The fall term is coming to a close and we are so glad to have everyone on campus! The Native American Student Center has averaged 18-20 student visits daily this fall. If you have not yet stopped by, please feel free to visit us in Cleveland Hall. We have a small bistro that has coffee, tea, and snacks available to you free of charge. You can also print for free and we provide a place on campus just for you.

**Highlights of Fall Semester**

Our welcome back barbeque was delicious, and a few lucky students were able to take groceries home with them. Our guest speaker, Leroy Seth of the Nez Perce tribe, told tales from his life experiences and coined the phrase of the night: “Different vibes for different tribes.”

We held a stickgame tournament practice session where we provided minestrone soup and handmade grilled cheese sandwiches. While we are still not experts at stickgame, our game is getting better. We brought our Cougar pride to North Idaho College for a tournament that included U of I, LCSC, NWIC, and NIC, and have plans to compete again next year.

Our First Friday Feeds in the Native Student Center and our Community Dinners at the Native American Culture House have been popular and delicious. We have presented Native American Program prizes to active students from our newly created points system. It is simple: the more participation that you show, the bigger the prizes you earn. At the end of this term, the points leader will earn a $50 gift card to the Bookie and the winner for the academic year will win a tablet! Please ask if you have any questions about this new incentive program.

The Wazzu Singers drum group practices have begun and usually meet on Thursdays and most Fridays at noon in our Graduate Student Center. Please join us if you are interested in singing, drumming, or learning more! Experience is not necessary and we welcome new participants.

**Academic Resources**

Exams and papers can be hard to start and polish, so if you struggle, please let me know and we can set you up with a tutor to assist you. Remember, WSU provides many, many resources for you. Since these free services are paid for by your tuition, please make use of the resources that are awaiting you to help with your success.
Students who are ill or need general medical attention can be seen at WSU Health and Wellness Services. Health and Wellness Services at WSU said that they will never turn a student away from receiving medical care and if necessary, they can bill Indian Health Services (IHS) with a purchase order. WSU recommends that students register for Apple Care for the State of Washington for health insurance assistance. Any questions or requests for assistance to understand the policies and enroll in Apple Care can be directed to Leslie Stamper at 509–325–3255. They wanted us to know that most students will qualify for Apple Care, especially if they are an independent student. As far as they know, no dentists in Pullman accept IHS as an option and there is no dental facility at WSU.

Nimiipuu and Benewah Health Centers are the closest IHS facilities and both are located in Idaho. Students can use them after providing proof that they are part of a federally recognized tribe or a descendent and after completing the required documentation at each facility. Nimiipuu in Lapwai, ID requires a tribal ID or Certificate of Indian Blood and a birth certificate to enroll in services and operates on same day appointments that they call open access. They discourage students from going to their facility on Wednesday mornings due to a high volume of staff meetings. All registered patients have access to dental and optometry services, but they schedule appointments differently than the general facility, so it is best to plan ahead and schedule an appointment before traveling to Lapwai. Contract health services are not available for students unless they are "local" residents. If contract health is required, some assistance can be provided, but the student should contact their home IHS facility to see if they can receive support.

Benewah in Plummer, ID requires a Tribal ID or Certificate of Indian Blood and a picture ID in addition to completing a new patient packet. Contract health services are not available for students unless they are enrolled in the Coeur D'Alene Tribe. All registered patients have access to dental services, but only routine maintenance is covered. Students are responsible for any additional fees that are outside the scope of routine dental work. They cover most medical services, but there are out of pocket expenses for lab tests and over the counter medications.

From what I gathered, the student will need to contact their home IHS regarding their tribe's policy regarding contract health services. Speaking from experience, WSU's facility was very helpful, friendly, and open to assisting students that need more information regarding medical services.

**Academic Calendar**

Finally, please take a moment to review Washington State University’s academic calendar by clicking on the link below:

[http://registrar.wsu.edu/academic-calendar/](http://registrar.wsu.edu/academic-calendar/)

It is important to understand the timeline for this academic year. We would like for you to have the best experience here, so keep up to date to avoid unexpected surprises. Please let me know when you need my assistance. I will be here for you to assist you when things arise.