



GHC NATIVE PATHWAYS

GRAYS HARBOR COLLEGE NATIVE PATHWAYS Newsletter

February 2020

Sharp Delivers State of Indian Nations Address

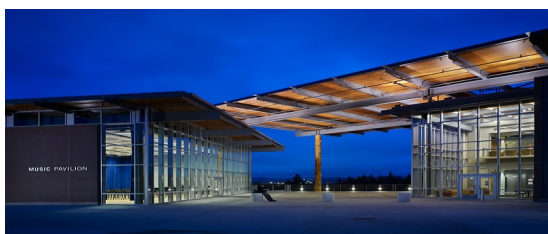


Fawn Sharp, former Grays Harbor College Board of Trustee member and President of the National Congress of American Indians, became the first female president of the oldest and largest national American Indian organization to give a State of Indian Nations address at George Washington University on February 11.

President Sharp's following quotes characterized a speech that addressed important issues including such topics as tribal self-governance and climate change.

“So why do we gather here today? The purpose of this annual address is to memorialize and affirm the enduring government-to-government relationship between tribal nations and the U.S. government. It provides our assessment of the current health of that relationship, and how it must be strengthened.”

“In that spirit, I stand before you today – supported by more than 600 tribal nations and governments across this land – to share with you this undeniable truth: the State of Indian Nations is **STRONG.**”



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 for the students we serve.

GHC Important Dates

Feb 27- W Day (last day to withdraw from single class)

March 14– Last Longhouse Gathering of the Quarter

March 23- Last Day of Instruction

March 24,25,26- Final Exams

April 13- Spring classes begin

Eagle Artwork on this page by James Delacruz

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Four participants connected to the Native Programs in Education meeting held at GHC on January 29th are pictured above: L to R – Hailey Pfeifer, Aberdeen School District Indian Ed. Coordinator, Sandy Warynick-Ruiz Hoquiam School District Indian Ed Coordinator, M'Liss DeWald Quinault Indian Nation Education Administrator, and Riel Padron North Beach Schools Indian Ed. Coordinator. GHC President Jim Minkler, Danielle Rosetta from Taholah schools and Jennifer Maybey from Lake Quinault schools were also in attendance.

NATIVE PROGRAM EDUCATORS TO MEET AGAIN AT GHC

Wednesday, February 26th, Indian Ed Coordinators, School Counselors, and Education Administrators from the college and local school districts in Grays Harbor and Pacific counties will meet for the third time this school year to discuss strategies and share ideas connected to student success.

Last month's meeting on January 29th addressed agenda items ranging from curriculum and retention to cultural relevance in education. Action items identified by the group in support of student success are listed below:

1. **Offering college core classes at the high school level that are not AP**
2. **Organize Native Days Gatherings at Grays Harbor College**
3. **Plan GHC campus tours for area Native Program Students**
4. **Recognize and promote program graduates**
5. **Arrange for college speakers to visit and present to local schools**
6. **Initiate steps for tribal site Accuplacer certification**

The above action items will be featured areas of discussion during the February 26th meeting at GHC along with additional strategies for student sup-

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, providing 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.

Course Load

A full time course load for the quarter would include two online courses plus the Weekend session courses. 12 to 13 credits are considered a full time load. Scheduling is flexible according to student personal and work schedules. A part time schedule of less than 12 credits is also on option, but may affect financial aid situations.

Benefits

A few benefits of online classes are that they require little to no commuting to campus. They can be done at home. Classes are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and generally one only need a computer and internet to access the courses. Online classes are very compatible with working and changing family schedules.

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 AUTHOR COLLECTIVE POEM

During the Longhouse Weekend on Feb 8, students broke into groups for workshops and instruction. The following poem is a collection of “I Remember” brainstorming from one of these workshops connecting with the “Turning Point” upper division research essay assignment. Student authors: Ana Nay, Lia Frenchman, Tamika Green, Kish Claplanhoo, Matt Vargas, Jennifer Scott, Lisa McKinney, Aiyana Underwood.

Collective Poem “I Remember”

I remember when I wasn't me
I was a piece of you
 I remember
 Crossing the states solo
 I learned to love my own company.
I remember years of destruction
In the shadow of others
 I remember the first time I was left home alone
 I was frightened but knew I had no choice
I remember
Me and my sister
In a dark room all alone.
 I remember
 The pain, the frustration,
 The lost hope of my broken heart

I remember
A turning point in my life

 When my daughter was born
 Holding her and feeling her soft skin
 In that moment, she changed everything

Pulling in an all-woman canoe
This experience changed my life forever

 When my son walked out to play basketball
 With no fear
 It was healing for me, and joy and pride for himself

I recover and relive
I have feelings of love, hope, and forgiveness

 I remember a turning point, I'm living it
 Officially a Greener! I am passionate and driven

Thoughts of imagination and flare about
The memory of strong bonds
Of sisterhood

 When I needed to be me, I wanted to be free
 Finally, I see I need to heal

I am a mother, a daughter
My blood runs through the land
I am strong; I am proud
A Native is who I am.



