

WSU Native American Programs: September 2019 Newsletter

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EXCEL Camp Builds Relations Between Native Youth and Higher Ed

September 23, 2019 [faith.price](https://www.facebook.com/faith.price)

by Tony Brave, Native American Outreach Coordinator

Once again Exploring College Emerging Leaders (EXCEL) Camp will soon be underway! EXCEL is a weekend-long camp on WSU's Pullman campus, designed for Native High School students, in junior and senior standing, to get connected with the opportunities and services available to them at WSU. Students will explore various fields of study, get to meet current Native students and staff (as well as other like-minded youth), join in on college-wide activities, and get all the hot tips on scholarship writing and the college application process. It's totally FREE for all students. All they have to do is apply online! <https://native.wsu.edu/excel/>



Native American high school juniors and seniors are invited to attend the 2019 EXCEL Conference at WSU.

Overall, the camp is packed with engaging opportunities that are designed to be relevant to Native youth. We have a welcoming, warm and active Native community here at WSU. With EXCEL we set aside special time to visit our Native American Student Center, to familiarized participants with our community, staff and services. Although there are many benefits to having such a large campus as we do, it can be a bit overwhelming at times and we want to make sure prospective students know there is always a safe and supportive space in our center to be themselves, and to get any help they might need in their educational journey.

Speaking of support, all of the counselors for the camp are current Native student ambassadors who remember exactly what it's like to be wondering what their next steps in education are going to be, and are excited to help youth achieve their dreams. Participants will have the chance to ask them about their all of their experiences as Native students at WSU in our student panel time too.

There are, of course, more opportunities to engage with our community this year as participants will join in on the annual community Round Dance in the Gladish Community and Cultural Center, as well as more chances to spend time with our staff. For example, our wonderful Director Faith Price will lead a scholarship writing workshop to that ensures participants have the inside scoop on what scholarship review committees are looking for.



EXCEL 2019 students film a broadcast of the WSU Nightly News during a workshop with the College of Communication.

Participants want to know what it is like to be a college student at WSU, what it's like to be in the classrooms and what it's like to work closely with faculty. For this we have workshops lead by several faculty members and practitioners in a variety of fields, from engineering to the health sciences. One of the highlights every year for EXCEL is on Saturday morning, the participants don a lab coat and goggles and get swept up in a whirlwind of different exciting hands-on labs to explore the STEM fields. The faculty here are extremely passionate about what they do, and when students experience this first-hand, it can truly make the difference in whether or not they want to continue in those fields.

The best advice for students choosing where they want to go is to actually visit, to experience what it is actually like to be on a particular campus. EXCEL is a free opportunity to be able to do just that. The participants (and the staff) have a great time every year, and we all are looking forward to having another incredible group join us again this year!

Indigenous Peoples' Day to be Celebrated October 14 at WSU

September 23, 2019 [faith.price](#)

by Faith Price, Director of Native American Student Services

Washington State University will celebrate its 2nd annual Indigenous Peoples' Day on Monday, October 14, 2019.

President Kirk Schulz signed a proclamation last fall declaring the 2nd Monday in October Indigenous Peoples' Day for all WSU campuses.



Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Mary Jo Gonzales presents student leaders with the Indigenous Peoples' Day proclamation signed by President Schulz at last year's events.

“Indigenous Peoples' Day offers an opportunity to celebrate the thriving culture and value that Indigenous peoples add to our university,” reads the proclamation in part.

There are several ways for the WSU community to join the celebration on October 14! WSU Vancouver will be honoring Native community members with a noontime event on their campus.

On the Pullman campus, Native American Programs will be setting up a tipi on the Todd Steps and passing out educational information from 9a-4p. At noon there will be a welcome from the reigning Miss Pah-Loots-Puu who represents WSU's powwow, Jaissa Grunlose (Yakama Nation), a junior in business administration. Over the noon hour, there will be rounddancing on the mall.

Also that day, the Hillside Café in collaboration with the Ku-ah-mah Native Student Association will be holding an [Indigenous Celebration](#) featuring food from a variety of Native American cultures. The lunch will be available for purchase in the Hillside Café from 11 am -1:30 pm.

WSU Pullman is located on the ancestral homelands of the Palus people and on the ceded lands of the Nimípuu (Nez Perce) Tribe. Everyone is welcome to attend the Indigenous Peoples' Day festivities and learn a little something about the local Tribes and the WSU Native community!

