

WSU Native American Programs: February 2017 Newsletter

Table of Contents

[Letter from the Director](#)

[Rosebud Tribal Member Getting Recognition as WSU Football Video Coordinator](#)

[Nez Perce Student Hones his Leadership Skills on Campus](#)

[Indigenous Research Wanted for Upcoming Conference](#)

[Native Center News](#)

[Recruitment Corner: Native Youth Exploring Higher Education](#)

[NYEHE 2017](#)

[Indigenous Research Workshops and Conferences Held at WSU](#)

Letter from the Director

February 10, 2017 [faith.price](#)

by Barbara Aston

Who are we as Native people? We know that our students, staff, and faculty represent diverse tribes, backgrounds, and experiences. The academic setting is an environment that challenges each of us in our identity as Native people as well as our values and world views.

Through Native programming, we strive to support our students, all of our students, as they face these challenges and grow in an understanding of themselves. We seek to affirm their individual strengths and aspirations and their tribal sovereignty and cultures. This time is but one phase in what we hope will be a journey as a “life-long learner.”

We are not alone in this effort. The Native American Advisory Board to the President is committed to working with our President, Provost, and WSU leadership to strengthen the educational opportunities for Native Americans. We recognize as well how important each of you, parents, tribal coordinators and educators, extended family members, allies and friends are to the success of our programs and our students. Thank you for your part in holding up our students and our efforts!

Last fall, WSU was part of a case study for research conducted by the Regional Educational Laboratory at Education Northwest. This research was conducted in response to needs identified by the Northwest Tribal Educators Alliance in collaboration with ATNI (Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians) Education Committee. This research examines how Native students, K-20, are being identified by their educational institutions, how that data is reported, and the impact that these numbers have on services available and provided to Native students. The final documents for their research can be found at: <http://bit.ly/tribal-educators-alliance>. These documents are available to inform people of the issues around identifying Native students. Your comments are welcome! All documents are available for use within schools, universities, tribes, professional organizations, governmental agencies, etc. and can be modified with your organization/tribe’s logo/template. This is an important issue for us to address at every level and I consider it an area for exercising sovereignty in education.

At WSU, we make every effort to identify Native students and inform them of our services and invite them to benefit from our services and the opportunities at WSU. We will continue to do so. We have been in conversation with our own institutional research team at WSU and they are working with us to support our goal of improving the identification of Native students.

I hope that you enjoy the newsletter and also hope that spring is right around the corner!

Rosebud Tribal Member Getting Recognition as WSU Football Video Coordinator

February 10, 2017 [faith.price](#)

by Edmund Frazier Myer

Kevin Night Pipe, video coordinator for WSU football was honored with the 2016 Pac-12 video coordinator of the year award.

“It’s nice and it’s been very humbling to get some recognition for what you do,” Night Pipe said regarding his recent accomplishment.

A lot of people have reached out to congratulate him. He said that his junior high principal sent an email to congratulate him.

“I’m 47 years old. I haven’t been in junior high for a long time,” Night Pipe said.

Night Pipe was born in Rosebud, South Dakota, and is an enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. He said that as a person who is light skinned, but “with a full-blood name (Night Pipe), it was kind of tough growing up sometimes. When we lived on the reservation I got it from both ways.”

“But I know who I am, and I know where I come from,” Night Pipe said. “Who my people are and who I am has always been a source of pride for me.”

“I think it gives people unique perspective when they find out who I am,” Night Pipe said.

He said that he was inspired by his parents, as both earned degrees in higher education.

He graduated from high school in Madison, S.D. It’s on the eastern side of the state.

“When I originally graduated high school, I wanted to be a coach and a teacher,” Night Pipe said.

While taking a course at South Dakota State University, he realized teaching was not going to be for him. Night Pipe started to look for something that fit him better, and back in the early 90s MTV was huge. He said that originally he wanted to be “a sound man for a rock band.”

He took notice of the fact that these music videos were done by professional camera and audio crews, and were starting to become a big thing on TV, so that’s when he enrolled in a video and music production course in Denver at the Colorado institute of Art.

