



GHC NATIVE PATHWAYS

GHC Native Pathways Program Newsletter

May 2024

GHC TRIBAL NAVIGATOR CHERIE EDWARDS PROVIDES VISION AND LEADERSHIP

The State Board of Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) is sponsoring a Tribal Navigator position at GHC. Cherie Edwards (pictured at right) has accepted this position and is pursuing supportive educational initiatives at GHC. She is working with Forestry Instructor, Todd Bates, to connect the Native Pathways Degree with Natural Resources education. The SBCTC has also invited her to be a panelist at the upcoming Government to Government Summit at The Evergreen State College Longhouse on June 18. The vision of these summits is to advance local Indigenous knowledge and improve access and pathways to post-secondary education, as well as career and technical training in ways that serve our Indigenous communities also building meaningful relationships with Washington Tribes in higher education. She has also secured funding to provide graduating tribal students with blankets. She said that “The blanket represents the warmth and support of their family and tribe, celebrating the graduate's achievement while acknowledging the collective efforts and ancestral heritage that contributed to their success. This act also serves as a way to preserve and express cultural identity, instilling pride and continuity within the community.” She additionally was able to secure a student lounge for tribal students that will be located in the Schermer building on the 3rd floor room 4331. It will be a safe setting for tribal students that will offer a place of study and a computer to help engage courses of study.



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EVERGREEN WEEKEND GATHERING

May 4th and 5th were the dates for the last Weekend Gathering that featured GHC Native Pathways students meeting with the upper division Evergreen students for film, lecture, and group discussion at the Evergreen State College Longhouse.

Saturday's agenda revolved around group work with Medicine Bags, Dream Catchers, Rattles, and Nature Poetry. Sunday's main event was the 'Tree People' film, but other group activity was available during this time.

GHC Native Pathways Service Area:

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

CHELSEA CAPOEMAN SPONSORS MMIP EVENT

North Beach School District Native Ed. Coordinator Chelsea Capoeman held an MMIP event at the Ocean Shores Convention Center. The event was entitled “You are Strong Enough” In honor of the Missing Murdered Indigenous Peoples.

School District Attendees were represented by Taholah, North Beach, Hoquiam, Aberdeen, and Seattle Title VI Programs. Also in attendance were Mental Health Professionals, Tribal Citizens Speakers providing testimony, and the Quinault Drummers.

The Welcoming Ceremony and Peaceful March started at 12:00 noon from North Beach High School over to the Convention Center. Chelsea started with Quinault cold cases. She shared some stories of her family and other families. Other stories during the 1940 era, and a 2018 video supported the event. A Quinault Cold Case video was shared as well as other touching narratives that addressed this problem that exists in society to this day. The event was well attended and has inspired plans for other area Native Ed. Coordinators to provide and plan for similar events.



GHC INSTRUCTORS TO ATTEND NATIVE CASES INSTITUTE

The Enduring Legacies Native Cases Conference will be held on July 13 & 14 at the Longhouse (above) on the Evergreen State College Campus. The 2024 Enduring Legacies Native Cases Conference will build on more than eighteen years of work developing interdisciplinary teaching of case studies on significant issues in Indian Country and offering workshops for educators to network and learn how to use the cases. The interdisciplinary collection of cases covers a wide range of topics applicable to all academic fields.

Besides Social Science, Humanities, and Elective credits that support cultural relevance to the GHC Native Pathways degree through course content, instructors in the core course curriculum have been using Native Case Studies to further enhance the cultural value of the degree. Problem-based learning, place-based learning, and collaborative learning are the cornerstones of the approach. Cases promote student engagement and critical thinking in the context of complex and pressing real world issues. They are a terrific way of promoting diversity. At this institute, the approach will practice working through cases collaboratively to learn how to facilitate case analysis and discussion. The 2024 will feature new cases on the cutting edge of current issues in Indian Country with a special emphasis on education reform and climate change



GHC NATIVE PATHWAYS DEGREE PROGRAM

The Grays Harbor College Native Pathways “Bridge Program” 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.

Native Pathways Degree Connects with GHC Core Themes and Mission

GHC CORE THEMES AND MISSION – Grays Harbor College provides meaningful education and cultural enrichment through academic transfer, workforce preparation, basic skills and service to community.

