



Washington State University

Letter from the Liaison

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From the Desk of the Tribal Liaison...

Dear Students, Community Members, and Colleagues,

This month has been a month of celebration for Native Cougs! Among 37 Native American graduates from the Pullman Campus, six are featured in our newsletter this month, highlighting their WSU experiences and their plans for the future.

We also recognized and celebrated three future cougars this month, the first recipients of the WSU MOU Tribal Scholarship. These students include Shelby Leighton, Nez Perce; Tillie Torpey, Coeur d'Alene; and John Reichel, Cowlitz. They will all enter WSU as freshmen this fall. Shelby and Tillie live close enough that they were able to attend our Native American Advisory Board meeting with members of their families where they were introduced to the Board and met Provost Warwick Bayly who created the scholarship award.

We are very excited about this new scholarship as well as our new Tribal Nation Building Leadership Program to be implemented this fall. Shelby, Tillie, and John will form part of the first cohort of future Tribal Leaders who are recipients of the MOU Scholarship and have the opportunity to be a part of our new leadership program.

Also featured this month are First Scholars and Camp, both programs that provide strong support services respectively for first generation college students and for college students who are sons and daughters of seasonal agricultural workers. As a first generation college graduate in my own family, I understand what a foreign, intimidating place a college campus can be. I attended college right out of high school leaving my rural roots to attend a university in Seattle. I was in complete culture shock and felt totally on my own. I ended up leaving college before completing my degree, but determined to return some day. Programs such as First Scholars, Camp, and our new Leadership Program are all lending a hand to assist Native students in their transition to college and success in achieving their educational goals.

Last but not least, this month we are recognizing the work of Judy Meuth, a retiring WSU faculty member who has worked tirelessly to educate and advocate for underrepresented populations and women and has worked closely with some tribal communities in the area. As you peruse the news, don't miss Autumn Jones' tribal community visit schedule for the summer. As this academic year wraps up, we are already planning for the start of the next academic year with our Week of Welcome activities also included under Autumn's recruitment corner! Until we write again, enjoy this month of June!

Sincerely,



Barbara Aston
Tribal Liaison

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