



Washington State University

Dylan Parker

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Parker Joins Native Programs Team as Communications Assistant

by Dylan Parker

I attend Washington State University as a junior Communications major with an emphasis in Public Relations.

As of January 22, I am the new Communications Assistant for WSU's Plateau Center for Native American Programs which, to me, sounds awesome when I say it aloud. I have very high expectations for what I will accomplish while working here, and I already know that the experience I gain here will benefit me greatly.

I applied for this position because my family has always shared a connection with the local Native American tribes. My uncle is a former tribal chairman for the Squaxin Island Tribe in western Washington, and my father helped to write multiple tax codes for the state with relation to the tribes. Although I am not Native myself, I feel as though the local Native culture has certainly influenced who I am and how I can connect with it.

Born and bred in Olympia, Wash., I graduated from A.G. West Black Hills High School in 2011 with my mind not made up about my future. I decided to attend WSU solely because my sister did, plain and simple. I thought, "Eh, why not? She likes it there, why would I not?" Impeccable logic, I know. It wasn't until I fully immersed myself in the remarkable atmosphere that WSU provides that I realized coming to Pullman was the greatest decision I had ever made. Never before had I seen a school with as much respect, pride and dignity that WSU has.

Communications was not my first choice for my major, nor was it my second. Come to think of it, I didn't even know what I wanted to major in when I first arrived in Pullman. But that is the beauty of the college experience, recognizing what your main interests are and, in turn, truly realizing who you are. If somebody told me three years ago I would take up journalism or public relations as a career path, I would wait for the punch line. However, I took a leap of faith my sophomore year to write as an opinion columnist for WSU's Daily Evergreen.

I had found my calling.

It was from that point on I knew that I wanted to work as a writer or perhaps a publicist. I certified into my major and became part of one of the most distinguished Communications programs in the country. I am so very happy that I am where I am today: writing for an organization dedicated to increasing and celebrating Native American accomplishment.

At this point in time I'm still unsure of what the future has in store for me, but I know that whatever curveball it throws my way, I'll be more than ready.



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