



# GHC NATIVE PATHWAYS

**GHC NATIVE PATHWAYS PROGRAM NEWSLETTER**

**August 2023**

## SUMMER QUARTER ENDS, FALL QUARTER NEARS



*With Fall Quarter approaching, GHC Native Pathways students ready themselves for Weekend gatherings at The Evergreen State College that features lecture and seminar discussion. (above)*

Summer Quarter at GHC ended on August 10 as six weeks of study came to a halt. Many Native Pathways Students, however, were gearing up for Fall Quarter which begins on September 18. Assessing credit accumulation, registration, securing financial aid, and mental preparation occupied the time normally set aside for academics this summer as 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 GHC DATES

**\*August 10, Last Day Summer Quarter**

- **September 4, Labor Day**
- **First Two Weeks September - - -**  
Students access Canvas Website, print course syllabi, purchase course texts.

**\*September 18, First Day of Fall Quarter Classes**

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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 quarter are generally in October and November.

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### TRIBAL NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

A proposed Tribal Navigator Position for GHC inspired by leadership and guidance from the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges has been established at Grays Harbor College, and an announcement promoting the hire of this position was recently posted .

The position would be instrumental in providing leadership, guidance, and support for the Tribal Stewards program – a workforce development program to redesign pathways and programs to better serve Tribal students and Tribal community workforce needs, specifically in natural resources. This position is a non-permanent, benefits-eligible, and a one-year contract assignment.

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### 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.*

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## 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 complimented by face to face instruction two weekends during each quarter. The weekend meetings feature skills classes and seminars using breakout sessions on Indigenous topics, supporting 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 through case studies, lecture, seminar, film, and guest speakers.

# 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.



**Wild Man' drum image by Quinault artist Ezekiel Serrano**



## CANOE CLOUD FORMATION APPEARS DURING THE JOURNEY

Accenting a cultural and spiritual connection to the environment, a canoe cloud formation appears above a tribal canoe during the Canoe Journey Paddle to Muckleshoot in July.

(photo shared by Janet Parker)

## CANOE JOURNEY 2023

By Nika Bartoo-Smith, *Underscore.news & Indian Country Today*

Organizers estimated 11,000 people gathered at Muckleshoot to share songs and dances for days after 120 canoe families landed at Alki Beach in Seattle

“For me, I feel a lot of pride because we know that these traditions, these teachings — like mutual respect for other tribes — are going to carry on,” said John Daniels Jr., Muckleshoot tribal council member, treasurer and chairman of the culture committee.

This year is particularly important. It’s the first canoe journey after a three-year break during the COVID-19 pandemic. For so many, canoe journey this summer has been about healing and honoring loved ones lost.

“It’s reawakening that energy, that spirit that we have, that we’ve lost, that have been taken from us because of the pandemic,” said Jessica Elope, Tlinigt and Haida, part of the G’ana’k’w Canoe Family. “That’s what this is, it really feels like all of us have been woken up again.”



*Wallace Nagedzi Watts, of the Wsanec Canoe Family, traveled from Alert Bay in Canada and performed a ceremonial dance during protocol embracing Canoe Journey activities. (Photo by Jarrette Werk / Underscore News & Report for America)*

## NATIVE CASE STUDIES ENHANCE LEARNING

An important modality strengthening the curricular approach to the Native Pathways Degree Program is the use of Native Case Studies, accessible at <https://nativecases.evergreen.edu>. This website has over 150 case studies published on it and has free accessibility. Many GHC faculty have attended professional development seminars that share strategies for use of these case studies in the classroom. The advantage to inclusion of Native Culture in the curriculum is paramount, but sharing native culture and history through case study to non-native students supports acceptance and understanding. The quotes below are from students in the GHC online Health Promotion class that demonstrates this dynamic.

“The website's user interface is user-friendly, with clear navigation and well-organized content. Each case study provides detailed information, including background context, primary sources, and discussion questions, which enhance the educational value of the materials. Overall, the Native Cases website is a valuable resource for educators, students, and anyone interested in gaining a deeper understanding of Native American history and contemporary issues.” Jeremy Roberts

**Student Colleague Response:** *“Hi Jeremy, Native Cases sounds like an interesting website. I like that the websites case studies are “often written in collaboration with indigenous community members.” Getting the information directly from the people themselves offers a whole new “accurate” look into Native American issues. I have noticed that there has been a lot of representation for white Americans and black Americans, but not a whole lot for Native Americans or other cultures. I believe each race should be represented and respected so I appreciate Evergreen State taking the initiative to further represent Native Americans. I had never heard of Native Cases before reading your post, so thank you for sharing it! I took a little look at the website and like you said, it looks very user-friendly. I plan to look into the website further.”*

“The Native Cases website has a well-organized and user-friendly interface. Its case studies provide a wealth of facts and analysis, such as primary sources and background information, that can enhance learning. This platform is a valuable resource for students, teachers, and anyone else who is interested in learning more about American Indian history.”  
Isaiah Sanders

**Student Colleague Response:** *“Hello Izaiah, I had no idea that this ‘Native Cases’ site had existed. This site being created by individuals at Evergreen State College is what I found really interesting, I am glad this college is using its resources to spread such important current and past information. Also involving actual Native people to assist in accurately creating this site is amazing. This site focusing on being respectful with its writings about American Indian history, I also think, makes this a valuable resource for anyone wanting to learn about this.”*



### Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about the GHC Native Pathways Online AA Degree Program.

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### GHC Native Pathways Service Area

The GHC Lower division Native Pathways AA program degree has served students from Nisqually, Quinalt, 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.

### GHC LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Grays Harbor College is located on the ancestral lands of the Chehalis, Chinook, Quinalt and Shoalwater Bay Peoples. With this awareness, we honor the ancestors and pay respect to elders past and present of these nations and all Native Peoples of this land who occupy these lands since time immemorial. The College expresses its deepest respect for and gratitude towards these original and current caretakers of the region and to our native students, staff, and faculty, past and present, as well as support and respect their presence and valuable contributions into the future. As an academic community, we acknowledge our responsibility to establish and maintain relationships with these nations and Native peoples, in support of their sovereignty and the inclusion of their voices in the teaching and learning process.