PULLMAN EVENT SCHEDULE:

8:15 am – Tipi setup, Todd Steps

9 am – Tabling on Todd Steps (til 3:30pm) by WSU Native American Programs

11 am – Indigenous Foods lunch at Hillside Café (served til 1:30pm)

12:00 noon – Welcome from Miss Pah-Loots-Puu Jaissa Grunlose, Todd Steps

12:10 – Rounddancing (til 1pm) on the Terrell Mall

3:30pm – Tipi takedown

4pm – Done!

Nez Perce Student Secures Prime Leadership Position on WSU Pullman Campus

September 23, 2019 [faith.price](#)

by Shana Lombard, Communications Assistant

Venice Guillory-Lacy was elected by students this past spring to serve as the 2019-2020 Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) Vice President. Her running mate and now GPSA President is Ralph Chikhany. Together the two ran on a platform aimed at uplifting student voices and finding avenues for change for graduate students to navigate their educational journeys more easily, the “clear choice for student voice.”

“We just really wanted to illuminate the voices of graduate students; advocate and allow them to understand there are policies that are affecting them and that they do have a choice and that we can make positive change,” Guillory-Lacy said.



Venice Guillory-Lacy was elected vice president of the Graduate and Professional Student Association.

Guillory-Lacy grew up in Lapwai, Idaho on the Nez Perce Reservation. She is a descendant of Chief Piles-Of-Cloud. She earned her bachelor’s from the University of Idaho in 2003 and later a

master's degree in education also from U of I in 2013. Between degrees, Guillory-Lacy taught high school classes in the San Francisco Bay area as well as multiple college classes at Northwest Indian College at their Nez Perce location.

Guillory-Lacy is a PhD student in the Cultural Studies and Social Thought program. Her dissertation is on women of color in K-12 administration. By studying women in administrative roles in the education system, she hopes to shine light on the experiences women of color have undergone in these roles.

“My hope is really to see what women of color go through, their actual lived experiences and actual voices of what’s going on. They can be positive; they can be things we can change. Maybe bring in more support for women of color principals and administrators.”

Guillory-Lacy feels her work on campus as the GPSA Vice President keeps her connected to her fellow Cougs.

“In this phase of my PhD and writing my dissertation, it is a very isolating time, you’re not in class anymore, you meet with your committee... You don’t go to class; you don’t see people. You could be at home writing or just be on campus to work and then leave. You don’t really see your cohort. So I thought this was the best time to get connected, get involved with what’s going on in the university and be really advocating for grad students at the same time as writing my dissertation,” she said.

Guillory-Lacy knows she isn’t alone about not feeling connected to the campus climate while working on graduate work.

“It’s not really talked about. The mental health impact that graduate students go through when writing a dissertation and the pressure of getting this degree while at the same time being isolated,” Guillory-Lacy said.

Good mental health is one big initiative her executive team hopes to bring to its constituents. GPSA is working with WSU administrators to make mental health resources more available to graduate students such as counseling, therapy and psychiatry.

Another barrier Guillory-Lacy talked about was college accessibility in general for non-traditional students and how GPSA plans to address these concerns. As a mother to three children, she knows firsthand the hardships one might have to go through to obtain such a degree while a parent.

“I always think about being a parent. I have three children and it’s hard to go back to school when you have kids. If there are ways we can lessen the barriers for single moms, married couples, people who are coming back to school after many years of working, to try to eliminate and find ways to support people who are going back to school, [then we hope to do that].”

As for being a proud Nez Perce on campus, Guillory-Lacy makes sure to bring her teachings with her on campus as the GPSA Vice President. She acknowledges the teachings she was raised with.

“I want to use what I learned from being home elsewhere, to spread what they’ve taught me: resilience, strength, wisdom,” she said. “I’m excited to advocate for grad students and to represent my community, Lapwai and the Nez Perce people, in a positive way and to make my family and ancestors proud.”

Native Student Retreat Gets Cougs Out on Lake Coeur d'Alene

September 23, 2019 [faith.price](#)

by Faith Price, Director of Native American Student Services

Shouts of “Go Cougs!” echoed across Lake Coeur d’Alene as seventeen students on stand-up paddle boards glided across the water during the first annual Native Student Retreat September 14th and 15th.