**GHC core themes are concentrated areas of focus in our Native Pathways Degree program. The GHC Native Pathways Bridge Degree articulates with the Evergreen Native Pathways upper division degree, but also is generally accepted by all other four year colleges.*

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

Mark Trahant, Shoshone-Bannock, is editor-at-large for *Indian Country Today*. His case study, 'The Indian Health Paradox,' is published on the Enduring Legacies Website which supports the GHC Native Pathways Curriculum. The following news blurbs are from *Indian Country Today*.

A Perfect Native American Memorial Day

As a Native American vet Akwesasne Mohawk, and second lieutenant in the U.S. Army, there is a special place in my heart for Memorial Day. It is a day for all veterans to reflect on fellow soldiers we spent time with during the service (there is not much greater bond than the one with military buddies), and to reflect on all those who served, and those who are serving. Memorial Day is the day to honor all those special service members who never made it back home.

Vincent Schilling
(*Indian Country Today*)

PROTECT AND REVITALIZE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

Language is a foundation of a culture. For Indigenous oral societies, words hold knowledge amassed for millennia. When a language dies, so does the link to the cultural and historical past. Without that crucial connection to their linguistic and cultural history, people lose their sense of identity and belonging.
(*Indian Country Today*)

NATIVE PATHWAYS ATHLETES MOVING FORWARD

Grays Harbor College sponsored a very successful wrestling program this year achieving National Championship status. Two of these athletes are also Native Pathways students and will be moving on to collegiate wrestling teams. Renaeh Ureste, a women's National Champion has accepted an offer to wrestle at University of Nevada Las Vegas. Rocco Clark from the GHC men's wrestling program will be attending the Evergreen State College in the upper division Native Pathways Degree program and will be on the wrestling team. Sincere congratulations are due to these two outstanding student-athletes.

PENINSULA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SPONSORS SPEAKER

Sadie Crowe, PCC Longhouse Steward, announced that on May 16, PCC sponsored an important lecture and discussion event. Dr. Lance Twitchell was invited to speak and he holds a doctoral degree in Indigenous Language and Cultural Revitalization. His current projects are numerous and include the following: a column in the *Juneau Empire*, "Alaska Native Languages & Studies Column;" Alaska Native Languages & Studies Entries in the *Huffington Post*; Northwest Coast Native design projects; *For the Love of Our Grandchildren: Tlingit Language & Knowledge Bearers*, a film; *Never Forgotten: The Story of Tlingit Veterans of Combat*, a film; *Beneath the Foot of the Sun*, a book of poetry; *Raven Speak*, a play; *Pebbles from the Beach*, a screenplay; *Coyote's Song*, a novel; as well as language curricula and other ongoing creative and scholarly works.

GOVERNOR BANNED

South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem is now banned from entering the lands of all nine tribes in South Dakota. Following a meeting on Tuesday, May 21, the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe moved to ban the governor from the reservation in solidarity with the other eight Oceti Sakowin tribes in South Dakota. The tribal council held an emergency meeting Saturday, May 18, during which no decision was made. On Monday, May 20, tribal leaders met with the governor's office to further discuss the issue. The next day, the executive council voted to ban Noem. The decision was made in response to inflammatory comments made by Noem about the tribes since January 31. (*Indian Country Today*)

STUDENT POETRY

The poetry below was authored by GHC Native Pathways Student, Rocco Clark. This poetry was created during the Weekend Gathering at the Evergreen State College Longhouse on May 5th during the poetry workshop utilizing Nature as the topic of inspiration.

NATURE'S STAGE

As the raindrops dance on nature's stage,
Their rhythm echoes, a playful engage.
Whispers of leaves, a secret duet,
Nature's symphony, where imagery is set.
A pitter-patter of rain's sweet embrace,
A gentle touch, a hidden chase.
So listen closely to the sounds of the rain,
For in its whispers, deeper meanings remain
Nature's symphony, a metaphorical delight
Where words and nature intertwine, day and night.



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In May, 2022, Grays Harbor College Board of Trustees adopted a Land Acknowledgement Statement, which the college plans to read at the beginning of Board meetings, events, and other gatherings. This document pays honor and respect to the tribal Nations whose ancestral lands are occupied by GHC, including the college's satellite campuses.

GHC's Land Acknowledgement Statement below was created after consulting with tribal cultural resource specialists and the Chehalis, Chinook, Quinault and Shoalwater Nations.

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.