Night Pipe said, “That’s where I got my first real hands-on experience with video and audio.”

He ended up moving back to South Dakota, and transferring to the University of South Dakota where he earned his undergrad in ’95, majoring in both political science and mass communication.

Night Pipe had a high school friend who played on the football team at USD, and Night Pipe knew somebody had to tape their practices, so he questioned his friend about who does the team’s video for the coaching staff. As it turned out, the team had just gone through a head coaching change, and his persistence paid off, because they gave him a call.

Night added, "That's where I got my first taste."

After doing that for three years, Night Pipe said, "I got my real big break after that when my cousin, Jerome Souers, got the head coaching job at Northern Arizona."

Night Pipe moved to Arizona and worked as a graduate assistant video coordinator for the program down there for two years under his cousin, who is still the head coach of that program today.

Then he applied for this job here at Washington State and has worked for the football team since 2001. He said a lot has changed in his 16-year tenure as video coordinator. He said that since his recent honoring more people have been asking him about what it is video coordinators do.

A lot has changed in the video industry since he began, said Night Pipe, and everything is a lot faster. Just like with most technology, "everything is computerized now. Everything is digital."

When he first started out they were recording to VHS tapes. Now everything is recorded to SD cards.

"We don't shoot with anything that has tape anymore," Night Pipe said. "Now we just pop the cards on the computer and upload the video that way."

He and his crew have a host of job requirements on a day-to-day basis, including maintaining the video database of opponents, and of what the Cougs do at practice and in games. They also keep a recruiting database as well.

And coaches have access to pull up any video that they want to see and use to both teach and formulate game plans from their meeting room or office on their computer or iPad.

During practice his team, which includes six cameras operators, films the drills. Then, they take the SD cards and get everything in the system, and within ten minutes of when the coaches walk off the field, the coaches can go to the computer or tablet and watch what happened at practice that day.

During games the crew only shoots two camera angles: the sideline on the 50-yard line high up in the press box, and an end zone where they're stationed on top of the football complex, behind the ZZU crew.

After the game, he and his co-workers take the game video and break it down to offense, defense, and special teams and then even more, including punt, punt return, kickoff, kickoff return, field goal and field goal block.

Then they take it a step further and clip together each play's sideline shot and end zone shot so they are in the same file and easier for the coach to access. The job may seem meticulous, but for Night Pipe it has become routine.

Night Pipe said the hardest part of his job is "there's always pressure" to have the film ready in a timely matter for the coaches.

Especially after a loss, coaches are going to want to see what happened because they can't waste any time for a teaching moment. On away games they have to have the video ready to watch on the iPads before they get on the airplane.

Although he loves his job, it does require a lot of time on the road, and holidays away from family.

Night Pipe said, "It's different when you spend Christmas and Christmas Eve in a hotel room, instead of being at home, like 95 percent of people."

At practice, he has eight students working for him, 6 of them are shooting cameras and you have to make sure that they're doing their jobs and not missing anything.

Night Pipe said nobody wants to have to explain to a coach why something was missed at practice. If an opportunity to get it on tape is missed, "once it's gone, it's gone."

When the coaches have meetings, Night Pipe has to be ready to fix any video or IT problems.

Even though he has a lot of responsibilities, he said, "It beats working for a living, I've had to work and it isn't fun."

Night pipe said he's been "very fortunate" to work under four different head coaches: coach Price, coach Doba, coach Wulff, and now coach Leach.

"Everybody has been awesome to work with since day one," Night Pipe said.

Nez Perce Student Honors his Leadership Skills on Campus

February 10, 2017 [faith.price](#)

by Edmund Frazier Myer

Shelby Leighton, 21, Nez Perce, maintains a busy schedule as a senior at Washington State University, mentor for the Native American Student Center and chair of Ku-ah-mah student organization.

Leighton comes from a family of "Cougs." Both his parents, his aunts, uncle, and grandpa all attended WSU. So the decision to attend WSU was an easy one for Leighton.

