



Washington State University

## Zoe Higheagle Strong

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### Zoe Higheagle Strong Joins Staff as Plateau Research Fellow

by Edmund "Frazer" Myer



*Zoe Higheagle Strong*

Zoe Higheagle Strong Ph.D., started at WSU in Fall 2016 as a clinical assistant professor for Educational Psychology in the College of Education and Research Fellow for the Plateau Center.

This semester she has a "course buy out," enabling her to do research. Strong is working on various tasks including grants, establishing research, partnerships, and collaboration. She's also been working on meeting and connecting with the faculty and students here at WSU.

After this semester, she will begin teaching qualitative research and conducting research.

Strong comes from a big family with eleven siblings. She was born in Lewiston, Idaho, and is a Nez Perce tribal member.

She moved to Seattle after high school, and when she was 21 years old she met Mack Strong, former Seattle Seahawks' fullback. They have been married for 18 years now, and have two sons.

She said it was great going to football games, and being a part of the football world. Really, it was "a great avenue to give to the community because it opened doors," Strong said.

Zoe and Mack started the "Mack Strong Team-Works Foundation" 13 years ago; primarily working with Native youth and diverse youth from other communities. Their foundation helps students build strong mind, body, and character.

They have a mentoring program, and in-school intervention character development program that addresses social issues and issues out of school. Their hope is to allow the youth to focus on academics, and to "help them navigate life so they can focus on academic achievement," Strong said.

Strong did her undergraduate schooling at Seattle Pacific University. Then, she earned her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of Washington.

"It is important to take a holistic approach to educational issues, especially for underrepresented populations and marginalized populations," said Strong, explaining why she went into her field. "Psychology and education are the perfect fit to look at education in a holistic approach."

She wanted to move back home, so she approached WSU and let them know that if they had any openings to keep her in mind, and that lead to her landing the position.

She's adjusted to living in Pullman well and "loves the small town," but it has been hard on her children to adjust to leaving their schools where they were established with friends and sports. So, her biggest adjustment is helping her children, "leaving their secure environment."

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