



Washington State University

## Veneice Lacy

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

### Veneice Lacy Guides Mentors as she Pursues her Doctorate

by Edmund "Frazer" Myer



*Veneice Lacy*

Veneice Lacy, graduate assistant for the Native American Student Center, is from the Nez Perce Reservation in Lapwai, Idaho. She and her husband Chris Lacy have three children: Nevaeh, 10, Trinity, 7, and a son, Zion, who is 10 months old.

After graduating from high school, she played basketball and went to school at the University of Idaho where she met her husband.

After graduation, they got married and moved to his hometown in San Jose, California, where she taught high school English and was the varsity girls' basketball coach for eight years. While in California, they had their first two children and Lacy earned her master's degree in Business Management.

To get away from the "fast" lifestyle of living in a big city, Lacy said they decided to move back and raise their children in the area where she grew up in Lapwai.

When she arrived back home, she began teaching English and Tribal Governance at Northwest Indian College's Nez Perce site. She spent four years working at NWIC before applying to WSU for a doctoral program. She was accepted into the College of Education's "Cultural Studies and Social Thought in Education" doctoral program at WSU and began in the fall of 2015.

"I love it here because I was just embraced immediately," said Lacy.

Lacy was hired as a graduate assistant with Native American Programs, her primary duty being to help the peer mentors in the Native American Student Center connect and build relationships with new Native students at WSU. She guides the six undergraduate mentors in using different approaches and strategizing about how to make their mentees feel comfortable and welcome here at WSU.

She said she's having a great time being the mentor coordinator and working with all the people at Native American Programs. She also loves the area, and mentioned that Washington State University is on traditional Nez Perce homelands, so she feels that it's "an extension of home."

Undoubtedly, she has gone through moments of major change and transitions throughout life balancing school, work, and raising a family. She said she gets through moments of adversity by maintaining balance in her life and knowing that life gets better.

She said she always challenges herself to get out of her comfort zone.

"I don't think that life should always be comfortable, because you don't grow."

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