



Washington State University  
**Ken Lokensgard**

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## Lokensgard to Provide Grad Student Services and Coordinate Research

Kenneth "Ken" Lokensgard is new to the Plateau Center for Native American Programs. Beginning with the spring semester of 2014, he will serve as the Graduate Student Services and Research Coordinator.

Lokensgard earned a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from Syracuse University. He has taught at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania and at the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill. As a researcher, he has worked with members of the Blackfoot Confederacy on repatriation and related topics. He is the author of *Blackfoot Religion and the Consequences of Cultural Commoditization*. Originally from Montana, he is happy to be living in the Inland Northwest, close to family and friends.



### Native American Graduate Student Center

One of the projects Lokensgard will be spearheading is the Native American Graduate Student Center. Located in Cleveland 27B, the Center is a space in which members of the Native graduate student community can relax, work, and hold meetings.

Comfortable seating, tables, coffee, and tea are available. Food and drinks can also be purchased at the Cleveland Hall Espresso Bar, between 7:30 and 3:00, or at the vending machines just outside of the Center. Resources available at the Center will be expanded in the future to include computers and more. The Center can be reserved for use by groups after 4:00 PM each day.

During the spring semester of 2014, regular "coffee hours" will be held in the Graduate Student Center on the second and fourth weeks of each month (details will be posted in future announcements). Students are encouraged to come see the space, to enjoy free coffee and pastries, and to meet other students and Plateau Center staff. Coffee hours will also be held for WSU Native American Faculty, Staff, and Administrative Professionals Association one morning on the first and third weeks each month.

### Native American Graduate and Professional Students Association

Graduate and professional students, who would like to be involved in the organization of the Native American Graduate and Professional Students Association are strongly urged to stop by the center or to contact Lokensgard. Getting involved will result in networking opportunities, support from peers, and additional funding opportunities (and another means by which to strengthen *curriculum vitae* or resume).

Lokensgard looks forward to working with WSU's Native American graduate students, faculty, and staff and with non-native researchers at WSU dealing with topics related to Native America. Among the latter, he hopes to encourage a strong awareness of and respect for traditional and legal tribal protocols that bear upon academic research. He is particularly eager to help strengthen WSU's commitment to regional Native communities.

He can be contacted at [kenneth.lokensgard@wsu.edu](mailto:kenneth.lokensgard@wsu.edu) or at 509-335-1055. His Plateau Center office is room 23A, in Cleveland Hall.

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