



Washington State University

## Native Graduate Student Center News

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### Native American Graduate Student Center News

by Ken Lokensgard

Remodeling of the Plateau Center for Native American Programs in Cleveland Hall is nearly complete, including the Graduate Student Center, which is located in Cleveland room 27A. By the time the fall 2014 semester begins, the room will be outfitted with new furniture, a work station with computer, and more. The Graduate Student Center will soon be an improved space, in which students can not only relax or enjoy the company of other students, but also in which they can read, write, and actively conduct research.

In the meantime, the Plateau Center is engaging in outreach to both regional tribes and to academic departments, programs, and centers involved in research among Native American communities. Such organizations include the Manuscripts, Archives, and Special Collections at WSU Libraries and the Museum of Anthropology. This is done with the aim to ensure that graduate students, and anyone else who contacts the Center about their research interests, are directed toward the best resources to meet their needs. At the same time, such outreach is also intended to ensure that graduate student and other researchers are responsive to tribal concerns, from the very beginnings of their projects.

Ultimately, we hope that the Plateau Center comes to be seen as a welcoming and supportive institution for the regional Native American communities on the WSU-Pullman Campus. Those who have suggestions or advice about achieving and maintaining this goal are warmly invited to contact the Office of the Tribal Liaison or the Plateau Center.

In other news, the Indigenous Graduate and Professional Student Association is now a Registered Student Organization. Current members will soon be convening to organize meetings and programming for the fall 2014 semester. Membership is open to full or part-time graduate and professional students of Indigenous descent or engaged in research with Indigenous peoples. Membership is also open to Indigenous undergraduate students and undergraduate students planning to go to graduate school or engage in graduate level research with Indigenous peoples. The mission and purpose of the association, as stated in the IGPSA constitution, follows:

*"The purpose of IGPSA shall be to provide peer support and mentorship to Indigenous graduate and professional students. It shall also provide support to those students committed to or engaged in responsible research among Indigenous peoples. Responsible research is defined as that which is culturally responsive to the concerns and needs of the Indigenous communities or Indigenous individuals involved in the research. Furthermore, the IGPSA shall work toward building community between Indigenous students, between Indigenous students and non-Indigenous students, and between Indigenous populations and researchers."*

See future newsletters for announcements detailing IGPSA meeting times, programs, and a website address.

For further information about the Indigenous Graduate and Professional Students Association, the Native American Graduate Student Center, or the mission and goals of the Plateau Center, please contact Ken Lokensgard at [kenneth.lokensgard@wsu.edu](mailto:kenneth.lokensgard@wsu.edu) or at 509-335-1055.

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