



GHC NATIVE PATHWAYS

GHC NATIVE PATHWAYS PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

October 2024



GHC Embraces Indigenous Peoples' Day (October 14) *Statement of Recognition*

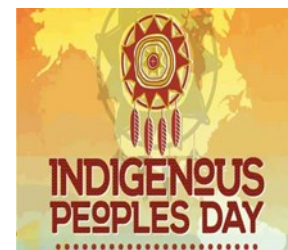
Indigenous Peoples' Day is a holiday in the United States that celebrates and honors Indigenous American peoples and commemorates their histories and cultures. It is celebrated across the United States on the second Monday in October, and is an official city and state holiday in various localities.

GHC Indigenous Peoples' Day Statement of Recognition

Grays Harbor College proclaims its honor and respect for Indigenous Native Nations on Indigenous Peoples' day, Oct 14, 2024 Recognition for Native Nation sovereignty and for the inspirational resilience connected to tribal existence highlights Indigenous contributions since from time immemorial. We commit to continued support of our Native students and their success in the classroom and into their future.

First proposed at the United Nations in 1977, it wasn't until 1989 that the first U.S. state, South Dakota, replaced Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' day, officially celebrating it the following year. 2021 marked the first time a U.S. President officially proclaimed an Indigenous People's Day observance.

Indigenous Peoples' Day celebrates and honors the traditions and cultures of Indigenous People, not only in the United States, but around the world. It serves as a reminder of the contributions, both past and present, of Indigenous communities and tribal nations.



**Native Nations Celebrate
Indigenous Peoples' Day
October 14, 2024**

Humankind has not
Woven the web of life
Whatever we do to the web
We do to ourselves
All things are bound together
All things are connected
Chief Seattle

NOTABLE UPCOMING DATES

**NOVEMBER 9 & 10 LONGHOUSE
GATHERING**

NOVEMBER 14 - 'W' DAY

**NOVEMBER 29 – NATIVE AMERICAN
HERITAGE DAY**

**DECEMBER 7 & 8 - LONGHOUSE
GATHERING**

DECEMBER 10, 11, 12 FINAL EXAMS

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THE GRAYS HARBOR COLLEGE NATIVE PATHWAYS DEGREE PROGRAM

The Grays Harbor College Native Pathways Degree 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 to the students we serve.

GHC IS COMMITTED TO SERVICE OF NATIVE COMMUNITIES AND POPULATIONS THROUGH EDUCATION

THE DEGREE

The GHC Native Pathways Degree 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 and employment as well as workforce upgrades. Many used acquired skills to improve and enrich their tribal communities.

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.



GHC Native Pathways Service Area

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

Student Quotes

The following quotes are taken from former Native Pathways Degree Program students. These students were asked to comment on the value of the Program.

“The Native Pathways Degree Program is of value to me because it has given me the opportunity to learn about my ancestors in a way that I could’ve never imagined possible. I knew that history has been warped throughout time, but I am so glad I got the opportunity to learn it in depth. Another aspect of this degree program that is of great value to me is the support I get from the professors. Without the validation and support I get from them I feel that I would’ve gotten discouraged by this time in my degree. Lastly, I think this degree program helps not only me but many other people who have not had an educational upbringing.” *Lilly Forsman*

“Three reasons why I feel the Native Pathways Degree Program is of value to myself and possibly others is that it’s based on indigenous curriculum, it’s hybrid mostly online - I appreciate that, and it has local based support with great leaders from the program that help guide you all the way through and want to see you succeed.” *Starla Boyer*

“The Native Pathways Program has allowed me to learn with the support of some very helpful instructors who have all widely contributed to my success at GHC. In the Native Pathways Program I have had the opportunity of getting to know the community of Native and Indigenous students who attend school as well. The importance of this program to me is learning about my culture and important topics that concern Native and indigenous students. It goes without saying the huge importance of Indigenous peoples to be able to learn and experience their culture as part of their education. “ *Jasai Peterson*

Tia Allen (right)
GHC Cultural Humanities
Instructor



Tia Allen Attends Coastal Jam

Tia Allen, GHC Cultural Humanities Instructor, attended the yearly Coastal Jam sponsored by the Quinault Nation Royalty on October 26 from 2 to 5 PM. Costumes, drumming, and dancing were featured during this celebratory recognition of Halloween. Dinner was provided and a festive gathering underscored communal and cultural significance.