He said that he went to a lot of games in Pullman growing up. He recalls coming to games when the basketball team made its historic sweet-16 season, and when Klay Thompson led the squad into the NIT. So he was familiar with campus before arriving as a freshman.

Initially, when enrolling as a freshman he said he wanted to study to be a doctor and was focusing on pre-med.

"There were certain diseases I wanted to look at, and maybe try to help solve or at least help contribute in some way," Leighton said.

Knowing he wanted to pursue that specific line of work, Leighton said he knew he had to get into a lab and start doing research. He spent the 2015 summer in Pullman at a muscle mechanics lab studying skeletal muscle, and was rewarded by having some of his research published in the Journal of Physiology.

Last year, however, Leighton changed majors. He said being at the stage where he was unsure of his future career was a hard time in his life, as it is for most students trying to figure out what they want to do after college, but he knew that he wanted to somehow be able to use his degree to go back and help his community.

"My source of wanting to be a doctor in the beginning was to come back to my community and help my people and other people in general," Leighton said.

When looking at the best way he could help people, it came down to wanting to get into business or law, and he decided that business may be the best way for him to directly help people.

Leighton knows that with his tribe and many others, the executive and higher-up positions in tribal departments are often filled by non-tribal members.

"It's not that they're not deserving of a job, but I think there is kind of a missing element not knowing the cultural background as much," Leighton said. "I'm sure they go through training or some type of exercise to learn it (Native culture), but not being a tribal person is a bit of a disadvantage for those businesses."

Leighton said his goal is to become a tribal person in an executive role. He hopes to come a strong leader and "help those communities prosper."

Now, Leighton is certified as a business management major and is on track to graduate December 2017. In addition to being a full-time student and taking multiple business classes, he is also a mentor for new Native students, chair of Ku-Ah-Mah, and part of the WSU Tribal Nation Building Leadership Program.

“The first year and a half I was pretty disconnected, and I wanted to get more involved in the community,” Leighton said.

He started by filling in for a former mentor who studied abroad for a semester. He said it was kind of tough because the mentees had already built relationships with their prior mentor, but it was the opportunity that he was looking for to get more involved.

He’s mentored for the past two years. As a mentor Leighton invites new Native Cougs to the Native American Student Center and helps them feel welcome. For a lot of students who are new to campus, having a familiar face makes them comfortable. He said that he enjoys being able to meet with them and interact throughout the year.

He also helps ensure that the Native students are aware of the resources available to them, whether it’s through Native American Programs or through other outlets. He explains that a lot of students are unaware of what is offered, such as tutoring, advising, counseling, scholarships, and activities both at the Native Center and on the campus at large. Some students know about certain resources but they don’t always know where to start, so another part of Leighton’s role is help answer these question and point them in the right direction.

Leighton said that it’s important to have another Native American welcome new Native students to campus “because we are such a small community.” He acknowledges that all Native students don’t have the same circumstances, but being a tribal person they probably felt the same way, or had a similar upbringing.

“It’s hard to get them to open up and be fully unreserved about what they are going through,” Leighton said.

Being a mentor has taught him to be persistent, and has helped him develop different methods of interacting with individuals.

Leighton said, “There is a lot of potential in the Native Programs and the effect that it can have on the WSU community and the Native community itself.”

“I think the tribal students here should really be willing to get involved, and start exploring their own interests and getting direct experience from that,” Leighton said. “That’s the best way for them to develop themselves.”

Leighton is also the chair of Ku-Ah-Mah, an ASWSU committee and one of the Native American organizations here on campus. As chair his main role is to coordinate and organize the annual round dance, Pah-loots-puu powwow, and various other cultural events the organization hosts throughout the year. He’s also attends the ASWSU budget meetings and presents the current status of the committee and what their future goals are.

He said that things such as running meetings, giving presentations, understanding budgets, and being in correspondence with advisors and people in Student Involvement has all helped with the learning curve he had to get over to understand more business management situations.