RAVEN REDBONE GUEST SPEAKER LONGHOUSE WEEKEND

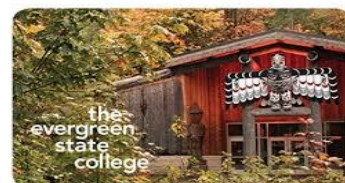
GHC Native Pathways Students meet twice a quarter at the Evergreen Longhouse with the upper division Evergreen Native Pathways students for lecture and seminar.

RAVEN REDBONE DELIVERS WORDS OF INSPIRATION

Olympia KAOS 89.3 Indigenous Radio personality, Raven Redbone enlightened and entertained students and faculty with his guest speaking appearance at the **Evergreen Longhouse Weekend Gathering** on February 8th. His radio show, Make No Bones About It, talks at length about indigenous people all around the world and how important it is to share the indigenous view [of the world] stating, “From this we can begin to heal again – all of us.”

His speech featured insightful and moving quotes, many of them from renowned Native Poet with whom he was acquainted, John Trudell. The following quotes characterized Raven Redbone’s message.

“We’re people of culture, not color.”
“The warrior of the future thinks his way through.”
“There’s no old way, no new way, only a way to live on this earth.”
“Let first peoples tell their own stories, nobody else.”
“In the process of being human, treat people well and listen.”
“Meet people where they are, not where you want them to be.”
“Treat everyone human.”



Honoring GHC Alumnus Shavaughna Underwood



2020 Champions for Change – Front row l to r: Jasmine Wildcat (Northern Arapaho), Director Nikki Pitre, Shavaughna Underwood (Quinault Indian Nation), Back Row l to r: Warren Davis (Navajo Nation), Owen Oliver (Quinault/Chinook & Islet Pueblo), Isabella Madrigal (Cahullia Tribe & Turtle Mountain Chippewa)

Shavaughna Underwood, GHC graduate and current Evergreen Native Pathways student, recently was honored by being named to the 2020 class of **Champions for Change**, an honor of recognition assigned by the Center for Native American Youth (CNAV). The CNAV is an organization that works with NA youth nationwide to improve health, safety, and overall well-being. Shavaughna was one of five members of this organization to be honored in this manner. There are 2340 CNAV members across the country.

Shavaughna's role as a Champions for Change member started with recognition events in Washington DC beginning the week-long experience on February 7. The Champions serve a one-year term on the CNAV Youth Advisory Board contributing to the national dialogue on critical issues affecting youth in Indian Country. The Champions - 1. Participate in bi-monthly meetings to stay engaged and active building leadership skills. 2. Act as community experts, providing perspectives in conferences, webinars, meetings, and speaking engagements. 3. Lead by example as positive role models, and 4. Act as community liaisons connected resources and youth opportunities

NATIVE CASES INSTITUTE DATES: JUNE 25 & 26

The Native Cases Institute hosted yearly on the Squaxin Reservation close to Olympia will be held June 25 & 26 this year.. This institute provides professional development in the use of Native Case Studies located on the Evergreen State website. (Link: enduring legacies) Over one hundred 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 core courses, not traditionally deemed Indigenous in content, providing cultural relevancy to the curriculum. 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.



GHC STUDENT LONGHOUSE WEEKEND QUOTES

“Walking with love and community will set a guideline for social involvement and social structures. Doing ribbon skirts during the workshop session was very enjoyable. There are so many ways to teach culture and it doesn't have to be from a book. There should be more of these classes, and we need to bring this entire program home. I need to learn more about 'Source – how Source's energy was taught, implemented, and practiced. One thing I will be doing after this weekend is purchasing two books: *Trickster* and *Why Indigenous Literature Matters.*”

Malinda Mowitch

“Regarding workshop sessions, I like being able to participate in different activities with different groups of students and getting help from the instructors. I learned a lot during the presentation on reclaimed water. It was informative to view how the presenters did surveys and analyzed data for their research. I also liked how they worked together and by working together made their research more enjoyable. Concerning what guest speaker Raven Redbone had to say, I think what he is doing to help bring local Native Americans together to keep the traditional ways alive is inspiring for our youth.”

Kylie McCarter

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