“It was a lot of fun!” said sophomore Kamapolani Garcia (Tohono O’odham/White Mountain Apache). “It was a good bonding experience, too.”



Students paddle “the Beast” around Lake Coeur d’Alene during the WSU Native Student Retreat.

Native Programs partnered with the WSU Outdoor Rec Center to offer a weekend of hiking, paddle boarding and camping. The group of hardcore outdoor enthusiasts gathered at 7am on Saturday to board vans and drive up to the lake.

First on the agenda was a hike up the three-mile picturesque Indian Cliffs trail with fabulous views of Lake Coeur d’Alene. After a picnic lunch and getting warmed up from the hike, a dip in

the lake was in order. Outdoor Rec staff did a quick demo of how to use a stand-up paddle board and away the group went! One group of nine adventurous paddlers jumped on the biggest paddle board you've ever seen, aptly named "the Beast."

"It involved a lot of teamwork," said Garcia. "I thought we did really good because we didn't fall in once. It was a roller coaster of emotions. You were a little worried you would fall but then all together, we were like 'No!'"

After an hour or so out on the water on paddleboards, Cheffrey Sailto from the Coeur d'Alene Tribe's language department joined the group with traditional watercraft for the students to try. He brought four of the Tribe's Salishan Sturgeon-Nose canoes and one racing canoe.

"I loved how we got to go out on canoes and also hear about the history of them," said senior Kyra Antone (Coeur d'Alene/Tohono O'odham). "That's super important. It wasn't just fun, it was a learning experience."

Students and staff spent the rest of the afternoon paddling and playing games before heading to the campground to set up their tents. The evening found the group roasting hot dogs and s'mores on the campfire and playing stickgame by the light of headlamps.

"It was great for all of us to get good medicine away from everything," said junior Dominick Joseph (Tulalip). "Especially being out on the water."



Seventeen students, pictured here with staff from Native Programs and Outdoor Rec, attended the first annual retreat.

Washington State Chapter of Alpha Pi Omega Celebrates National Sorority Turning 25

September 23, 2019 [faith.price](#)

by Shana Lombard, Communications Assistant

Twenty five years ago at UNC-Chapel Hill, the country's first Native American-based Greek letter organization formed with the intent to generate a much-needed sisterhood for Indigenous women at a university level.

As the organization reached its silver anniversary, the WSU Provisional Chapter of Alpha Pi Omega Sorority, Inc (formerly WSU Expansion Chapter) brought the celebration to the Palouse with Foundations Week, a week dedicated to honoring the organization and all it has done for its membership.



Alpha Pi Omega WSU Chapter members. Back row (l-r): Isabel Walker, Elsie Cree, Hailey Crow. Front row (l-r): Kaitlin Srader and Shana Lombard. (photo courtesy of APiO)

The WSU Chapter of Alpha Pi Omega formed in the spring of 2018. They are the first Native American sorority at any university in the state.

The 25th anniversary events consisted of passing out cupcakes with post-it notes of encouragement, hosting a “Powwow Sweat” workshop and a yoga workshop. Kaitlin Srader (Navajo), Chapter President, said the week is to honor all aspects of the Sisterhood. Srader is a founding chapter sister of the sorority.

“A couple of our events honor different pillars of the sorority,” Srader said adding that the other events honor other aspects of being Indigenous.

Shana Lombard (Cowlitz), another founding chapter sister, added that the other events are more for the celebratory aspect of potlatch, or giving away items to thank those who partake in the celebration of a milestone. Hailey Crow (Suquamish) donated one pair of earrings for an online giveaway the sisters did on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

The sisters are grateful for their presence on campus and the impact they’ve contributed to Washington State University students. Isabel Walker shared how impactful celebrating Foundations Week was for her as a newly initiated sister.

“As a sister, these events meant a lot to me,” said Walker. “Not only did it help us to interact with our fellow students more, but it also helped us to take a moment and look back on all we’ve been able to accomplish in such a short time.”

Stickgame and Indigenous Peoples' Day Coming Up in October!

September 23, 2019 faith.price

by Joelle Edwards, Native American Retention Specialist

The Native American Student Center has some exciting activities planned for the month of October!

