



GHC NATIVE PATHWAYS

GHC NATIVE PATHWAYS PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

July 2020



GRAYS HARBOR COLLEGE
NATIVE PATHWAYS BRIDGE PROGRAM
AA DEGREE

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.

Former GHC President Brewster Is Interim

Following the retirement of Jim Minkler, Dr. Harry Cartham, Board of Trustees Chair, has announced that former GHC President **Ed Brewster** has stepped in to serve as Interim President. While Dr. Jim Minkler's service to the college was greatly appreciated, the GHC community greets the return of President Brewster. Upon his arrival, Dr. Brewster said, "We have a challenging year ahead, and I know that collectively we have everything required to meet and exceed the expectations of our students and community." Dr. Brewster will serve as President until the search process for a new President will be completed by the Board of Trustees.

New Vice President of Instruction Is Welcomed

Nicole Lacroix began her tenure as GHC Vice President of Instruction at the beginning of this month. Outgoing President Dr. Minkler reported that her twenty years of instructional leadership included administrative oversight of full-time faculty with a committed approach to student success, quality education, and erasure of equity gaps. He added that she is motivated by institutional innovation, community collaboration, and securing partnerships with industry. In addition, he said, she is highly regarded for her work with outcomes assessment, developmental education, and accreditation. Along with other GHC organizations, the Native Pathways Program welcomes our new Vice President of Instruction, Nicole Lacroix.



NOTABLE UPCOMING DATES

- *August 31 Tuition Due Date
- *Sept. 17 Native Pathways FYE 101 meets
- *Sept. 21 Fall Classes Start
- *Sept. 25 Last Day for 100% Refund
- *Oct. 3 Evergreen Orientation Weekend Gathering



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The Evergreen State College Longhouse –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. Because of Covid, this fall these gatherings are planned to meet virtually. There are three of these meetings planned for this fall.



Starla Boyer

STARLA BOYER - STUDENT FEATURE

This issue of the Native Pathways Newsletter honors Starla Boyer, a working mother of five children who continues to make positive strides toward her AA Degree. She is an honor roll student who was invited to join the GHC Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. A current grade point average of above 3.5 is needed to be considered eligible for this academic honor.

FIVE STEPS TOWARD ENROLLMENT

- 1. Apply for admission online**
- 2. Submit all Official Transcripts**
- 3. Do college placement test**
- 4. Do “entry advising”**
- 5. Submit Tribal Aid Application (if applicable) and FAFSA - Free Application for Federal Student Aid.**

**For Assistance, Contact Gary Arthur,
Native Pathways Degree Coordinator for information.
gary.arthur@ghc.edu (360)-538-4209**

GHC Native Pathways Degree

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 an option, but may affect financial aid situations.

Online Component

- Online courses at GHC are delivered through a program referred to as CANVAS.
- **Canvas** is a web-based online learning system that allows students to log in for access to their classrooms. Features include reading information, inputting responses to instructors or classmates, printing host documents, testing and emailing.
- Online classes are very compatible with working and changing family schedules, and place based students who cannot travel to campus.

GHC Native Pathways Service Area

The GHC Lower division Native Pathways AA program degree serves students from Nisqually, Quinalt, Queets, Squaxin Island, Chehalis, Shoalwater Bay/Aberdeen, Tacoma, Suquamish, Puyallup and Makah. Students from other reservations or urban areas are also welcome to join the program.



INDIGENOUS HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

'Our indigenous ancestors had wellness right'

The impact of colonialism has affected indigenous communities around the world. In the United States, a group called Well For Culture is helping Native American and First Nations people reconnect with their ancestral practices to find healing.

Well for Culture is a grassroots initiative which aims to reclaim and revitalize Indigenous health and wellness. Well for Culture (Co-founders - Thosh Collins & Chelsey Luger, Lakota) supports reclaiming identity, addresses historical trauma, utilizes the healing practices of ancestors, and seeks to improve health and well-being in Native Communities.

