



GRAYS HARBOR COLLEGE NATIVE PATHWAYS PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

December 2020



Fawn Sharp (foreground) at former GHC Graduation

Quinault president represents North America at UN seminar in Chile (Louis Krauss, Daily World)

Fawn Sharp, President of the Quinault Indian Nation, attended a United Nations-led seminar in Chile this week focused on improving the rights of indigenous people. She is one of five experts from around the world being flown out for her expertise on the seminar's specific theme: free, prior and informed consent when it comes to government actions that affect indigenous land. She is the representative for all of North America.

The seven U.N. members will be using results from their discussions in Chile this week to compile a larger report on how to better achieve the goals and assist indigenous people, with a focus on why it's important for governments to get consent from tribes before making actions.

Sharp said her main goal at the seminar is to create a stronger relationship between tribal nations and other countries, as well as network with the experts there who represent other indigenous groups around the world, all of whom have different perspectives on the idea of requiring consent from governments.

(Fawn Sharp is also the President of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and a former GHC Board of Trustees Member.)

December marks the end of Fall Quarter at Grays Harbor College

Winter Quarter begins the first week in January

Important Dates

DECEMBER 14 THROUGH JAN 4 – WINTER BREAK

December 15—Fall Grades Available online

January 5—1st Day of Classes

Jan 11—Last day for 100% refund for Winter Quarter

Jan 18—MLK Day, no classes

Jan 21—Last day to DROP without a 'W' on Transcript

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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. They have also used acquired skills to improve and enrich their tribal communities.



GHC CONNECTS WITH THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE

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 GHC Humanities classes are held on three separate weekends at the Evergreen Longhouse for lecture and seminar in connection with the Evergreen upper division students. During these times of Covid restriction, these meetings are held remotely, but all students still engage in virtual lecture and seminar.



Evergreen weekend gatherings that include the GHC Humanities students will engage in the following topics of study for winter quarter:

Indigenous Feminisms and Gender Narratives will explore the traditional and contemporary intersectional theories that focus on decolonization, self-determination, cultural sovereignty, and human rights.

WINTER QUARTER WEEKEND GATHERING DATES:

JAN. 9, FEB. 6, & MARCH 6.

Student Quotes December 2020

GHC Student Quotes: Weekend Gatherings

The following student quotes are from GHC Humanities students who shared reflections from lecture and seminar sessions held during the Native Pathways Weekend Gatherings. Toby Sawyer, Evergreen Native Pathways Director's Assistant teaches these Humanities classes supporting the connection between the two programs.

Bobbyjoe Ashue: (Regarding Kendra Aquilar's Wellness presentation) “The workshop was helpful because where I work, I have to learn all this to help my clients and myself. So, seeing that its being taught in school is good. The more you know about self-care, the better. Two helpful strategies were making a vision board and doing a journal.”

Isaac McKinney: (On Canvas workshop by Bridget Irish) “The Canvas workshop was very helpful. I never knew all that Canvas could do. A useful tool I learned was how to use the video in the discussion portion of an assignment. I also learned the option of discussion groups.”

Starla Boyer: (Regarding the Elsie Paul publication) “The purpose of the treatment center program is meant for people to deal with the long history of abuse ,not just the issues they have in their personal life. This program has so much meaning because it is run by the people of the First Nation; the programs within the center are geared to their people, where so many can relate, not feeling ashamed of what has happened to them, and talking about it with their heads held high without being ashamed.

Jasai Peterson: (In response to mascot presentation by Gary Arthur) “The mascot lecture taught me about the various mascots being used to appropriate native cultures and misrepresent our people. It was interesting to note the excuse for using mascots was in honoring us even though it projects a harmful image and downplays the history of what happened to our people especially when the mascots were brought out during a time when they were trying to erase our culture.”



NATIVE PATHWAYS STUDENT CONTINUES WORK AS CHAMPION FOR CHANGE

GHC graduate and current Evergreen Native Pathways student, Shavaughna Underwood (front row, far right in photo) was honored last year by being named to the 2020 class of Champions for Change, a prestigious recognition assigned by the Center for Native American Youth (CNAV). The CNAV is an organization that works with NA youth nationwide to improve health, safety, and overall well-being.

Shavaughna is a Human Services Professional who works with the Quinault Nation Behavioral Health team. Her current course of study with The Evergreen State College focuses on Healing from Trauma.



HAALAND NOMINATED FOR CABINET POSITION (Aliyah Chavez, *Indian Country Today*)

President-elect Joe Biden, in a historic move, has chosen Rep. Deb Haaland to lead the U.S. Interior Department. If confirmed by the Senate, the New Mexico Democrat would be the first Native American to serve as a Cabinet secretary. Sources familiar with the decision on Haaland told *Indian Country Today* she is considered a "barrier-breaking public servant" and a nominee who will hit the ground running. Haaland, who is from the Pueblos of Laguna and Jemez, became one of the first two Native women elected to Congress in 2018.

The Interior Department is tasked with protecting the nation's natural resources and honoring the government's federal trust responsibilities. It manages America's vast public lands and coastal waters while overseeing prominent departments such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education. The agency employs 70,000 people. More than 130 tribal leaders collaborated to write letters to Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris, citing Haaland's bipartisan leadership. Native organizations including NDN Collective and IllumiNative created online campaigns, and celebrities like Mark Ruffalo have offered support via social media.

"The nomination of Rep. Deb Haaland — a champion of the environment and of Native people — heralds a new era of conservation, progress and healing in the Department of the Interior that is long overdue," said Gussie Lord, a member of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin and managing attorney of Earthjustice's Tribal Partnerships Program.



Haaland speaks during Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples hearing on destruction at the border wall on February 26. (Photo courtesy of House Committee on Natural Resources)



CLEVELAND INDIANS CHANGING NAME (Tom Withers, AP)

For years, Native American groups and others have protested against Cleveland's use of Indians as its name as well as other imagery used by the American League charter franchise founded in 1901. Last year, the team removed the contentious Chief Wahoo logo from its caps and jerseys, but the smiling, cartoonish mascot has remained popular and merchandise is still sold bearing its image.

In July, just hours after Washington's plans became known to drop its contentious mascot name after being pressured by several sponsors, including FedEx which holds naming rights to the football's team's stadium, Cleveland owner Paul Dolan released a statement saying the team would review "the best path forward with our team name."

In the months since, the team has consulted players, front office members, coaching staff, community leaders, share holders and Native American groups.

In light of these developments, Indians manager Terry Francona said it was time to "move forward" with the name change.

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INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE PLANS FOR COVID VACCINE DISTRIBUTION (Felicia Fonseca AP News)

The Indian Health Service, treated much like a state for distribution purposes, submitted a plan to vaccinate more than 2 million Native Americans and Alaska Natives. The agency expects to receive 22,425 doses of the Pfizer vaccine next week and 46,000 doses of the Moderna vaccine before the end of the year, officials said. More than 44,000 people work at the 338 facilities that chose to get the vaccines through the Indian Health Service. Other tribal health facilities opted to be covered under states' allocations.



On the Nez Perce Reservation, Dr. R. Kim Hartwig (left) is scrambling to manage testing and treating patients for COVID-19 and other health issues, while also racing to get a vaccine distribution plan in place. (NPR.org)

There will be a lot of scrutiny on the IHS as the first vaccines are expected to begin being distributed very soon. Congress has long underfunded tribal health care, and consequently, Native people aren't always confident in the IHS's ability to deliver.