



Washington State University

Letter from the Director

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From the Desk of the Director/Tribal Liaison...

In this newsletter you will learn a bit more about our new Tribal Nation Building Leadership Program. As identified in the article, "Leadership Program Provides New Opportunity for Young Leaders," students are already involved in researching topics relevant to their lives as tribal members and to their tribes. During the past week, students presented a draft of their research posters and gave an oral presentation on their research to their classmates. I was really moved to see the ways in which aspects of the concepts identified by our Native American Advisory Board as key values and learning objectives were reflected within each student's research project and presentation. These concepts include stewardship, guardianship, membership, and scholarship all within the context of tribal sovereignty.

With the United States commemorating the "discovery" of the new world by Christopher Columbus, we took an opportunity to bring to campus a Native perspective regarding first encounters between tribes and outsiders making claim to their lands, sort of like "the rest of the story," to borrow from Paul Harvey. We were very pleased to have as our guests Mr. Allen Pinkham and Dr. Steven Evans who shared with the audience the development and publishing of their recent book, "*Lewis and Clark Among the Nez Perce: Strangers in the Land of the Nimiipuu*."

In the mid 1980's, two Native women students, Alberta Arviso (Navajo) and Denise L. Fricke (Warm Springs) established the Native American Women's Association, better known as "NAWA," on the WSU campus. This year, NAWA has kicked off with strong programming and participation. They hosted a panel presentation of Native women as part of the "Week Without Violence" programming.

Our inaugural program, EXCEL "Exploring College, Emerging Leaders," for juniors and seniors in high school kicked off this October. Kudos to Autumn Jones, EXCEL

Director, and Faith Price and Robbie Paul, workshop presenters, for the great job that they did, and to all of the future leaders who attended! I also want to recognize the assistance provided by two of our current students, Jesse LaSarte, *Coeur d'Alene*, and Amandaree Fox, *Colville*, for their positive role modeling.

In our efforts to reach out to Native youth and potential Cougs, we are hosting our second Native Youth Sports Summit November 10th and currently have over 100 youth registered! This will be followed by the WSU Women's Basketball Native American Appreciation game.

For updates on what is happening to serve our current students and community outreach check out the other newsletter articles by Franci Taylor, Retention Counselor, and Autumn Jones, Native American Outreach Coordinator.

I hope you enjoy this month's edition. We love hearing from you regarding the newsletter! Please feel free to forward it to others who may be interested.



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Native high school students had the opportunity to visit WSU as part of the Exploring College, Emerging Leaders (EXCEL) program in October.

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