Native American Recognition Night Honors Class of 2015

by Faith Price

(l-r) Georgina Mitchell, Corey Sutter, Matt Hale, Rio Fernandes, Kalina Ebling and Danny Brigman all graduated from Washington State University on May 9.

Washington State University’s Native community celebrated the class of 2015 on Friday April 24 at the annual Native American Recognition Night. Sixty-one Native American students applied for graduation this spring including 56 bachelor’s degrees, two master’s degrees, and three PhD’s.

Graduates in attendance at the event included:

- Danny Brigman, *Spokane*, bachelor’s in social sciences
- Kalina Ebling, *Quinault*, bachelor’s in apparel design
- Rio Fernandes, *Lower Elwha Klallam*, bachelor’s in communications
- Matthew Hale, *Cherokee*, master’s in community counseling
- Corey Sutter, *Cherokee*, master’s in political science
- Georgina Mitchell, *Coeur d’Alene*, doctorate in economics

Three of the graduates have plans to continue their education in the near future. Ebling will be pursuing her master’s at WSU in Apparel Design, and Hale will continue in the Counseling Psychology PhD program. Brigman hopes to attend either Gonzaga or Whitworth for graduate school.

Fernandes, Sutter and Mitchell are entering the workforce. Fernandes has obtained two internships in New York, beginning with the Knight-CUNY internship in New York City for the summer, to be followed by the Native American Multimedia Internship through Vision Maker Media in Syracuse. Mitchell plans to use her education to serve the Coeur d’Alene community.

The evening’s program also included recognition of graduating seniors who served as mentors to new Native American students through the Multicultural Student Mentor Program (MSMP), and the graduate assistant for the MSMP program. MSMP graduates included:

- Enrique Astudillo, bachelor’s in communication
- Karina Silva, bachelor’s in human development and Spanish
- Aleks Sils, master’s in political science

All graduates were given a Pendleton stole to wear in the WSU commencement ceremony May 9. Bachelor’s recipients received a framed print, and those earning advanced degrees were given a plaque to display in their future office. The Wazzu Singers sang an honor song for all graduates.
Native American Programs is extremely proud of the achievements of all of these young people and look forward to hearing about their future contributions to their communities. Thank you to the Ku-ah-mah Alumni Society for sponsoring the event. Congratulations, graduates!