After he finishes his undergrad, Leighton wants to pursue an MBA and gain more knowledge of how the industry works, then go back in work within his community.

He expects to be in a management position for some type of business or organization, and plans to use the skills he's developing now in college to help him become a better leader in the future. He hopes to one day go to different tribes and help them.

Indigenous Research Wanted for Upcoming Conference

February 10, 2017 [faith.price](#)

by Faith Price

The WSU student chapter of the Society of Indian Psychologists will be hosting its 3rd Annual Indigenous Research Conference on April 1, 2017. They are currently accepting proposals from potential presenters.

“The conference expands on one of SIP’s missions which is to advocate for unique mental health needs of all indigenous people, particularly Native Americans,” said SIP president, Greg Urquhart.

The conference is an opportunity for students, staff and faculty to present their research on indigenous health, social sciences and education. For the past two years, it has drawn presenters from universities throughout the region.

“I’m excited for the fact that so many disciplines can share knowledge across the board,” said Urquhart. “It’s going to better our community. Too often we get focused in our own disciplinary bubble and don’t see how our fields intersect.”

This year’s keynote speaker will be Dr. Zoe Higheagle Strong, a professor in WSU’s College of Education. She will be speaking on the topic of indigenous ways of knowing and methodologies.

Interested presenters should send a 250-500 word proposal for a paper or poster session. The proposal should consist of a research abstract and a statement of how your work relates to and benefits Indigenous populations. Submission deadline is March 22nd, 2017.

The conference is open to all, but the organizers do ask for you to RSVP as they will be providing lunch for all attendees. For more information or to submit a proposal please contact graduate Greg Urquhart at greg.urquhart@wsu.edu.

Native Center News

February 10, 2017 faith.price

by Kay Kay Weso

Spring term is in full effect and we have been very engaged in activities, learning, and sharing food. Our first event in January was to help students get scholarship ready with our Essay Extravaganza. Faith taught insider tips and tricks to getting your scholarship essay noticed and our event included brainstorming and writing time to help everyone get a good start on their statements.

February has been very packed with activities that started at the Academic Success and Career Center's (ASCC) annual Etiquette Dinner in the CUB Senior Ballroom. There was a fashion show, dos and don'ts of the business lunch, dinner, or event, real life stories, and a four-course meal. At the end of the dinner, some students won a gift card to Kohl's or WSU professional swag.

Our First Friday Feed was a unique Vietnamese soup known as Pho. Pho is homemade beef bone broth that simmered for six hours, rice noodles, sirloin steak, bean sprouts, basil, and limes, and this soup was a hit! If you have not tried this soup, try the restaurants Oasis or Red Bento in Pullman to experience it. WSU's Alcohol and Drug Counseling, Assessment, and Prevention Services (ADCAPS) came to present information about Healthy Relationships and Substance Abuse and it was an interesting conversation and was the longest presentation to date.

In collaboration with the Academic Success and Career Center, Judy Hopkins, their Internship Coordinator, donated her time to talk to students about summer jobs and internships. We enjoyed homemade hot cocoa and cookies and she took the time to find out what our students are passionate about while offering her professional insight. We are so glad that she spent time in our center.

On Valentine's Day, we provided sugar cookies, frostings, and various toppings for students to enjoy. Many made cookies for their special valentine. The following evening we met for the spring term community dinner. We invited special guests from the Nimipuu Protecting the Environment and Friends of the Clearwater groups. These organizations promote information about preservation of land, animals, and contribute to the positivity of the Palouse region. We were able to provide local salmon from the Snake River for the menu.

Our next event is Cedar Headband Making with Anthony Choke. He is a current WSU student who is graduating this term with a degree in Business. Anthony learned this skill from his family and the cedar is hand-harvested and prepared by his grandmother. The event will be held in Cleveland Hall 21C on Tuesday, February 21st from 2-4 pm. Please join us.

As always, I am here for you when you need me.