First up is our First Friday Feed collaboration with the Asian American Pacific Islander Student Center. Our centers will each be making dishes and bonding over a stickgame lesson. Also joining us will be Evanlene Melting Tallow, WSU Native American Health Sciences outreach and program coordinator. She will be teaching all of us how to play stickgame and speaking with students interested in pre-health fields.



October 14th is Indigenous Peoples' Day and we will be celebrating on WSU's campus all day. In the morning we will be putting up our tipi on the campus mall – anyone who'd like to help is invited! During the lunch hour we will be dancing to round dance songs. Everyone is welcome to join in the celebration. Additionally, our Native student organizations have partnered with Hillside Café, for the second time, to put on an Indigenous Foods lunch. They will be serving up traditional / contemporary Native foods from 11a-1:30p. Be on the lookout for the menu in the next few weeks.

To finish out the month the Center is hosting a few workshops centered around student success. The first one is "FAFSA Prep" on October 17th from 10:30-11:30 am. Students will have the opportunity to start completing their FAFSA for next year with help from our staff and a representative from Student Financial Services. The second workshop is "How to Register for

Classes” featuring James Bledsoe, senior career advisor/coach from the Academic Success and Career Center. He will walk students through step-by-step on how to register for classes and show them tips and tricks to make the process easier. This is great for students who need a refresher.

For up-to-date information follow us on social media:

Facebook: [wsu.nativecenter](https://www.facebook.com/wsu.nativecenter)

Instagram: [wsunativeprograms](https://www.instagram.com/wsunativeprograms)

Twitter: [wsunative](https://twitter.com/wsunative)

Individuals Interested in Native Research Invited to Affiliates and Associates Program

September 23, 2019 [faith.price](#)

by Ken Lokensgard, Assistant Director, Center for Native American Research & Collaborations

A primary focus of the [Center for Native American Research & Collaboration](#) (CNRC) during the 2019/2020 School year is the revitalization of the [Affiliates and Associates Program](#). Affiliate members of this program include WSU faculty, administrative professionals, and staff, as well as members of various tribes. Associate members are scholars at other academic institutions. Together, the Affiliates and Associates will focus their expertise, experience, and engagement on topics related to collaborative research, teaching, and outreach involving Native American communities.

An earlier affiliates program was initiated by Barbara Aston, during her time as Director of Native American Programs. She had expected to expand and refocus the program, which has led to its current incarnation. This new Affiliates & Associates Program first met in the spring of 2019.

On Oct. 27, members will meet again at the [Nez Perce National Historical Park](#) Visitor Center. In this meeting, held in partnership with Nez Perce Tribe members, Affiliates and Associates will focus on the values that inform collaborative Indigenous research. Nez Perce Tribe Cultural Resources representative Josiah Pinkham will also describe the Nez Perce Tribe's research approval process and how it addresses those values. In future meetings, we will partner with other tribes to have similar discussions and to learn about their own research approval processes.

Besides the community meeting described above, Affiliates and Associates will meet each semester on one of the WSU campuses. For more information, please contact CNRC Assistant Director [Dr. Ken Lokensgard](#). You can also read about the various types of membership at our [website](#). Of course, the CNRC continues to serve any faculty researchers developing projects related to Native students and communities, regardless of whether those faculty members are CNRC Affiliates or not.

Other research related activities include a closer relationship with the [Office of Research Assurances](#). The CNRC is now represented on the Social and Behavioral [Internal Review Board](#) for human subjects research, while the [Native American Health Sciences](#) program is represented on the Biomedical Review Board. This helps ensure that any research conducted by WSU employees involving Native American individuals receives proper scrutiny. Meanwhile IRB staff have shown great commitment to making their policies as clear and ethical as possible when it comes to Native American research; they also recognize the need for researchers to gain separate tribal approvals for any work involving tribes.

The CNRC continues to support work beyond its core research mission as well, including development of the **Native American Pre-Health Program** and **Graduate/Professional Student Support**. The Pre-Health program welcomes its second cohort this fall, which includes students from the Colville Confederated Tribes and the Yakima Tribe. These students meet together weekly in study sessions and also meet in biweekly sessions that focus upon topics relevant to their studies.

