Spokane the 11th Tribe to Sign MOU with WSU

by Faith Price

On November 20, the Spokane Tribe became the 11th tribe to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Washington State University.

Chairwoman Carol Evans and Interim President Dan Bernardo signed the MOU during the WSU Native American Advisory Board to the President’s fall meeting. Chairwoman Evans’s signature indicates the Spokane Tribe is committing to actively participate as members of the WSU Native American Advisory Board.

The original MOU was signed in 1997, by then Washington State University President Samuel Smith and six local tribes: the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Yakama Nation, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation in Oregon and the Kootenai, Coeur d’Alene and Nez Perce in Idaho. In 1998, two more tribes signed the MOU: the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, followed by the Cowlitz Indian Tribe in 2002, and the Kalispel Tribe in 2013.

The MOU created a Native American Advisory Board to the President and a Native American Advisory Council to the Provost, as well as the Tribal Liaison position to provide support for the board. The goal of the MOU is to facilitate WSU working with tribes to better serve Native American students and promote educational opportunities. The complete Memorandum of Understanding can be read here.