



Washington State University

Native American Peer Mentors

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Peer Mentors Show New Students the Ropes

by Steve Chapman

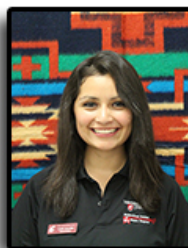
In an effort to help students transition to WSU, every incoming Native American student is assigned to a peer mentor during their first year on campus. These mentors are there to show students the ropes, answer questions, and be a resource, as well as a friendly face.

They can often be found in the Native American Student Center, as each of them are required to serve a number of hours there per week. Graduate Assistant Aleks Sils assists with Center activities and oversees peer mentors.

We caught up with the new 2013–14 mentors and Aleks recently, to learn a little more about each of them. If you are a new student, and haven't yet met your mentor, you can read a little more about them here, then get in touch! They are fabulous!



2013–14 Peer Mentors (l-r): Julia Spaude, Allison Worden, Marcela Rodriguez, Franci Taylor (Native American Retention Counselor), Leslie Astudillo, Karina Silva, Sam Mendez, and Delaney Costello.



[Leslie Astudillo](#)

Year in School: Senior

Major/Minor: Communication & Society

Hometown: Bellevue, WA



[Delaney Costello](#)

Year in School: Senior

Major/Minor: Kinesiology

Hometown: Portland, OR

Tribe: Cherokee



[Sam Mendez](#)

Year in School: Senior

Major/Minor: Business Marketing

Hometown: Portland, OR

Tribe: Klamath, Wyandot



[Matt Powers](#)

Year in School: Senior

Major/Minor: Psychology / Communication

Hometown: Tacoma, WA

Tribe: Cherokee



[Marcela Rodriguez](#)

Year in School: Junior

Major/Minor: Double Major: English & Spanish

Hometown: Las Vegas, NV



[Aleks Sils](#), Graduate Assistant

Year in School: Graduate Student

Major/Minor: Political Science M.A. (Global Justice and Security Studies)

Hometown: Seattle, WA



[Karina Silva](#)

Year in School: Senior

Major/Minor: Human Development and Spanish

Hometown: Othello, WA



Julia Spaude

Year in School: Senior

Major/Minor: Double major in Psychology & Social Sciences (specializing in Anthropology, Comparative Ethnic Studies, and History).

Hometown: Kalama, WA

Tribe: I'm not an enrolled member of any tribe, but my Native American ethnicity is Cherokee.



Allison Worden

Year in School: Junior

Major/Minor: Biology with a minor in Psychology

Hometown: Colville, WA

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