Second year members of the program are given the opportunity to attend a professional conference. This year, with support from [WSU's Graduate School](#) and the [PNW-COSMOS Alliance](#) for Native American Education and the Professoriate (funded by NSF AGEP-T grant # 1432932), second year students will attend the annual [American Indian Science and Engineering Society](#) National Conference in Milwaukee, WI. There, they will have the opportunity to attend a wide variety of program pertaining to health sciences and professions in Native America. Meanwhile, Native American graduate and professional students continue their work in fields ranging from Communications, to English, to Education, to Veterinary Medicine. Look toward the next newsletter for profiles of some of these amazing students.

Patty Bumgarner

September 23, 2019 [faith.price](#)

May 2019 graduate Patty Bumgarner shares insights into her WSU experience...

Patty Bumgarner

Major/minors: Anthropology

Tribal Affiliation: Cherokee tribe/Colville Confederated Tribes

Hometown: Entiat, Washington



Patty Bumgarner '19

Why did you pick that major/minor? I chose anthropology- specifically forensic anthropology to study skeletal remains within Native populations and how the harsh conditions that were inflicted upon them effected the way they survived.

What was an obstacle you faced while in school and how did you overcome it? I had a baby in my junior year of college, and between studying and taking care of her it became almost impossible. Her dad watched her through the day, while I worked fulltime and was part of the osteology and social media internship my senior year.

What extracurriculars were you involved in while you were at WSU? Osteology internship and Social Media intern for Anthropology

What made your time at WSU most valuable? My time at WSU was most valuable was when I used my skills set working with the three bodies that my group identified. This contributed to my love for forensics and finding closure for families who have lost their loved ones who are unidentified.

Who was a favorite professor and why? Erin Thornton, because she loved bones as much as I did, and encouraged me to pursue a master's.

Favorite part about campus atmosphere? The atmosphere was more conservative than the college I had attended before in New Mexico. I was able to see not only liberal views, but conservative minds put to work as well.

What will you miss most about WSU? I miss interacting with other students, and compiling data on the three bodies we worked on.

What will you miss about Pullman? I will miss Pullman in the fall around campus with its dynamic scenery.

Where are you now in terms of life/career? I will be attending Law School Gonzaga in the fall for constitutional law, to repeal oppressive Indian laws, vaccine mandates and so on.

Advice for students in your degree field? I advise students not to stop at a bachelor's, but pursue a master's or PhD, because it is hard to find a job outside of graduation with this degree.

Kelly McCracken

September 23, 2019 [faith.price](#)

May 2019 graduate Kelly McCracken opens up about her time at WSU...

Kelly McCracken

Major/minors: Athletic training with a minor in psychology

Tribal Affiliation: Afognak Native Corporation

Hometown: Fall City, Washington



Kelly McCracken '19

Why did you pick that major/minor? I chose my major because of my interest in the medical field along with how sports interweave with it. I chose my minor because of my interest in the mental aspects that many people experience and the role that sports can play.

What was an obstacle you faced while in school and how did you overcome it? At my time at WSU an obstacle I faced was homesickness. I overcame this by consistently calling my family back home along with making new friends on campus.

What extracurriculars were you involved in while you were at WSU? Some extracurriculars I was involved in at WSU were the Pre-Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Club, Athletic Training Club including being involved in the board, WSU Club Swim Team, National Society of Leadership and Success, along with other outside athletic training organizations and events.

Who was a favorite professor and why? My favorite professor at WSU was Dr. Morgan for human anatomy because of his love of teaching and passion for seeing students succeed.

What was your favorite Native American Student Center event? My favorite NASC event was more of a program during my transition to WSU. The use of mentors and other events like the first Friday feeds helped with my transition to campus life. Having a mentor reach out before moving to campus helped me to realize the support that would be available to me once on campus.

Favorite part about campus atmosphere? My favorite part about the campus atmosphere was the look of campus and the feel of students returning every fall. I also enjoyed the atmosphere of campus on game days and the pride that alums and fans have for the Cougs.

What will you miss most about WSU? What I miss most about WSU is the friends I have made during my time at WSU, along with the support I received through my major.

What will you miss about Pullman? What I miss most about Pullman is the picturesque wheat fields and sunsets.

Where are you now in terms of life/career? I am currently in Physical Therapy School at Touro University Nevada to earn my Doctor of Physical Therapy Degree.

Advice for students in your degree field? Advice for students in general is to make sure to take time for yourself as needed. I heard something recently that resonated well, "If you don't take a day off then your body will decide a day for you." Also, enjoy your time in Pullman, it is a special place and your time will go faster than you think.