

GHC NATIVE PATHWAYS

Grays Harbor College Native Pathways Program Newsletter

November 2024

November is National

Native American Heritage Month

What started at the turn of the century as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the U.S., has resulted in a whole month being designated for that purpose. In 1990 President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990 “National American Indian Heritage Month.” Similar proclamations, under variants on the name (including “Native American Heritage Month” and “National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month”) have been issued each year since 1994. <https://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov/>



SASHA LA POINTE PRESENTS WORKSHOPS

An important feature of the GHC Native Pathways Program is the connection the Program has with the Evergreen State College Upper Division Native Pathways Program. Two weekends each quarter GHC NPP students gather with the Evergreen NPP at the Evergreen State College Longhouse for lecture, seminar, film, and guest speakers on topics that enrich Native Culture and support academic approaches in the classroom. A featured speaker and workshop leader during seminar and lecture sessions has been Sasha LaPointe, an established and published poet. Her latest presentation workshops took place at the November 9 & 10 Evergreen Weekend Gathering. Students produced amazing insightful and meaningful lines of poetry inspired by the prompts provided by Sasha. Her bio info is below.

Sasha taq^wšəblu LaPointe is from the Upper Skagit and Nooksack Indian Tribes. Sasha received a double MFA from The Institute of American Indian Arts with a focus on creative nonfiction and poetry. She teaches creative writing at the Native Pathways Program at The Evergreen State College, and has been a mentor for Seattle's youth poet laureate program. Her memoir *Red Paint* won the Washington State Book award and has received starred reviews from Kirkus and Shelf Awareness. Her latest collection of essays, *Thunder Song*, was named essential nonfiction on People Magazine's Indigenous Authors to Read List, and has received praise from Seattle Magazine, The Seattle Times, and was a must read pick on Bikini Kill front woman, Kathleen Hanna's Perfectly Imperfect list. Her collection of poetry *Rose Quartz* is available through Milkweed Press.

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GHC NATIVE PATHWAYS DEGREE PROGRAM

A two year online degree program with cultural relevance, this degree is transferrable to most all four year institutions of higher learning, but also articulates with the Evergreen State College Native Pathways Bachelor's Degree and is therefore referred to as a Bridge Program.

WINTER ENROLLMENT NOW UNDER WAY FOR NPP

Grays Harbor College Native Pathways Program students are currently signing up for winter quarter classes. Winter quarter courses include, but are not limited to the following options:

Anthropology, Library, Political Science, Psychology, Astronomy, Health and Wellness, and Humanities.

Winter quarter begins on January 7. The following links connect first time or former students to enrollment procedures

<https://www.ghc.edu/admissions/enrollment-services>

<https://www.ghc.edu/search/site/financial%20aid>

Once enrollment and financial aid procedures are complete, contact program coordinator, Gary Arthur, for advising and registration. Returning students from last quarter can also make this contact at the following:

gary.arthur@ghc.edu (360) 538-4209

GHC NATIVE PATHWAYS DEGREE IS A BRIDGE PROGRAM

GHC Native Pathways AA Degree students bridge with the upper division Native Pathways Students at The Evergreen State College. Two weekends during each quarter GHC students meet with Evergreen students at the Evergreen Longhouse (pictured below) for lecture, seminar, film and guest speakers. In this manner, there is a bridge between both programs. Although GHC students connect in this manner with Evergreen, their AA transfer degree is a direct transfer and connects with most four year institutions.



GRAYS HARBOR COLLEGE NATIVE PATHWAYS DEGREE

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.

The Degree Connects With GHC Mission, Vision, Core Themes, and Values.

Vision—GHC is a catalyst for positive change.

Setting goals while reaching academic objectives in the Native Pathways Program enhances areas of accomplishment.

Mission—GHC provides meaningful education and cultural enrichment through academic transfer, workforce preparation, basic skills and service to community. **Many Native Pathways Students go on to earn upper division degrees as well as employment upgrades. Many use acquired skills to improve and enrich tribal communities.*

Core Themes—Academic Transfer, Workforce Preparation, Basic Skills, & Service to Community. **These are concentrated areas of focus in the Native Pathways Program which articulates with Evergreen Native Pathways upper division degree.*

Values—Access to educational opportunities; Success for students, faculty, and staff; Respect for diversity of people, ideas, culture and environment; Efficient use of Resources.



