



Washington State University

Letter from the Liaison

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From the Desk of the Tribal Liaison...

Fall 2013 academic year at WSU Pullman has been off to an exciting start with the welcoming of new and returning students! Throughout the summer Autumn Jones, Native American Outreach Coordinator, and Franci Taylor, Native American Retention Counselor, attended Alive! Orientation sessions to meet and welcome new Native students and to share information about our programs and Week of Welcome activities. You will see from our feature articles that we had some great participation from new and returning students and great fun during our Week of Welcome and first week of class!

Summer has been a time of major transitions for Native Programs at WSU. Prior to leaving his position, Provost Warwick Bayly announced significant restructuring of Native programming at WSU Pullman. The changes included bringing together what were previously three separate units: the Plateau Center for American Indian Studies, the Tribal Liaison Office, and the Native American Student Center. Previously, both the Plateau Center and the Tribal Liaison Office were part of the Provost Office and the Native American Student Center was a part of Multicultural Student Services located within the larger university structure of Enrollment Management. I was asked to serve as Director over the combined areas.

These changes were in response to discussions and consultations with the Native American Advisory Board to the President and they reflect WSU's respect for and honoring of our relationship to the tribes of the region and WSU's recognition of the unique status of Native American tribes and their voice in identifying educational needs and priorities not only for tribal members but for an educated citizenry.



The changes became effective July 1 and involved the relocation of the Native Center from the Compton Union Building to Cleveland Hall in close proximity to the Plateau Center. In addition to space for the Native American Student Center, which serves undergraduate Native students, we also have space for a Native American Graduate Student Center. The position of Franci Taylor, Native American Retention Counselor, transferred with the center.

Michael Holloman, who previously served as the Director of the Plateau Center, was asked by the Provost to focus his attention on providing leadership to further develop and promote the American Indian Studies Minor/Certificate as Coordinator. The minor is in the General Studies Program and Michael's new office is within the General Studies and Advising Center in Daggy Hall.

Our staff and faculty are very excited about the possibilities that working in closer proximity as one unit may bring for the growth and strengthening of our programs. We will continue to seek and promote close collaboration with other departments on campus such as Multicultural Student Services and Enrollment Management to best serve our students and facilitate the greatest possible learning experiences for them.

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In addition to the restructuring, we are pleased to implement the first stage of our new Tribal Nation-Building Leadership Program. Our pilot course for this new program is a University College Pathways to Student Success course that is being taught by the Director of PASS, Selena Castro. We have a cohort of eight students in the course. Three of the students are MOU Scholarship recipients, four are recipients of the Plateau Native American Scholarship, and one student has come out of a health science pipeline. The basic conceptual framework for our Leadership Program was developed through a series of discussions with our Native American Advisory Board. The Board identified four concepts/values that they felt were key for learning outcomes and competencies for Native students and others who may be living and working in a Native community or for a tribal nation. We will continue to highlight the Leadership Program in the coming year as we further develop its structure and components.

Students share a laugh during the Native American Student Center Open House in it's new space in Cleveland Hall 27A.

I hope that you enjoy the articles this month and catch the Cougar Spirit!

Sincerely,



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Tribal Liaison

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