



## Washington State University

# Letter from the Director

- Home
- Contact Us
- Tribal Liaison Office
- Native Student Center
- Native Grad Student Center
- Outreach & Recruitment
- Plateau Center
- Leadership Program
- Newsletter
- Events Calendar
- Resources

As you review our February newsletter, I would like to especially bring to your attention that we are now accepting applications for the MOU Tribal Scholarship and the Plateau Native American Scholarship. These scholarships are linked to our Tribal Nation Building Leadership Program. Please see the article as well as [our website](#) for additional information.

The Nation Building Program is nearing completion of its second year. We continue to develop the courses and opportunities for the Native students participating in this program. This program and students are usually highlighted in some way with each of our newsletters.

The first week of February, I attended the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Winter Conference in Lincoln City. As usual, the Education Committee had a full schedule of presentations. Robbie Paul, Director of Native American Health Sciences, WSU Spokane, provided a brief update on the medical school proposal for WSU and thanked the committee for their support of a resolution at the annual ATNI conference.

Emma Noyes, Outreach Coordinator for WSU Spokane Native American Health Sciences, shared information about the upcoming Na-ha-shnee Camp. This will be the 20<sup>th</sup> annual [Na-ha-shnee Health Science Institute](#) for Native American high school students. [Dr. Steven Fountain](#) and [Bola Majekobaje](#) of the WSU Vancouver Campus gave an overview of their initiatives and outreach to Native students and tribal communities. Check out the beautiful [WSU Vancouver Campus](#) online.

Education Northwest were guest presenters for the Education Committee as well, introducing the Tribal Education Alliance (TEA) that they have formed. The TEA has identified three focus areas, including inquiry regarding the Policies and legislation related to the accurate representation and accounting of Native students. The group discussed the possibility of using case examples of policies/legislation related to identifying Native students in educational institutions. As a result of our engagement in the conversation and discussion, WSU was identified as an example for examination of how data is collected, utilized, and reported in relation to Native Americans. This is an important issue across educational institutions K-20, as well as in census data. We are looking forward to continuing this dialogue and inviting others to be a part of it.

An important development for our programs is that we are beginning the search for our Native American Retention Specialist. Chairing the search committee is [Dr. Ken Lokensgard](#). We will be counting on all of your assistance in helping to identify individuals who you would recommend for this position – it may even be YOU! This is a very important position for our programs as this is a key person of support for Native students. The job notice should be posted by the end of February. Our goal is to have the new retention specialist in place by July 1.

Until next time, enjoy the news! We love to hear back from our readers and are proud of the outstanding students that we have the honor to serve at WSU!



**Barbara Aston**  
Director of Native American Programs  
Tribal Liaison

[aston@wsu.edu](mailto:aston@wsu.edu)

[Native American Programs](#), PO Box 641046, Washington State University, Pullman WA 99164-1046, 509-335-8618, [Contact Us](#)