in the State. The GHC Bridge program has been offered at numerous reservation sites and a regional prison. Eventually GHC developed and offered all the courses except for three Anthropology courses provided by South Puget Sound Community College, developed in concert with the Squaxin Island Tribe.
- **Phase Two** - The Gates Foundation and The National Science Foundation provided grant funding in this phase. This funding supported grant writing, administration, and teaching (in undergraduate program) as well as delivery of the annual Native Cases Conference providing professional development to educators in the use of case studies. Funding also connected with case writing and the MPA Tribal Governance Curriculum. Onsite faculty workshops were also held at seven partner collegiate institutions.
- **Phase Three** - Funding the Native Cases Initiative in Phase 3 has been largely supported by small grants from Native Tribe's foundations including Squaxin Island, Tulalip, San Manuel and Nisqually. San Manuel has been the leading funder for five years. Nisqually has also generously funded the initiative four times. The yearly cases conference enjoys a large participation rate, mainly colleges located in the Pacific NW. The Native Case collection is now the largest collection of Native cases in the United States. Hundreds of institutions in the US and the world at large use the cases.

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## NATION WIDE SEARCH FOR VPI at GHC

Dr. Carli Schiffner, President of Grays Harbor College, has announced a nation-wide search for the next Vice President for Instruction (VPI) at Grays Harbor College. The Vice President of Instruction is the senior academic officer of the college and is responsible for providing overall vision, leadership, management, planning, and execution for the instructional functions of the college. The Vice President of Instruction reports to the college president and is a member of the executive management team known as the President's Cabinet.



The Student Services Instruction Building will be opening soon at GHC.

## GRAYS HARBOR COLLEGE NATIVE PATHWAYS DEGREE

**The Degree Connects With  
GHC Mission, Vision, Core  
Themes, and Values.**

**Vision** GHC is a catalyst for positive change.

*\*Setting goals while reaching academic objectives in the Native Pathways Program enhances areas of accomplishment.*

**Mission** GHC provides meaningful education and cultural enrichment through academic transfer, workforce preparation, basic skills and service to community. *\*Many Native Pathways Students go on to earn upper division degrees as well as employment upgrades. Many use acquired skills to improve and enrich tribal communities.*

**Core Themes** Academic Transfer, Workforce Preparation, Basic Skills, and Service to Community. *\*These are concentrated areas of focus in the Native Pathways Program which articulates with Evergreen Native Pathways upper division degree.*

**Values** Access to educational opportunities; Success for students, faculty, and staff; Respect for diversity of people, ideas, culture and environment; Efficient use of Resources. *\*Administration and faculty strive to support these values while providing support and encouragement to our Native Pathways Students.*

**CONNECTING NATIVE  
PATHWAYS AA DEGREE  
WITH EVERGREEN**

This GHC Native Pathways AA Degree Program is also referred to as the “Bridge Program” because it is designed to articulate with The Evergreen State College upper-division Native Pathways Bachelor’s Degree. The GHC Associate of Arts (AA) degree also transfers to any four-year college or university.

**THE EVERGREEN STATE  
COLLEGE NATIVE  
PATHWAYS BASED  
DEGREE**

The upper division Native Pathways program offered through Evergreen is open to students who have accumulated 90 credits and have Junior and Senior standing. This program leads to a Bachelor of Arts degree (BA). There is also an online option available. The Evergreen program meets twice a week at five different sites and two weekends at The Evergreen Longhouse each quarter for lecture and seminar. Evergreen’s Native Pathways program is an interdisciplinary Liberal Arts program taught from a Native perspective.



**NATIVE NEWS**

**INDIGENOUS PEOPLE PRESS ON TO INDIGENIZE MUSEUMS**

Indigenous consultants are working to Indigenize museums and galleries for accurate identification, representation, and repatriation. Artist Stephanie Craig of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde wants to explore museum exhibit halls or visit shops to set a few things straight with Indigenous collections. Historically, museums and galleries have taken a detached, outdated and Eurocentric view of Indigenous Peoples. (Indian Country Today)

**CLOSED FACILITY MAY BE RETURNED TO CHINOOK**

A task force created by the Washington State Office of Financial Management may soon recommend the return of nearly 23 acres to the Chinook Indian Nation, including buildings that could support the cultural survival of the first people of the land. (Indian Country Today)

**TRIBES CREATE PLAN TO BREACH SNAKE RIVER DAMS**

In a series of commitments announced last week, the federal government agreed to fund green energy projects led by four Columbia River Native nations intended to replace the energy generated by the four dams in the Lower Snake River. The plan sets the stage for the breaching of the dams in the next decade: the timespan of about two generations of salmon. It’s the latest development in a long-running lawsuit filed more than two decades ago over government operations of federal dams, which have pushed salmon and steelhead to the brink of extinction. (Indian Country Today)

**OKLAHOMA’S FIVE TRIBES REJECT GOVERNOR’S TASK FORCE**

Oklahoma’s Five Civilized Tribes are unified in rejecting Gov. Kevin Stitt’s planned task force on the impact of the U.S. Supreme Court’s McGirt decision, all agreeing that it operates under false assumptions about the ruling. Two of the 13 seats on the task force were reserved for tribal leaders. The Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee and Seminole tribes called for one representative per tribe on the task force. (Indian Country Today )

**NCAI EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WINTER SESSION ‘24**

The agenda for the NCAI 2024 Executive Council Winter Session (ECWS) is now available! Hosted at the Washington Westin Hotel in D.C., this year’s conference promises to be a significant event, bringing together leaders and policymakers from Congress and the Administration to focus on the most pressing issues facing tribal communities. Stay tuned as we unveil distinguished guest speakers and join us in this pivotal gathering to contribute, learn, and shape the future of Tribal Nations.



# Save the Date!

*"50 Years and Continuing to Decolonize"*



WWNAEC

EDUCATORS CONFERENCE

February 22 & 23

Muckleshoot Event Center

*for more information reach out to the*

WWNAEC Board

[wwnaec@gmail.org](mailto:wwnaec@gmail.org)

The Western Washington Native American Educators Consortium Conference (above) is a 2 day conference focusing on support for Native students being taught in public schools. This year will also be offering the G2G Government to Government training which is offered by OSPI. This is a Clock Hour training needed for Administrators to renew their certification.

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## GHC LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Grays Harbor College is located on the ancestral lands of the Chehalis, Chinook, Quinault and Shoalwater Bay Peoples. With this awareness, we honor the ancestors and pay respect to elders past and present of these nations and all Native Peoples of this land who occupy these lands since time immemorial. The College expresses its deepest respect for and gratitude towards these original and current caretakers of the region and to our native students, staff, and faculty past and present as well as support and respect their presence and valuable contributions into the future. As an academic community, we acknowledge our responsibility to establish and maintain relationships with these nations and Native peoples, in support of their sovereignty and the inclusion of their voices in the teaching and learning process.

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