



Washington State University Dr. Art Blume

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

President-Elect of Society for Indian Psychologists Visits Pullman Campus

by Rio Fernandes

Washington State University hosted the president-elect of the society of Indian Psychologists (SIP), Dr. Art Blume this month.

An instructor at Washington State Vancouver for the last four years, Dr. Art Blume (Cherokee) researches multicultural intersections of psychology and addictions, as well as micro-aggressions towards minority students.

"The results of these studies, sadly, have been about what you'd expect," said Dr. Art Blume during a reception at the Native American Student Center. The current structure of textbooks, Native American mascots around colleges, and the lack of Native American faculty members all have a negative effect on minority students, Native Americans in particular, Blume said.

Along with a reception, Dr. Blume also met with a student-chapter of SIP, here at WSU. The student-chapter is one of only two in the entire country, and Dr. Blume was excited to meet them and field their questions and concerns about SIP.

"Having Dr. Blume attend one of our meetings shows just how close knit of a community the society of Indian Psychologists is. It shows that the president of our organization takes an interest in each and every member, including the student members, and wants to see them succeed," said chapter president Greg Urquhart.



Dr. Art Blume (4th from left) with members of WSU's student chapter of the Society for Indian Psychologists.

Dr. Blume won the presidential election in the summer of 2013. The president-elect of SIP is required to serve two years as the elect, before serving a two year term as president. Dr. Blume is nearing the end of his term as president-elect, and will become the president of SIP in June.

Dr. Blume concluded his trip with a presentation on his thoughts of the current state of psychology at the College of Education's Graduate Student Center. He explained how the field of psychology came to be, how far it's come, and where it's going. Dr. Blume also talked about the difficulties arising from psychology when applied to Native Americans.

"There was this homogenous gloss over how we would assess people," said Dr. Blume. "Early psychology didn't account for the differences between cultures."

The Native American community at WSU really benefited from the wisdom and experience Dr. Art Blume shared during his visit, and wishes him the best during his presidency for SIP!



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