



Washington State University Week of Welcome

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Week-long Events Welcome New Native Students

by Faith Price

WSU Native programs joined together to welcome new students during the Week of Welcome August 12-16. One event was sponsored each day by a different office, to help students familiarize themselves with resources on campus.

Events included: Open Houses at the Tribal Liaison's Office and Native American Student Center, an Ice Cream Social at the Native American Culture House, a Movie Night sponsored by the new Tribal Nation-Building Leadership Program, Bowling sponsored by the Plateau Center, an information booth at the all-campus picnic, and lastly, the annual Welcome Back Barbecue.

The turnout was high for each event, and ensured that the new Native freshmen and transfer students in attendance connected with each other as well as faculty and staff on campus. About 70 people attended the Welcome Back BBQ that wrapped up the events.

"It was pretty awesome because we made lots of new friends and got to know the campus more," said Tillie Torpey, a freshman from the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. "And we got to see the different clubs, and different aspects of WSU, what you can get involved in, and resources to look to."

Autumn Jones, the Native Outreach Coordinator in the Tribal Liaison Office, spearheaded the group effort. This was the first time that Native programs had come together to provide weeklong activities for Week of Welcome.

"I wanted to make sure that Native students felt welcomed and had the opportunity to meet other Native students and some of the staff and support programs," said Jones. "I think it's important to make that point of contact during that first week when they're trying to get settled in to a new environment."

Jones, a WSU alum, was hired last October as the Native Outreach Coordinator, whose role it is to recruit Native students to WSU. Approximately 200 new students of Native heritage started at WSU this fall.

"I think Week of Welcome was a huge success, and I appreciate all the participation and support we had from everyone on campus," said Jones.



Students pair up to "make frybread" during icebreaker games at the Welcome Back Barbecue held at the Native American Culture House.

About 70 people attended the Welcome Back BBQ that wrapped up the events.



Students visit during the Native American Student Center Open House.

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