



Washington State University

Open House

Home
 Contact Us
 Tribal Liaison Office
 Native Student Center
 Native Grad Student Center
 Outreach & Recruitment
 Plateau Center
 Leadership Program
 Newsletter
 Events Calendar
 Resources

Open House Celebrates Native Programs' Remodel

by Faith Price

The paint has dried, the art has been hung on the walls, and students are enjoying the comfortable new furniture. The Native American Programs' space in Cleveland Hall underwent a remodel over the summer and officially celebrated the updated space with an Open House on November 12.



WSU alum Quannah Matheson addresses the crowd at Open House.

About 80 people were in attendance as the remodeled facilities received a blessing by Nakia Williamson of the Nez Perce Tribe, and heard remarks from WSU alum Quannah Matheson (Coeur d'Alene), Provost Dan Bernardo, and WSU President Elson S. Floyd. Native American Programs director Barbara Aston gave an overview of services provided by the office, as did the Clearinghouse on Native American Teaching and Learning director Francene Watson. The remodel included the Clearinghouse swapping space with Native American Program's Graduate Student Center, and a facelift in their facilities as well.

"I think it's really great," said sophomore Shelby Leighton. "The biggest change is some color. There wasn't much in the last room. It's a lot more comfortable."

The new paint and furniture is a vast improvement over last year's white walls and temporary furniture. In addition to fresh paint bringing some life to the walls, the Tribal Nation Building Leadership Classroom was brought into the 21st century with new state of the art technology.

In the summer of 2013, at the urging of the WSU Native American Advisory Board, then-Provost Warwick Bayley brought the Tribal Liaison Office, the Plateau Center, and the Native American Student Center under one umbrella – the newly christened Native American Programs. The College of Education generously donated additional space next door to the Plateau Center to make room for the Native American Student Center and the retention specialist to relocate from the CUB, as well as space that has been developed into the new Native American Graduate Student Center.



Shelby Leighton studies for finals in the Native American Student Center.

Native American graduate students had never had their own space on campus before. The new Native American Graduate Student Center has become a hub of activity, providing grad students a quiet place to study, as well as a meeting place for student organizations.

Graduate Assistant Aleks Sils estimates that traffic in the Native American Undergraduate Student Center has doubled from the previous school year. There is a steady flow of students dropping in between classes to study, use the computers, visit with other Native students, and see retention specialist Greg Urquhart.

"I'm here most days," said Leighton. "It's a good place to study and I can focus better on my homework and reading than I can at home."

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

© 2019 Washington State University | [Accessibility](#) | [Policies](#) | [Copyright](#)