

WSU Native American Programs: February 2020 Newsletter

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Letter from the Executive Director of Tribal Relations

February 28, 2020 faith.price

by Zoe Higheagle Strong, Executive Director of Tribal Relations

This has been an excellent winter of work. I am working closely with the Native American Advisory Board to develop an Executive Policy on Tribal Consultation for WSU. This is vital to honoring the voice of our Native American tribes and people when WSU conducts research or develops programs that impact Native American peoples or lands.

Along with our wonderful staff, Faith Price (Director of Native American Student Services), Dr. Ken Lokensgard (Assistant Director, Center for Native American Research and Collaboration), Joelle Berg (Native American Retention Specialist), Tony Brave (Native American Outreach Coordinator), and Patty lulo (Fiscal Specialist), we have been revisioning and improving our programs/services for Native American students, and believe we are seeing the work payoff. We have had a record number of students attend our events!

As we still mourn, Gloria Atkins, former Education Manager for the Confederated Tribes of Colville, we have lost another special person to Native American Programs. We want to honor the memory of Mr. John "Jack" Creighton who passed away on January 29, 2020. Mr. Creighton, former President and CEO of Weyerhaeuser, with his wife Jan, established the Creighton Family Endowment to support scholarships for Native American students attending Washington State University at the Pullman Campus. The endowment allows for five scholarships to be awarded each year to Native American students.

In addition, a fund was also established for Native American recruitment and retention programming under the direction of WSU Native American Programs. Native Youth Exploring Higher Education (NY'EHE) is one of the programs supported in part through this fund. Each summer NY'EHE has brought as many as 40 Native, 9th and 10th grade youth to the Pullman campus where they experience living in the residence halls and participating in hands-on-workshops that expose them to diverse areas of study and how to prepare for college. The fund has also supported Exploring College Emerging Leaders (EXCEL) designed for Native high school students to prepare for college application, as well as programming for current Native students through the Native American Student Center. Established In 1994, the Creighton Family Endowment has made a significant difference for many Native American students allowing them to achieve their personal education goals as well as return home to serve their tribal communities. My deepest condolences and appreciation goes out to the Creighton family.



NY'EHE 2019 brought 27 students to WSU from all around the region.

Many of you who are reading this letter are also special to Native American Programs and the Tribal Relations Office. Thank you for the numerous ways that you contribute to WSU and support our students. Although my work in the field of education and research can be difficult, I stay inspired by the examples of our students and the support of Native American Tribes and peoples throughout the Pacific Northwest. I pray that our communities will be blessed, continue to heal, and raise many future leaders.

Have a wonderful Spring!

Sincerely,

Zoe Higheagle Strong (Nez Perce)

Executive Director of Tribal Relations/Special Assistant to the Provost and Executive Vice President

