



Washington State University

Letter from the Director

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Once again we are looking forward to the arrival of our new and returning WSU Native students! Everything will kick off with Week of Welcome activities. With the first day of classes, we will all hit the pavement running – students, faculty, and staff alike – to keep up with the needs of our Native students and their high energy, high paced thrust into the future!

Over the summer we have said good-bye and welcome to Native program staff. Franci Taylor, Retention Specialist, departed the end of June to accept a position at the University of Utah. The first of July, we welcomed Greg Urquhart as Interim Retention Specialist. We will begin a search this fall for a permanent hire for this important role, but we are very thankful for Greg's willingness to step in and provide this much needed interim support. Over the past year, Greg has demonstrated his commitment and wisdom through his initiative, active involvement and commitment to the Native community at WSU, and more broadly, through his research on Native veterans.

At long last, we welcomed our new Principal Assistant Charlotte Ellenwood last week and look forward to introducing her to the WSU community and to our tribal partners and friends. My hat is off to Assistant Director Faith Price who continued to fulfill the responsibilities of Principal Assistant after assuming her new role as Assistant Director. With the reorganization of Native Programs and our growth and development in offering new programming and services, all of our staff have worked very hard to meet their expanding workloads with commitment and enthusiasm. We truly have an amazing team! "Team Un-stoppable" to quote our Outreach Coordinator Autumn Jones!

The remodel and refurbishing of our space in Cleveland is almost complete. Selecting paint colors, furniture styles, and upholstery fabric, can require a leap of faith that the final product will indeed look as good as you hope. We are all pleased at how things are coming together and are now busy putting some finishing touches on the décor to help create the welcoming and comfortable environment that we desire for our students.

Over the summer I have had the privilege to serve as instructor of record for the Colville Confederated Tribes Summer Internship Program sponsored by the CCT for their Colville tribal college students. After serving in administration for a number of years, I have missed my closer more direct association with students from the days of being counselor. Getting out in the community to get to know these students and their professional goals for the future has been a real honor. In addition to my visits to Nespelem, I also was able to attend and witness the historic celebration of 100 years of Extension and the formation of a new Extension partnership with the Colville Confederated Tribes held in Nespelem, WA.

I hope you enjoy our newsletter this month as well as the link to related articles. We look forward to many more successes to share with you in the coming months! Thanks for all of your support and interest and *Go Cougs!*



Barbara Aston
 Director of Native American Programs
 Tribal Liaison

aston@wsu.edu

[Native American Programs](#), PO Box 641046, Washington State University, Pullman WA 99164-1046, 509-335-8618, [Contact Us](#)