Washington State University
Letter from the Director

We have experienced a whirlwind of activity since our last newsletter in May! We look forward to getting back on track with a monthly newsletter. In the meantime, several new individuals have been added to our staff: Kay Kay Weso, Retention Specialist; Veneice Guillory-Lacy, PhD student coordinating our Student Peer Mentor Program; Zoe High Eagle Strong, Plateau Center Research Fellow; Sue Gilchrist, Principal Assistant for Native American Programs; Kalina Ebling, Staff Support for Native Programs; new communications intern, Frazer Myer; as well as our 2015-2016 peer mentors and new student ambassadors! We are very excited and appreciative of the energy, ideas, passion, and commitment that each of them bring to our programs and to serve our students and communities!

As you are aware, WSU’s statewide presence continues to grow and expand. Our commitment to Native American tribes and students continues to strengthen as well, with exciting developments across WSU. On November 16, WSU Vancouver Chancellor Mel Netzhammer hosted a listening session with tribes from the Vancouver, WA, region. The Cowlitz Tribe of Indians who are signatory to the WSU Memorandum of Understanding were well represented at the meeting with a number of Council members and department heads present, including Chairman Bill Iyall and Vice-Chairman Mike Iyall, Cowlitz delegate to the Native American Advisory Board to the President. Faculty member Steve Fountain and Bola Majekobaje, Advisor to the Chancellor for Equity, Diversity and Community Engagement, assisted with the organization and coordination of the meeting.

On December 3, 2015, the Native American Health Science Advisory Board met with Chancellor Lisa Brown for their semi-annual meeting. The Founding Dean of the WSU Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine, Dr. John Tomkowiak, and the Associate Dean for Diversity, Inclusion, and Leadership, Dr. Yvette Roubideaux, were introduced to the Advisory Board. Dr. Tomkowiak (see: https://news.wsu.edu/2015/09/18/regents-honor-late-president-welcome-new-med-college-dean/#.VmHtsL_qVZA) assumed his responsibilities in October and Dr. Roubideaux came on board the first of December. Dr. Roubideaux is a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe.

We look forward to bringing you more updates about our new staff and initiatives moving forward. As we approach the end of the semester and the holidays, I want to extend to all of you best wishes for this Holiday season and for the coming New Year! Enjoy the newsletter!

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