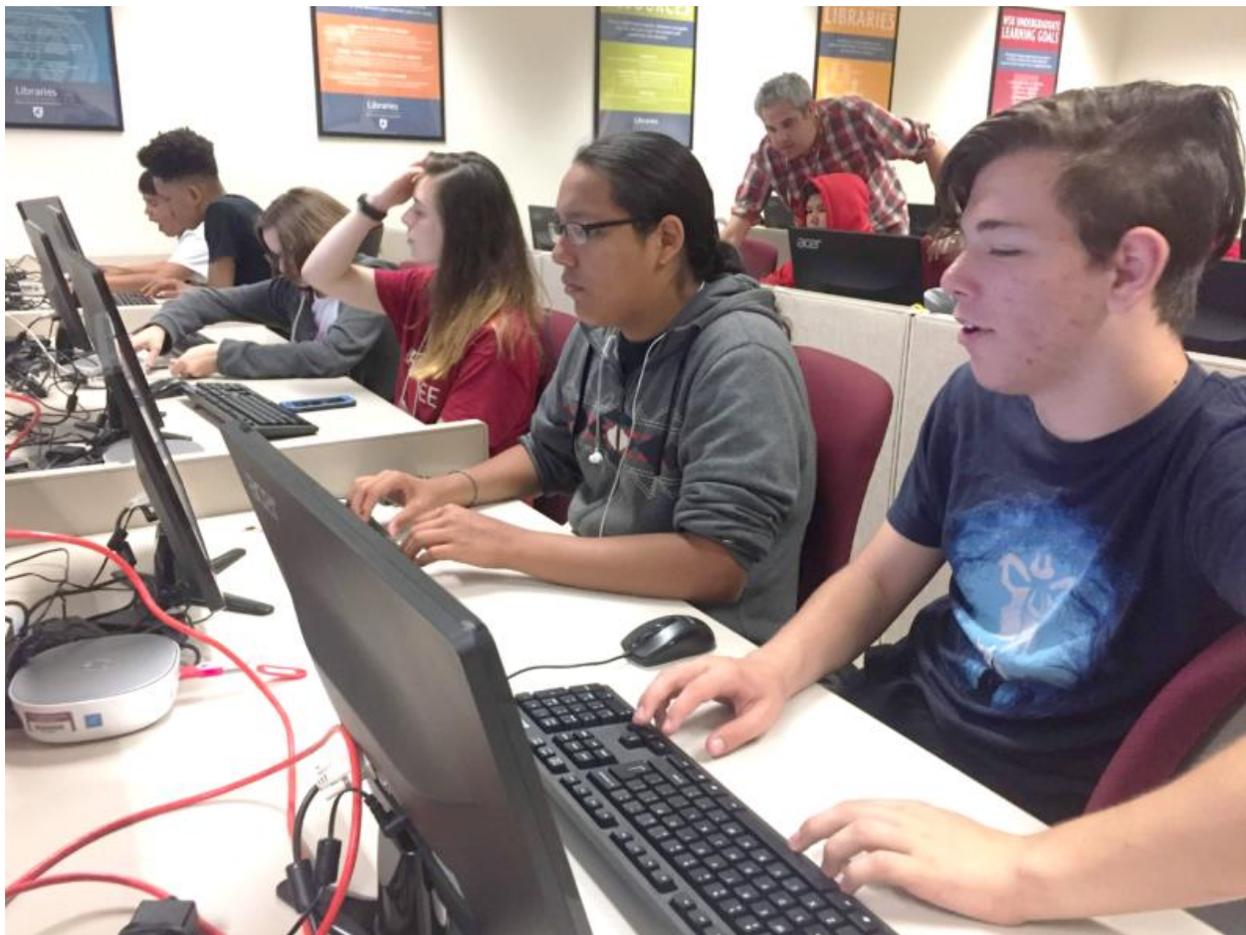
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Native Youth Invited to NY'EHE Summer Camp at WSU

February 28, 2020 [faith.price](#)

by Tony Brave, Native American Outreach Coordinator

Native American Programs is excited to announce our annual Native Youth Exploring Higher Education (NY'EHE) summer camp, from July 13-17, 2019. NY'EHE is a summer camp for Native American high school students from around the greater Pacific Northwest region to have fun and explore opportunities in higher education. Up to thirty Native American students entering ninth and tenth grade in the fall of 2020 will be selected to attend the five-day camp held on the WSU Pullman campus.



NY'EHE participants create their own videogames during the 2019 camp.

The camp is free, and our goals are to get them excited about leadership and higher education, as well as to stimulate their interest in new fields and professions. Throughout the five-day camp, students will participate in a mock tribal council where they will examine topics of interest to today's Tribal nations such as health, education, cultural preservation, resource management, and Tribal sovereignty. They will also get a chance to take a variety of workshops throughout their stay. Some examples of workshops

from last year include traditional salmon roasting, podcasting, videogame making, Native sports, mural painting, and more.



Students prepare salmon to be roasted over fire pits outside the ESFCC during NY'EHE 2019.

Students will also 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. Our department is here to serve Native students, and overall we want the youth to return home knowing that who they are and where they come from are important and greatly valued at WSU and in higher education.

The deadline to apply is June 14th, 2020.

Find more information about the camp at native.wsu.edu/nyehe/ or contact Tony Brave at: 509-335-6718, anthony.brave@wsu.edu.

Native Youth Venture to WSU for Annual Sports Summit

February 28, 2020 [faith.price](#)

by Dominick Joseph, Communications Assistant

Around one hundred and sixty students and twenty-one chaperones traveled to Washington State University this last weekend to experience the annual Native American Youth Sports Summit and Native American Appreciation Basketball Game sponsored by WSU Native Programs and WSU Athletic Marketing.