Trainings include the following topics of Native Wellness: Historical and Contemporary Views, Developing and Utilizing Earth Gyms, Active Movement Techniques for All Abilities, Indigenizing Movement - Incorporating a Values-based Mindset, Ancestral Foods as Medicine, Brain Fitness, Mindful Meditation, 7 Circles of Wellness, Overcoming Barriers to Living in Balance, and more. (<https://www.nativewellness.com/well-for-culture.html>)

Evergreen Native Pathways Admin and Faculty Meet

On July 10th, a virtual meeting was held by Evergreen Native Pathways faculty, administration, and staff as one of many scheduled planning meetings in connection with fall classes and curriculum. These planning meetings administered by Evergreen Program Director, **Dawn Barron**, include organizational preparation of the weekend gathering sessions that embrace the GHC Native Pathways Bridge students as participants. The gatherings connect with the upper division quarterly themes of study and in doing so, provide insight and information to Bridge students as they participate in seminar and contribute written assessments of overall session activities. The fall theme of study is entitled “Settler Colonialism and Indigenous Knowledge: Ethics and Research.”

Covid-19 Response to Tribal Nations

The COVID-19 pandemic's disproportionate and devastating harm to American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities is a direct and damning consequence of the U.S. government's failure to uphold its legal trust and treaty obligations to Indian Country. Currently, the Navajo Nation has the highest infection rate in the country, greater than that of the worst-hit state, New York; it is even greater than that of Wuhan at the height of the outbreak in China. Native people make up only around one-tenth of New Mexico's population but more than 55 percent of its coronavirus cases; in Wyoming, AI/AN people are less than 3 percent of the state population but make up more than one-third of its cases. This crisis—and the underlying conditions tribal communities face—are the result of centuries of colonial violence and neglect that continue to this day.

This report recommends the U.S. government take urgent action on seven areas of high priority:

1. Ensure the inclusion of AI/AN people in COVID-19 data
2. Develop executive branch infrastructure to address bureaucratic barriers
3. Support the development of tribal economies
4. Address the chronic underfunding of the Indian Health Service system
5. Support the development of Indian Country's critical infrastructure
6. Support vulnerable populations by funding tribal public safety and justice needs
7. Restore tribal homelands and support tribal ecocultural resource management

(Reported by Center for American Progress)

The Road to Reparations



Russell Means— 70's AIM Spokesman

What may be perceived as a connection with the “Black Lives Matter” movement, long overdue reparations are underway in Indian Country. Somewhat reminiscent of the AIM activism from the 60's & 70's, current reforms affecting Native Americans are happening. Addressing many of the same issues that engaged AIM (sovereignty, legal rights, revitalization of culture, and land restoration) restorative actions are taking place. Examples of these measures that occurred this month are as follows: 1. NCAI President, **Fawn Sharp**, calls for supportive protests from professional athletes in seeking the removal of the racist mascot “Redskins” from the NFL Washington DC franchise – weeks later, facing the threat of significant monetary loss, the name was dropped. 2. Federal judge orders removal of Dakota Access Pipeline that compromised the environment of Native lands. 3. U.S. Supreme court restores original reservation boundaries to five tribes in Oklahoma. 4. The popular Squaw Valley Ski Resort in California considers removal of the derogatory ‘S’ word from its name. The prospect of positive changes continues to evolve as national attention in the media and in the courts reflect historic actions in support of reparations to Native Americans.



BLOOD QUANTUM ISSUE

Michael Irvine and Leah Nelson

When this image was captured in November 2019, Michael Irvine, 22, and his partner, Leah Nelson, 21, were awaiting the birth of their first child, a daughter. They chose to raise their family on the Flathead Indian Reservation in western Montana, home to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and where Michael grew up and where they both currently reside.

Irvine, a member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, has a blood quantum of $\frac{7}{16}$. Nelson, a member of the Navajo Nation, has a blood quantum of $\frac{3}{4}$. Because Irvine's tribes require $\frac{1}{4}$ Salish and Kootenai blood for enrollment, their child will not qualify to be a member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and will be enrolled in the Navajo Nation. (National Museum of the American Indian)



Contact Us

Give us a call for more information, about Native Pathways Degree Programs.

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What is Blood Quantum?

The notion of “blood quantum” sprang from U.S. colonial and racial biases. Non-Native people devised this way to define Native American identity by degree of affiliation to a tribe in their family ancestry. For example, if a person has ancestors who all descended from one American Indian tribe and has a child with someone who is not a member of that tribe, their child would have a blood quantum of $\frac{1}{2}$. If this child grows up and becomes a parent with someone who is not a citizen of his or her tribe, their offspring would have a blood quantum of $\frac{1}{4}$. For those tribes that use blood quantum as a criterion for tribal enrollment, the minimum blood quantum requirements vary and have ranged from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{16}$. (National Museum of the American Indian)