Sincerely,

Kay Kay

Recruitment Corner: Native Youth Exploring Higher Education

February 10, 2017 [faith.price](#)

by Autumn Jones

WSU Native American Programs is hosting the Native Youth Exploring Higher Education (NY'EHE) summer camp July 17-21. Forty Native American students entering ninth and tenth grade in the fall of 2017 will attend a five-day camp held on the WSU Pullman campus. This camp is made possible by support from the Bonneville Power Administration.

The camp is free for participants and the goal is to get them excited about higher education early in their high school career, as well as stimulate an interest in professions they can take back to their tribes. A variety of workshops will focus on hands-on activities designed to engage and stimulate camp participants in various fields. Students also will gain the experience of living in a college environment, including sleeping in a residence hall with a roommate, eating at the dining facilities, utilizing the student recreation center, and engaging with current WSU students who serve as camp staff.

Camp information is available at native.wsu.edu, 509-335-8618, or native@wsu.edu.

NYEHE 2017

[Native Youth Sports Summit](#)

Native American Programs invites students to campus on April 21, 2017 to hear insider advice on playing college sports from successful Native athletes during the Native American Youth Sports Summit, followed by the WSU Cougar Baseball game.

A panel of WSU athletes will share their experiences in college athletics with Sports Summit participants and share the realities of playing sports at a collegiate level. All students attending the Native Youth Sports Summit will receive complimentary admission to the WSU vs. UW baseball game.

The event is open to students in grades 6-12. To assure that we have tickets for everyone, please pre-register for the Sports Summit online at native.wsu.edu/outreach/sportssummit.html.

Indigenous Research Workshops and Conferences Held at WSU

February 10, 2017 [faith.price](#)

On January 21 and February 1, Asst. Director Dr. Ken Lokensgard led discussions on collaborative, ethical, and effective research with Indigenous communities and students. Plateau Center Research Fellow and Educational Psychology faculty member, Dr. Zoe Higheagle Strong (Nez Perce) addressed Indigenous Research Methods. Nakia Williamson and Josiah Pinkham, of the Nez Perce Tribe Cultural Resources Program, opened the meetings, discussed tribal research protocols, and offered important insights throughout the workshops.

Workshop attendees represented thirteen different departments or programs. They were from both WSU and the University of Idaho. Those participants from WSU were from four different campuses or sites across the state. Five tribes were represented. Attendees were administrators, staff, faculty, graduate students, undergraduates. Among them, there was also a First Nations person from Canada, visiting campus in anticipation of beginning a graduate degree here. We at the Plateau Center and at the Graduate School are grateful for everyone's participation and support. This was the third in a series of workshops sponsored by the Plateau Center and the WSU Graduate School devoted to Native American graduate student recruitment and mentoring as well as collaborative research with tribes. Each of the workshops is intended for faculty, staff, and researchers. They are supported by the [PNW-COSMOS Alliance](#) (funded in part by NSF AGEP-T grant #1432910).

Cindy Gamble (Tlingit), MPH, of [Partnerships for Native Health](#), participated in the Indigenous research workshops via Skype. Partnerships is based in Seattle, and is part of WSU's Initiative for Research and Education to Advance Community Health (IREACH). The Partnership's [mission](#) is to "conduct community centered research, training, education, and outreach to improve the health and quality of life of American Indian and Alaska Native populations." We, at the Plateau Center, look forward to conversations about possible collaborations.

The next event related to these workshops is the [Indigenous Research Conference](#), to be held at the Plateau Center on April 1. This conference is organized by the WSU Chapter of the Society for Indian Psychologists, and it is supported by the Plateau Center and the Pacific Northwest [Center for Mestizo and Indigenous Research and Engagement](#). During this conference, which features presentations by faculty, students, and independent scholars, attendees can see many of the topics addressed at the workshops manifested in a variety of research projects.

As always, we encourage members of the tribal communities, graduate students, and faculty members, and staff, who are interested in responsible, collaborative research or who simply want to know more about the Plateau Center and activities such as those describe here to contact us. You can reach Dr. Ken Lokensgard at kenneth.lokensgard@wsu.edu or at 509-335-1055.