The Evergreen State College Longhouse

Two weekends during the quarter GHC Native Pathways Students gather at the Evergreen Longhouse in Olympia, Washington with the upper division Evergreen Native Pathways students for lecture and seminar on Indigenous current events and issues. The Longhouse Gatherings for Fall quarter are in November and December. (Evergreen Longhouse pictured above and below)

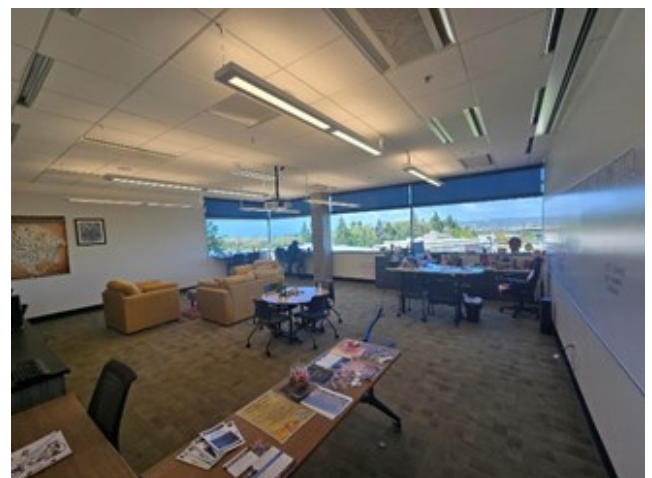


Native Case Studies Supply Cultural Relevance

A unique feature of the Grays Harbor College Online Native Pathways Degree is that this program includes cultural relevance in its content in order to make the course of study more meaningful to all students. Not only do basic Social Science and Humanities courses address the traditions, history, culture, and ceremony of the Indigenous, but more than half of the instructors currently teaching common courses in the traditional AA degree have attended the Native Cases Institute providing professional development in the use of Native Case Studies that are located on the Evergreen State website. (<http://nativecases.evergreen.edu>) Over 150 case studies addressing issues connected to Native culture on this site are compatible across the curriculum, and GHC instructors who have attended this training have used these case studies in their common courses not traditionally deemed Indigenous in content. Anywhere from fifty to one hundred educators nation-wide attend the Institute yearly, and have either used these cases in the classroom and/or have themselves contributed to the collection through their research.

GHC STUDENTS VIEW *REZ BALL* MOVIE

Grays Harbor College Tribal Navigator, Cherie Edwards, reported that on Indigenous Peoples Day on October 14th, we had the exciting opportunity to meet RUKUS from the hit movie *Rez Ball*. The event included a meet and greet with our athletes and other students, followed by a screening of the film. *Rez Ball*, an inspiring sports drama that not only highlights the passion for basketball on Native reservations but also provides a raw depiction of life on the reservation. The movie portrays the struggles many Native communities face, including issues like suicide, drug, and alcohol abuse, and how these challenges impact youth. Through the lens of basketball, *Rez Ball* explores themes of resilience, community support, and the fight to overcome adversity. The photo below pictures those in attendance.



TRIBAL NAVIGATOR ROOM PROVIDES STUDENT STUDY SPACE

GHC Tribal Navigator, Cherie Edwards, has created a welcoming space for Native students to convene, study, and get academic assistance. The two photos above picture this marvelous space. Through her research, Edwards discovered that there are over 130 Native students in attendance at GHC, and she has contacted them about access times for gathering before, between, or after their class schedules. She also is working to connect Native Studies with GHC curriculum. Her state sponsored position supports this endeavor, and she has made contact with GHC Natural Resources instructors to connect curriculum with the Native Pathways Degree.

Contact Us

Please reach out for more
information on Native Pathways
Programs.

Gary Arthur (GHC)
Coordinator/Advisor
gary.arthur@ghc.edu
360-538-4209

Dawn Barron (Evergreen)
Program Director
barrond@evergreen.edu

Misty Barlan
GHC Clerical Assistant
misty.barlan@ghc.edu
360-538-4055