



GHC NATIVE PATHWAYS

GHC NATIVE PATHWAYS PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

August 2021

SUMMER QUARTER ENDS, FALL QUARTER NEARS



With Fall Quarter approaching, students ready themselves for Weekend gatherings that feature lecture and group work. (above)

Summer Quarter at GHC ended on August 12 as six weeks of study came to a halt. Many Native Pathways Students, however, were gearing up for Fall Quarter which begins on September 20. Assessing credit accumulation, registration, securing financial aid, and mental preparation occupied the time normally set aside for academics; this summer NPP students were preparing for the fall. NPP students are registering right now and getting ready for the start of classes in September.



GRAYS HARBOR COLLEGE MAIN CAMPUS IN ABERDEEN, WA

NOTABLE UPCOMING DATES

*August 30, Tuition due date for Fall Quarter

*September 20, First Day of Fall Quarter Classes

*Oct. 2, Orientation Longhouse Gatherings

*Nov. 3 & 4 Native Cases Institute Squaxin Island Resort

*Nov. 6 & 7, First Longhouse Gathering (FYE 102 and Humanities classes)

*Dec. 4 & 5, Second Longhouse Gathering (FYE 102)

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The Evergreen State College Longhouse

Two weekends during the quarter GHC Native Pathways Students gather at the Evergreen Longhouse in Olympia, Washington with the upper division Evergreen Native Pathways students for lecture and seminar on Indigenous current events and issues. The Longhouse Gatherings Fall



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GHC Native Pathways Service Area

The GHC Lower division Native Pathways AA program degree serves students from Nisqually, Quinault, Queets, Squaxin Island, Chehalis, Shoalwater Bay/Aberdeen, Tacoma, Suquamish, Puyallup and Makah. Students though from all tribal sites or urban areas are also welcome to join the program.

THE GHC NATIVE PATHWAYS DEGREE PROGRAM

The Grays Harbor College Native Pathways Degree is a direct transfer Associate of Arts (AA) Degree. This degree can be transferred to any four-year college or university, in most cases satisfying the general education degree requirements. An online degree with a hybrid component makes it truly unique and tailored to the students we serve.

GHC Native Pathways Degree

In order to better accommodate our students, GHC has created an **online degree** with a complimentary **hybrid** component. This means that the bulk of the courses for the degree are offered online complemented by face to face instruction two weekends during each quarter. The weekend meetings feature skills classes and seminars using breakout sessions on Indigenous topics, providing the cultural component to the degree. Weekend sessions take place at **The Evergreen State College Longhouse** and are referred to as “**Longhouse Gatherings**” highlighting the challenges presented in Indian Country





Artist Ezekiel Serrano (above)



Ezekiel Serrano Quinault Artist (Eagle Song Carrier Carving above featured in COASTAL CURRENT magazine)

“For the Pacific Northwest Indigenous people, art is a carrier of culture, of tribal legend and history. Art is created in families and connects the community. Most importantly, art is a way of healing, of recovering spiritual roots.” These words by Christine Vincent introduce an article about Quinault artist, Ezekiel Serrano in the spring issue of the COASTAL CURRENT magazine.

The article goes on to explain how Serrano connects his art in this manner, portraying the spiritual history of his tribe and the natural and supernatural environment. His training materialized from his own studies of legends and tribal history and also the teachings of tribal elders, one of whom was Marvin Oliver a renowned Quinault artist and instructor at the University of Washington famous for creating the ‘Seahawk’ logo design used by the Seattle NFL franchise.

Serrano’s Eagle Song Carrier carving pictured above is 6 by 3 feet and is positioned in the Tribal Council Chambers in Taholah, WA. The Eagle is a knowledge keeper and was traditionally carried in ceremonies. Recognition of his artwork includes a 2018 logo design for the Food Sovereignty Coalition comprised of 43 tribes who promote traditional foods.

Besides his ongoing carving and silk screen projects, tribal projects he is currently working on are two steel totems to be mounted at the entrance of the village and a 17 foot version of the Guardian healing statue, a symbol of strength and creativity.



‘Wild Man’ drum image by Ezekiel Serrano

GHC Native Pathways Degree

REASONS TO CHOOSE THE GHC NPP DEGREE

- 1.) Culturally relevant curriculum. 40% of the 90 credits you need for the degree have cultural relevance.
 - 2.) An advisor is immediately available for assistance with admissions, class selection, academic support and more.
 - 3.) The degree articulates with the upper division Native Pathways program at Evergreen, but it is transferrable to most all four year colleges.
 - 4.) Weekend gatherings with upper division Evergreen Native Pathways students enriches the course of study and is a way of introducing GHC students in a welcoming way to a four-year curriculum.
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EVERGREEN NATIVE PATHWAYS GRADUATES HAVE TIES TO GRAYS HARBOR COLLEGE



Arthur Erholm, a former student-athlete at GHC graduated this spring in the Evergreen Native Pathways Degree program and has recently been accepted into the Central Washington University Sports management Masters Degree Program. Arthur lives with his Muckleshoot children and fiancée in Auburn, WA.



Misty Barlan (Pacific Islander) works as the Clerical Assistant in the GHC Native Pathways Degree Program. She also has graduated this spring from the Evergreen Native Pathways Degree Program and has recently been hired as a part time Indian Ed Coordinator for the Aberdeen School District.

Mathew Vargas, Men's Basketball Coach at GHC, has also graduated this spring from the Evergreen Native Pathways Degree Program and has been hired full time as the Athletics Student Success Navigator at GHC. He has already assisted six students with entry into the GHC Native Pathways Degree Program. Matt's background includes extensive work with the Tohono-Odham Tribe in Arizona where he was previously employed.



NATIVE CASES CONFERENCE

The 2021 Enduring Legacies Native Cases Conference will build on more than fifteen years of work developing interdisciplinary teaching case studies on significant issues in Indian Country and offering workshops for educators to network and learn how to use the cases in their classes and staff development. Our interdisciplinary collection of cases covers a wide range of topics applicable to all academic fields. The conference is held at the Little Creek Resort Hotel at Squaxin Island.

Conference contact Barbara Leigh Smith 360.765.3084 or smithb@evergreen.edu

AIIS MEETING

College Native Program educators who make up the membership of the American Indian Indigenous Studies (AIIS) group met again on August 24. AIIS began as part of Green River College's Diversity Education Series and supports expanding American Indian Studies in Washington Community Colleges. A focal point of discussion centered around the formation of a Statewide Native Advisory Board. During the meeting breakout discussion groups formulated ideas connected to mission, vision, and values that would guide this group in support of strengthening Native education initiatives in school districts and colleges in the state of Washington.