Grays Harbor College (above) is the home of the GHC Native Pathways Degree Program

NATIVE CASE STUDIES SUPPORT CULTURAL RELEVANCE

Over one hundred case studies that engage Native cultural topics are located on an open website sponsored by The Evergreen State College. Professional development in the classroom use of these case studies is held on a yearly basis, and many GHC faculty have attended these sessions and use these case studies with their classes. Not only do these case studies support Native inclusion supporting diversity and equity, but they also are an avenue for non-native students to accept and understand Native culture.

This open website is located at <https://nativecases.evergreen.edu/>



CARI TEWEE IS GHC STUDENT SPOTLIGHT FOR NOVEMBER

At Grays Harbor College, Cari Tewee (pictured at left with Charlie Choker) is channeling her heritage, empathy, and dedication into a path of advocacy and service. As a Human Services AA student with plans to continue at Evergreen for her bachelor's, Cari's journey is shaped by her vision for supporting her Native community and helping others to find trusted, compassionate support within their community.

Cari's heritage is a huge motivation in her studies and work. She recognizes that many Native people struggle with finding support that feels safe for them and is attuned to their culture. Back home in Yakima, Cari saw many Native community members that seemed distrustful of non-Native workers in treatment centers, which was preventing them from seeking any kind of help. She knows the impact of cultural barriers, and she's focused on bridging that gap. Her time at GHC, she says, is about "filling her cup with knowledge" so that she can return to Yakima equipped to better serve her community with empathy and compassion. She holds certifications in domestic violence counseling, suicide prevention, recovery coaching, and more, amassing a "big old book full of certificates" that she hopes to bring back home to create lasting changes.

Cari deeply appreciates Lizbeth Sanchez for her invaluable support and guidance throughout her journey at GHC. Working together at the Civic Leadership Conference, Liz not only encouraged Cari to continue exploring her passions but also helped her to secure the Diversity and Equity award—a recognition that means a great deal to Cari as she strives to uplift her community. Liz's mentorship and belief in Cari's vision have been instrumental in helping her build confidence as she makes strides in her advocacy work. Cari credits Liz's encouragement as a key part of her success at GHC."

GHC Director of Trio, Kenji Seta, suggested that Cari pursue her degree through the Human Services Program where she can successfully achieve her goals and accomplishments.



IMPORTANT DATES

**December 9, Last day of instruction; December 10, 11, 12 Final Exams
January 7 First day of Winter Quarter classes**

President Biden Shares Native American Heritage Month Proclamation

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2024 as National Native American Heritage Month. I urge all Americans, as well as their elected representatives at the Federal, State, and local levels, to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities. Also, I urge all Americans to celebrate November 29, 2024, as Native American Heritage Day.

GHC NATIVE PATHWAYS CURRICULUM

An important feature to the GHC Native Pathways curriculum is the culturally relevant course of study. Besides the Humanities courses taught by Tia Allen that connect with the upper division Evergreen students during Weekend Gatherings, shared Anthropology courses through South Puget Sound Community College are featured below.

Anthropology 206 (Intro to Cultural Anthropology, 5 credits) – This course studies cultural traditions in various sections of the world leading to an understanding of cultural differences and similarities. Anthropological examples of human behavior in societies that contrast with western civilization is an area of emphasis.

Anthropology 210 (Indians of North America, 5 credits) – This course studies a general view of the variations on the life ways of Native Americans up to current times. Cultural resource management is a focus area.

Anthropology 216 (Pacific Northwest Coast Peoples, 5 credits) – This course examines current indigenous and scientific thoughts about the origins, development, and variation of Pacific Northwest cultures

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

The Indian Health Service recognizes Native American Heritage Month in November. This month presents an opportunity to educate the public about the proud history of Indigenous people in America, and to celebrate the rich and diverse tribal cultures that continue to thrive throughout Indian Country. Today, Native American cultures are alive and evolving within cities, rural communities, tribal communities, and nations across the United States. This month, let's all celebrate the traditions, languages and stories of Native people and ensure that their rich histories and contributions can live on with each passing generation.