Jacklyn Brendible (Tsimshian), chair of the ASWSU Ku-ah-mah student organization, and Jaissa Grunlose (Colville), Miss-Pah-Loots-Puu and chair of the Native American Women's Association, welcome the crowd to the annual Native American Appreciation Day basketball game.

Visiting youth experienced WSU women's basketball team take on USC in Beasley Coliseum, where they witnessed a welcome from WSU Native student organization leaders and student ambassadors on the jumbotron.



Mack Strong, former Seattle Seahawk, provided a keynote for the Native Youth Sports Summit.

After the game, participants walked to Bohler Gym to hear a keynote speech by Mack Strong, a former All-Pro fullback for the Seattle Seahawks. Mack shared his insight on what he has learned from his professional career and that hard work, relationship-building, and dedication are the primary keys to his success.

Soon after Strong's speech, participants were able to hear from and ask questions of five student-athlete panelists. They shared their experience of what it takes to be a successful student-athlete at Washington State University. The student panel included Kelis Barton from soccer, Breanna Roney (Lumbee) from rowing, Penny Tusa from volleyball, and Cassidy Woods and John Bledsoe from football.

After the panel, participants had the option to take a tour across campus and see all the possibilities Washington State University has to offer.

Following the long, eventful day, the participants were then able to watch the WSU men's basketball game against the Stanford Cardinals. WSU gave them a good run but eventually fell short 57-75.

Kenzie Thompson Sheldon (Tulalip) youth visitor said that her favorite part of the whole experience was “Meeting one of the college athletes, that gave me advice about getting into colleges. She told me to reach out to colleges as soon as possible and tell them everything about me.”



Student athletes shared their experience at WSU with the attendees of the Native Youth Sports Summit.

The Native Youth Sports Summit is more than just a basketball game. It is bringing Native youth to campus, exposing them to higher education, showcasing personal stories, and helping them see that college is a possibility at WSU. This is an annual event and is open to 6th-12th graders, It is free to students and their family members.

Native Center Sponsors Snowshoeing Adventure on Moscow Mountain

February 28, 2020 [faith.price](https://www.fairfax.edu/faith-price)

by Joelle Berg, Native American Retention Specialist

Once again, Native American Programs collaborated with WSU Outdoor Rec Center and took a group of students snowshoeing! Students did not have class on Monday, February 17th due to President's Day and so we took this opportunity to take a weekday field trip.



The snowshoeing crew pausing for a photo at the top of the East Peak of Moscow Mountain. (L-R): Jamie Kness, Kamapolani Garcia, Joelle Berg (retention specialist), Faith Price (director), Austin Kickingwoman, and Aaron Burns.

“I loved it!” said first-year student Jamie Kness (Navajo). “It was such a nice way not only to exercise but also see more of the area around WSU.”

This was an awesome experience for students because none had ever gone snowshoeing before. It was a chance to explore nearby Moscow Mountain in the winter and learn more about what Outdoor Rec

has to offer. Most of the students attended our Native American Student Retreat in the fall so they were excited to get outdoors again with our program.

“It was something fun to do,” said senior Austin Kickingwoman (Yakama). “I enjoy hiking and it was a great way to witness other aspects of the Pullman area.”



The group hiked about five miles total up on Moscow Mountain and were rewarded with incredible views!

“The views were stunning and was a great way to get your mind off of things,” said sophomore Kamapolani Garcia (Tohono O’odham/White Mountain Apache). “It was also nice to be present in the moment and mindful of the space you are in and not worried about electronics.”

The day was spent laughing, throwing snowballs, eating lunch at the peak, and taking tons of pictures.

“Snowshoeing was fun and the view at the top was breathtaking,” said second year-year Aaron Burns (Fort Mojave) “But it was the journey with friends that made it all worth it... even though they stopped a million times!”

We all admitted that it was way more difficult than we anticipated but definitely paid off! Native American Programs hopes to continue programs such as this one so students can explore the surrounding Pullman/Moscow area and be exposed to new experiences they might not otherwise have.



WSU Students Ignite New Club: Natives in Media

February 28, 2020 [faith.price](https://www.fairfax.com/story/news/2020/02/28/wsu-students-ignite-new-club-natives-in-media/5541210002)

by Dominick Joseph, Communications Assistant

WSU has a new Native student organization – Natives in Media. Weekly club meetings involve discussing topics surrounding Native Americans in the media, such as podcasts, articles, short documentaries, movies, and video games.



