

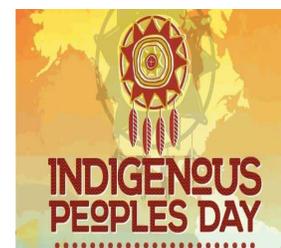


# GHC NATIVE PATHWAYS

GHC NATIVE PATHWAYS PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

October 2021

Native Nations Celebrate  
Indigenous Peoples' Day  
October 11, 2021



Humankind has not  
Woven the web of life  
Whatever we do to the web  
We do to ourselves  
All things are bound together  
All things are connected  
Chief Seattle

## President Biden Issues Indigenous People's Day Proclamation

“Since time immemorial, American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians have built vibrant and diverse cultures — safeguarding land, language, spirit, knowledge, and tradition across the generations. On Indigenous Peoples’ Day, our Nation celebrates the invaluable contributions and resilience of Indigenous peoples, recognizes their inherent sovereignty, and commits to honoring the Federal Government’s trust and treaty obligations to Tribal Nations.

On Indigenous Peoples’ Day, we honor America’s first inhabitants and the Tribal Nations that continue to thrive today. I encourage everyone to celebrate and recognize the many Indigenous communities and cultures that make up our great country.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 11, 2021, as Indigenous Peoples’ Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I also direct that the flag of the United States be displayed on all public buildings on the appointed day in honor of our diverse history and the Indigenous peoples who contribute to shaping this Nation.”

### NOTABLE UPCOMING DATES

NOVEMBER 3 & 4 NATIVE CASES  
INSTITUTE

NOVEMBER 6 & 7 LONGHOUSE  
GATHERING

NOVEMBER 12 - 'W' DAY  
NOVEMBER 29 – NATIVE AMERICAN  
HERITAGE DAY

DECEMBER 4 & 5 - LONGHOUSE  
GATHERING

DECEMBER 6 – LAST DAY GHC  
ONLINE CLASSES

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## THE GRAYS HARBOR COLLEGE 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 PARTICIPATES IN STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES (SBCTC) WEBINAR

The American Indian and Indigenous Studies (AIIS) Interim Advisory Board, chaired by Lynn Palmanteer-Holder, an SBCTC consultant, hosted a webinar to the SBCTC outlining educational programs, proposals, and strategies to better serve tribal communities. Agenda items featured Dr. Carli Schiffner, Deputy Executive Director of Education, for the SBCTC. Dr. Schiffner shared that *“Leading with racial equity, our colleges maximize student potential and transform lives within a culture of belonging that advances racial, social, and economic justice in service to our diverse communities.”* GHC’s Native Pathways Degree Coordinator, Gary Arthur, and Dr. Barbara Smith from The Evergreen State College presented Native Pathways Program Information during the “Best Practices” session. Three other community colleges (Green River, Wenatchee Valley, and Cascadia) shared their educational approaches and program information as well. Another highlight of the webinar was the discussion around the formation of a WA CTC AIIS Advisory Board.



### 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 from all reservations or urban areas are also welcome to join the program.

## Student Quotes Fall 2021

*The following quotes are taken from Native Pathways Degree Program students who are enrolled this Fall Quarter. Students were asked to comment on the value of the Program.*

“The Native Pathways Degree Program is of value to me because it has given me the opportunity to learn about my ancestors in a way that I could’ve never imagined possible. I knew that history has been warped throughout time, but I am so glad I got the opportunity to learn it in depth. Another aspect of this degree program that is of great value to me is the support I get from the professors. Without the validation and support I get from them I feel that I would’ve gotten discouraged by this time in my degree. Lastly, I think this degree program helps not only me but many other people who have not had an educational upbringing.” Lilly Forsman

“Three reasons why I feel the Native Pathways Degree Program is of value to myself and possibly others is that it’s based on indigenous curriculum, it’s hybrid mostly online - I appreciate that, and it has local based support with great leaders from the program that help guide you all the way through and want to see you succeed.” Starla Boyer

