Grays Harbor College is home to The GHC Native Pathways AA Degree Program. Students from eight different tribal sites as well as outlying urban regions have participated in this program. Current enrollment continues to draw from these areas.

NATIVE PATHWAYS DEGREE PROVIDES CULTURAL RELEVANCE

The Native Pathways Degree at GHC provides course work that supports students in an inclusive manner with a curriculum that contains cultural relevance in many of its classes. Courses listed in the Social Science, Humanities, and Electives distributions of the degree display course work that study not only traditional elements of Native culture but also contemporary accomplishments and contributions. In this regard, the GHC Native Pathways AA Degree is truly unique and supportive of the students we serve.
CONNECTING THE NATIVE PATHWAYS AA DEGREE WITH EVERGREEN

This GHC Native Pathways Associate of Arts Degree Program is also referred to as the “Bridge Program” because it is designed to articulate with Evergreen’s upper-division Native Pathways Degree providing students with a Bachelor’s degree through The Evergreen State College. 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). The Evergreen upper-division program (BA program) is taught at four or five different tribal sites. The Evergreen program meets twice a week on-site and two weekends over a quarter with the Bridge Students at the Evergreen Longhouse for lecture and seminar. Evergreen’s Native Pathways program is an interdisciplinary Liberal Arts program that includes Native cultural relevance in the curriculum and is versatile in application to the work force.

GHC NATIVE PATHWAYS STUDENTS FOR WINTER QUARTER

The students listed below have initiated the courses of study for winter quarter at Grays Harbor College. The curriculum is culturally relevant and the access to courses and instructions is flexible and accommodating. While most of the classes are offered online to support geographic location and work schedules, students are also active in face to face classrooms and hybrid courses.

We recognize the following Winter Quarter students

Lillian Forsman   Sakoyah Randall   Isaac McKinney
JT Mail         Kylie McCarter    Jen-Nei Waugh
Liz Prior       Lillian Schoening  Shirley Satiacum
Laanaa Peterson Lahala Randall  Janine Randall
Renaeh Ureste  Starla Boyer      Shaylee Bisbee
Lisa Martinez   Annie Broncheau  Jasai Peterson
Taya James      Trinity Flores-Buck Victoria Judkins
                Sylvester Broncheau
Ed Johnstone Elected Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission Chair

Ed Johnstone of the Quinault Indian Nation was elected chair of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission. He succeeds Lorraine Loomis, who passed away in August. Johnstone will serve the remainder of Loomis’ term through May 2022. As the fisheries policy spokesperson for the Quinault Indian Nation, Johnstone has extensive experience in management of salmon, steelhead, crab, clams, black cod and halibut. “The treaty tribes of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission have a responsibility to make tough decisions as stewards for the resources and to work with our state natural resources co-managers to protect fish for our children and their children,” Johnstone said. “Fish and fishing have been an inseparable part of my life for as long as I can remember, providing food, income and spiritual connection.” (nwtreatytribes.org)

DAC Discusses Plans for Longhouse at Grays Harbor College

The GHC Diversity Advisory Committee (DAC) is addressing an agenda item next month that will be considering approaches to constructing a Longhouse on the GHC campus. A crucial step in this process is to seek tribal consent and direction. There are currently three other Longhouses in the state of Washington on college campuses: The Evergreen State College, Peninsula College, and the UW Seattle campus.

The Longhouse on the Evergreen State College’s campus is pictured below. GHC Native Pathways Students meet two weekends during the quarter at this Longhouse for lecture, seminar, and presentations. Connecting with the upper division students from Evergreen on these weekends underscores the ‘bridge’ link between the two programs.
GHC CARPENTRY TECH PROGRAM CONSTRUCTS CANOE HOUSE

Instructor, Adam Pratt, who heads the GHC Carpentry Technology Program, has engaged his students in a Tribal Canoe and Canoe House building project. With guidance from former Shoalwater Bay Cultural Education Director, Tony Johnson, Mr. Pratt and his students are constructing a tribal canoe and canoe house. Current Shoalwater Bay Cultural Programs Director, Earl Davis, has also provided support and direction for this project.

The Canoe and Canoe House project began in 2016 when the GHC Carpentry students presented the proposed project at the State Legislature Open House in Olympia in 2016 with slideshow, models, posters, handouts, and Q&A. The Canoe House, as it has come to be called, is designed to shelter canoes, paddles, life preservers and instructional items for the YMCA campers at Camp Bishop on Lost Lake near Olympia. With its curved sidewalls and heavy timber frame, the design draws on our heritage of wooden boats, timber construction and Native American Canoes. Vern Heikkila, retired commercial fisherman, spearheaded the idea and approached Grays Harbor College Carpentry Instructor, Adam Pratt, to seek his advice and to learn if the college would be willing to take on the Canoe House as a class project. The college agreed that this represented an opportunity for students to learn custom construction techniques on a small, but highly detailed project. The following GHC carpentry students are involved with this project: Tom Lagergren – Shoalwater Bay Nation, Ryan Hendricks – Quinault Indian Nation, Ricky Tackett – Quinault Indian Nation, and Brett Orozco – Nisqually Nation. Tony Johnson, Shoalwater Bay/Chinook, provided guidance to Tom Lagergren during the modeling stage of the project.