



# GHC NATIVE PATHWAYS

Grays Harbor College Native Pathways Program Newsletter

April 2023

**GRAYS  
HARBOR  
COLLEGE  
UPPER  
CAMPUS**



## NATIVE PATHWAYS STUDENTS ENGAGE IN SPRING CLASSES

Spring Quarter is in full swing, and Native Pathways Program students are engaged with their courses of study. Besides the pre-college level courses in Math, English, and Reading, the primary list of spring classes are English 101 & 102, Math 107, Biology 100, Art Appreciation 100, Music 105, Anthropology 216, Humanities 102 and 109. This Associate of Arts Degree articulates with the upper division Native Pathways Degree at The Evergreen State College, but is transferrable to most all four year schools.

The program cohort of 49 students are mainly from all over the Pacific Northwest, but not limited to this geographic area. The online format allows for inclusion without geographic boundaries as long as computer access is available. Another feature of this degree is that the curriculum is culturally relevant making it truly unique and suited to the students it serves.



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## GHC HOSTS GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT SUMMIT

Grays Harbor College hosted a government to government summit on Wednesday, April 26. State Board Director of Tribal Government Affairs, Lynn Palmanteer-Holder, organized the event that featured administrators from six community colleges and SBCTC State Board members. Native leaders from eight different tribal nations were also invited. Kristopher Peters, Squaxin Island Chair and Evergreen State College Board member co-hosted the event. President Ed Brewster and Vice President of Instruction Nicole Lacroix, and incoming President Carli Schiffner were present for GHC. Three GHC board members, Harry Carthum, Astrid Aveledo, and Paula Akerlund also were in attendance.

Administrators and board members from Olympic, South Puget Sound, Centralia, Lower Columbia and Clark Community Colleges were represented, and each college reported out on initiatives and programs they have that support Native students and their education. Grays Harbor College's Native Pathways Degree Program was highlighted during the conference.

Presentations by co-hosts centered on strategies that promoted recognition of Native Nations as sovereign communities and the dynamics and importance of government to government relations in connection with college leaders from these communities. (upper right photo)



Incoming GHC President and former State Board for Community and Technical Colleges Member, Carli Schiffner, (on left) and Summit host, Lynn Palmanteer-Holder (on right) pictured above.



***SBCTC Executive Director, Paul Francis speaks at GHC Government to Government Summit in above photo. Co-host, Kristopher Peters is at far right.***



## CONNECTING NATIVE PATHWAYS AA DEGREE WITH EVERGREEN

This GHC Native Pathways AA Degree Program is also referred to as the “Bridge Program” because it is designed to articulate with The Evergreen State College upper-division Native Pathways Bachelor’s Degree. The GHC Associate of Arts (AA) degree also transfers to any four-year college or university.

## THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE NATIVE PATHWAYS DEGREE

The upper division Native Pathways program offered through Evergreen is open to students who have accumulated 90 credits and have Junior and Senior standing. This program leads to a Bachelor of Arts degree (BA). There is also an online option available. The Evergreen program meets twice a week at five different sites and two weekends at The Evergreen Longhouse each quarter for lecture and seminar. Evergreen’s Native Pathways program is an interdisciplinary Liberal Arts program taught from a Native perspective.



## MEETING EMBRACES STUDENT SUCCESS

Native Education coordinators, school administration, and program directors met at GHC on April 5th to continue discussions about strategies and policies that support Native student success. This body also has plans to act in an advisory capacity with administrative promotion regarding educational policies that affect and support Native students.

Notable attendants were GHC President, Ed Brewster, Vice President of Instruction, Nicole Lacroix, Evergreen State Native Pathways Director, Dawn Barron, Quinault Nation Cultural Specialist Youth Activities Coordinator, Dwayne Capoman, and GHC Native Pathways Degree Coordinator, Gary Arthur.

Topics of discussion included the possible expansion of the Native Pathways Program to connect with Forestry, Natural Resources, Automotive Tech, and Early Childhood Education. The importance of Native voices and support regarding these changes was addressed. Possible Native Days Gatherings at GHC were also discussed as well as campus tours for prospective Native students. A suggestion was made that college speakers visit and present to local schools and tribal nations and that tribal reps should be invited to present on campus.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for the end of May or first part of June.

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## GHC ART COMMITTEE MEETS

.A committee organized to identify and solicit art work for the new instruction building on campus met on April 24th to further discuss the process. Board of Trustee members Astrid Aveledo and Paula Akerlund and President Ed Brewster have taken the lead for this group. Specific spaces for Native Art have been identified and experts in the field of art shared strategies and information regarding the solicitation process during this meeting.



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## GHC INSTRUCTOR SERVES ON COMMITTEE

Tia Allen (Quinault Indian Nation) is a member of the GHC Art Committee. She also is an instructor in the Native Pathways Degree Program. Her teaching assignment addresses the courses with direct cultural relevance in the degree, instructing the hybrid sections of Humanities classes that meet two weekends during the quarter at the Evergreen State College Longhouse with upper division Evergreen students.

## Native Cases Conference Meets in Spokane

On April 25-26 the Enduring Legacies Native Cases Initiative held its first conference in Spokane. Educators from 16 colleges and Native organizations attended, many in large teams. The conference themes and keynotes focused on education reform and climate change. Phil Rigdon, Yakama Superintendent of Natural Resources, spoke of the impacts of climate change and strategies to deal with it. Two keynotes on Native American education informed the participants about what the 50 states and Washington DC are doing in Native education standards in K-12. Sarah Shear, (UW Bothell) author of numerous studies on state education standards, described how Washington is leading the nation in producing accurate Native American curriculum that is now required in all schools. Shandy Abrahamson and Kayla Guyett filled in the details, describing the extensive work now being done by the Office of Native Education at OSPI.



Many of the sessions involved small group work on cases raising questions such as “what works in enhancing Native student achievement”, “What has been the impact of the Centennial Accord on government to government relations between tribes and the State?”, and “how is climate change impacting various tribes and what are they doing about it?” All of the conference participants cited the value of the group work and learning from one another. GHC has sent 24 faculty to the Native Cases Conference over the last ten years with many repeating.

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## CELEBRATE NATIVE POETS - APRIL IS NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

### The Peninsula College House of Learning Features Poet Niatum

On April 27th, the PC House of Learning celebrated National Poetry Month by welcoming Jamestown S'Klallam Elder, scholar and poet, Duane Niatum. Dr. Niatum read his poetry and engaged in a book signing in the Gallery of Art and reception in ʔaʔkʷustəŋáwtxʷ House of Learning, PC Longhouse.

### U.S. POET LAUREATE JOY HARJO

*What a U.S. Poet Laureate Wants to Pass Down* - The New York Times

According to Harjo, “there is a generation of gifted young Native poets who have made quite a potent impression, including Natalie Diaz [Mojave and an enrolled member of the Gila River Indian community], Sherwin Bitsui [a member of the Navajo Nation] and Oglala Lakota Nation poet, Layli Long Soldier.”.

“Joy has such a deep respect for our Native community. She always returns to that — to our philosophies, our beliefs, our ways of doing things. And I have, too: I’ve always looked backward to my literary kin to see what’s been done before me,” said Layli Long Soldier.

## NOTABLE UPCOMING DATES

**May 6 & 7 Evergreen Weekend Longhouse Gathering**

**May 8 - Registration for Fall classes (returning students)**

**May 11 - New Student registration for Fall classes**

**May 29 - Memorial Day - No classes**

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