

## Letter from the Director

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Happy Spring! Although there is still a bit of a nip in the air, we are beginning to shed our coats and enjoy blue skies!



You may have noticed that “food” is a common theme when reporting on activities for our students. This month it is hats off (and pounds on) to our great employee cooks Kay Kay and Kalina! I also want to recognize Sequoia Dance, Ku–Au–Mah Chair, for her VFF (Valentine Frybread Fundraiser) for the Pah–loots–Pu Celebration coming up the end of March. Sequoia drafted the talents of Ku–Au–Mah members and roommates to meet the demand for orders that she received. The picture does not do justice to the sheer delight to the taste buds of this delicious frybread! Very clever idea!

As a member of the steering committee for planning for the Dr. Elson S. Floyd Cultural Center, I want to share with you a glimpse of the architectural design and landscaping for this building. From our very first meeting, the steering committee and administration were in consensus regarding the importance of recognizing that WSU Pullman is built on the ceded territories of the Nez Perce Tribe. In addition, the building through design and programming will recognize and celebrate the diverse cultures that have entered onto this landscape and called WSU home.

Work will begin in April with a projected completion date in 2017. Early in the planning last fall, community/campus forums were held to gather input from student, faculty, staff, and community members. At this time we are preparing for more forums that will elicit programming ideas for the building. The main gathering area, four “knowledge” rooms, outdoor fire pits, and an industrial kitchen will all provide a variety of spaces for celebrating and exploring culture. The meditation pavilion external to the building provides a quiet place to smudge, reflect, meditate, and get in touch with the sacred places of our lives.

The Cultural Building sits at the gateway to the campus, and as you will note, it is a very unique, colorful design, representing a break from the traditional brick and straight lines of the campus. Reflecting the rolling hills of the Palouse in its design, it is a distinct building for a distinct landscape and a history unique to this place. Watch in future newsletters for ongoing updates on the progress towards completion.

### CulturalCenter



*The steering committee has shared designs for the new Dr. Elson S. Floyd Cultural Center*

I hope you enjoy getting to know our new staff a bit more in this newsletter and stay well informed of activities at Pullman.



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