“The Native Pathways Program has allowed me to learn with the support of some very helpful instructors who have all widely contributed to my success at GHC. In the Native Pathways Program I have had the opportunity of getting to know the community of Native and Indigenous students who attend school as well. The importance of this program to me is learning about my culture and important topics that concern Native and indigenous students. It goes without saying the huge importance of Indigenous peoples to be able to learn and experience their culture as part of their education.” Jasai Peterson



## GHC Meets with Quinault Education Coordinators

Connecting GHC Native Pathways Degree with other Degree Programs

In an effort to better serve tribal nations, GHC program administrator, Nancy Estergard, and Native Pathways Degree Coordinator, Gary Arthur met with Quinault Education Coordinators, M'Liss Dewald and Carly Martin. Discussions revolved around strategies for connecting the Native Pathways Degree with other programs such as Natural Resources, Business, and Education.

While many fruitful ideas were shared and discussed, a specific proposal was put together by Nancy Estergard that outlines a path from the Native Pathways AA Degree to the upper division Bachelor of Applied Science in Teacher Ed. (BAST)

The BAST program provides students an education, beyond the associate level, which is tailored to their community. The BAST degree provides quality teachers for a five county area: Lewis, Thurston, Pacific, Mason, and Grays Harbor counties.



## Native Case Studies Supply Cultural Relevance

A unique feature of the Grays Harbor College Online Native Pathways Degree is that this program supplies cultural relevance to its content in order to make the course of study more meaningful to its place based students. Not only do basic Social Science and Humanities courses address the traditions, history, culture, and ceremony of the Indigenous, but more than half of the instructors currently teaching common courses to the traditional AA degree have attended the Native Cases Institute hosted yearly on the Squaxin Reservation close to Olympia. This institute, (held this year on Nov 3&4), provides professional development in the use of Native Case Studies located on the Evergreen State website. (<http://nativecases.evergreen.edu>) Over 125 case studies addressing issues in Indian Country on this site are compatible across the curriculum, and GHC instructors who have attended this training have used these case studies in their common courses not traditionally deemed Indigenous in content. More than fifty educators nation-wide attend the Institute yearly, and have either used these cases in the classroom and/or have themselves contributed to the collection through their research.

## 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 for Fall quarter are in November and December.





*Tribes fishing in the Pacific Northwest, where some states have adopted co-management approaches. (Photo courtesy of Linda Tanner, 2018)*

### **Washington Tribal Nations Co-Manage Fisheries** (*Indian Country Today*)

In Washington, salmon and steelhead fisheries are managed cooperatively by Western Washington

tribes and the Washington state government. The arrangement involves an annual agreement on salmon fishing seasons and on hatchery production objectives in Puget Sound and the Washington coast. While the region still experiences the type of salmon population challenges that are becoming increasingly common today, the co-management approach has seen positive results overall. “I don’t know of a better working relationship between a tribe and a state agency,” Scott Chitwood, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe’s natural resources director, told the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission in 2007. “By working well together, we’ve been able to make real progress toward recovering Dungeness chinook.” Even sports fishers who had initially been against a co-management relationship eventually saw the value of Indigenous-led fishing policies.



**Washington Gov. Jay Inslee signed the Billy Frank Jr. statue bill into law at Wa He Lut Indian School last spring. Looking on, from left, were Nisqually Tribal Chairman Ken Choke, Lt. Gov. Denny Heck, state Rep. Debra Lekanoff and tribal councilman Willie Frank III. (CREDIT: Tom Banse/N3)**

In a time of reckoning about historical monuments, Washington state lawmakers found a bipartisan path to change out a prominent statue. A bill signed by Gov. Jay Inslee begins the process of putting a statue of the late tribal treaty rights activist Billy Frank Jr. in the U.S. Capitol.



## Contact Us

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