Natives in Media club members (l-r): Tony Brave (advisor), Jamie Kness, Fabian Mondejar, Kyra Antone, Kamapolani Garcia, Jaissa Grunlose, and Austin Kickingwoman.

The club was started by Kyra Antone (Coeur d’Alene/Tohono O’odham), a senior majoring in Digital Technology and Culture.

“I am interested in working in digital mediums and have seen the interest with other students in the NASC (Native American Student Center) as well,” said Antone. “We have a space to focus our dialogue on Native people and issues, whether it be to highlight their work or talk about the way that Natives have been represented in media.”

One recent Thursday, the club met at the Center for Digital Scholarship and Curation for a podcast-making workshop taught by Lotus Norton-Wisla. They learned the basics of making a podcast, including how to use equipment like microphones, recording devices, and audio editing software.

The club offers more than practical experience.

“Creating this space for Native students goes beyond just putting a camera into someone’s hand,” adds Antone. “It’s an opportunity to create work by and for Indigenous people, a place to have conversations of how we have been represented in the past and a chance to ensure our voice makes it to the future,” adds Antone.

Natives in Media meets every Thursday on campus in the Native American Student Center at 4:30 pm.

Native Interests Represented on the Institutional Review Board

February 28, 2020 [faith.price](https://www.fairfax.edu)

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

Among the aims of the Center for Native American Research and Collaboration ([CNRC](#)) is to promote quality collaborative research that meets Tribal needs. The CNRC works toward achieving this in several ways. These include participating on the WSU Human Subjects Institutional Review Board and also offering trainings to faculty, staff, and others engaged in work related to the Tribes.



The WSU Institutional Review Board (IRB) reviews research activities conducted by WSU employees involving human subjects. The [IRB website](#) describes the mission of the IRB as follows:

The Institutional Review Board (IRB) for Washington State University (WSU) is responsible for the review and approval of all research activities involving human subjects. The IRB is charged with protecting the rights and welfare of human subjects to ensure that all are treated physically, psychologically and socially in such a way as to minimize embarrassment and stress, and to avoid harm or other negative effects in compliance with the federal, state and university regulations. All research activities involving human subjects conducted by WSU faculty, staff and students must be approved by the IRB regardless of the funding source or location and prior to initiating any portion of the activity.

Given this mission, it is essential that tribal interests are represented with members on the board. Thus, CNRC Assistant Director Ken Lokensgard sits on the part of the board overseeing “social and behavioral” research, and CNRC Director Dr. Zoe Higheagle Strong serves as an alternate member. WSU’s [Native American Health Sciences](#) Director Dr. Naomi Bender (Quechua) sits on the part of the board overseeing “biomedical research,” and Native American Health Sciences Assistant Director of Special Projects Dr. Lonnie Nelson (Eastern Band of Cherokee descendant) serves as an alternate member. Other board

members, such as Dr. Astrid Suchy-Dacey, of Partnerships for Native Health, and Dr. Art Blume (Cherokee), of the Dept of Psychology, help ensure Native interests are protected. Lokensgard, with the help of other board members, has also drafted materials that will guide the IRB in respecting the rights of Native Americans and Tribal sovereignty, in all of its evaluations. These materials are available to anyone who is interested in commenting upon or even adapting it for their own use.

The CNRC also continues to host trainings on ethical research. The last was held on January 30 and was conducted by Drs Higheagle Strong and Lokensgard. The slides for the presentation that began the meeting can be found on the CNRC "[Resources](#)" page. There, anyone who is interested can also find a reading list of texts dealing with Indigenous Research as well as announcements for future events. As always, individuals interested in research ethics, Indigenous Research Methods, and so on, are invited to consider joining the CNRC Affiliates and Associates Program. Information about memberships can be found [here](#).

As has been noted before, the Native American Pre-Health program for undergraduates is currently administered through the CNRC, though it's a part of the larger Native American Programs office. Information about this program is now [available online](#) as well. It is an excellent source of support for Tribal members and descendants, who are interested in the health sciences or professions and who are committed to giving back to their communities. With help from the [Native American Health Sciences](#) office at WSU Spokane and various schools and departments, students in this join a huge network of people committed to their success.

For more information about WSU's Center for Native American Research & Collaboration, or any of its activities, contact Assistant Director [Dr. Ken Lokensgard](#).