



**Celebrating Women's History Month!**

**It's March and in honor of Women's History Month, we'll be featuring the women who serve on AIANTA's Board of Directors all month long.**

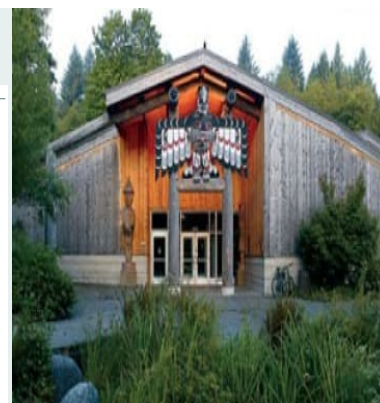
Michelle Liberty represents AIANTA's Pacific Northwest Region, is a member of Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla Tribes and grew up in north-eastern Oregon. She later attended Reed College, Linfield College, and the American University in Paris, spending six years in Paris and London. After a stint working in marketing and advertising for both domestic and international agencies, Michelle returned to her Eastern Oregon roots, taking the position of Marketing Director for Wild-horse Resort and Casino, just outside of Pendleton. During that time, she accompanied the Travel Oregon team to such trade shows as ITB, World Travel Market, and IPW promoting the casino, Tamástslikt Cultural Institute, and tribal tourism throughout the state. Twelve years later, Michelle opened Attitude, Inc., a marketing consulting firm, and also now serves as Travel Oregon's Tribal Tourism Liaison. In her off-time, Michelle travels for golf, wine, food, and to visit her son, Maxime, who lives in the Bay Area.



Sarah Kazhe represents AIANTA's Southwest Region, is a member of the Mescalero Apache Tribe and is the Director of Marketing for the Inn of the Mountain Gods Enterprises, located on the Mescalero Apache Reservation in Southern New Mexico. She was born and raised in Mescalero and has worked in the hospitality industry for more than 30 years. Kazhe has been the Director of Marketing going on 13 years and has worked in many different areas of the resort. Coming from a diverse cultural background as well, her parents come from Chiricahua Apache, Pima, Papago, Cherokee, Irish, German, and Italian decent. She is the great-great daughter of the Apache Scout Rogers Toclanny and Siki Toclanny who were prisoners of war for 27 years. Kazhe has an Associates of Arts degree from New Mexico State University, a certificate in Cultural Tourism for George Washington University, and from Cornell University in the area of Hospitality and Service. She is also a licensed cosmetologist in the state of New Mexico.

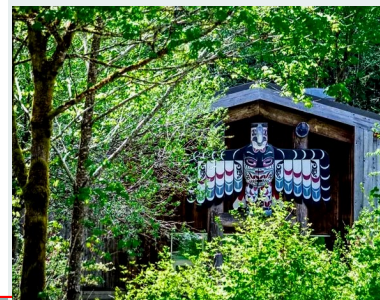
We recognize the impact that Women have in the world and in the lives of those around them, Indigenous women have had an exemplary tradition of advocacy, contributions and overcoming adversity. AIANTA celebrates the women in our communities for being POWERFUL, INSPIRING and BRILLIANT. They continue to enrich every level of our day-to-day lives.

*NCAI welcomes Mary Parker as director of communications: NCAI. Home. (2025, March 12). <https://www.ncai.org/news/ncai-welcomes-mary-parker-as-director-of-communications>*



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# NCAI WELCOMES MARY PARKER AS DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Washington, D.C. | The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) proudly announces Mary Parker as our new Director of Communications. With over a decade of experience in public affairs, strategic messaging, stakeholder engagement, and tribal consultations, Ms. Parker brings a wealth of knowledge and a proven track record that will strengthen NCAI's commitment to serving as the unified voice for Indian Country.

Ms. Parker joins NCAI following over six years at the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC), where she served as Public Affairs Manager and official spokesperson. In this role, she led public affairs initiatives, oversaw media relations, and managed the agency's brand identity. Her leadership extended to supervising cross-functional teams and leading instructional design efforts to ensure clear and effective communications with Tribal Nations and the broader public.

Ms. Parker is a recipient of multiple leadership awards recognizing her dedication and impact, including being named to the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development's prestigious "40 Under 40" list in 2020. Ms. Parker has an impressive academic background as well. She holds a Master's degree in Administrative Leadership from the University of Oklahoma and is a doctoral candidate in Instructional Systems Design and Technology at Sam Houston State University. Her research focuses on digital equity and Native American education, reflecting her com-

mitment to advancing educational opportunities and access for Native communities.



"Mary's experience and deep understanding of tribal affairs, combined with her energetic and innovative approach to communications, make her a valuable new addition to our leadership team," said NCAI Executive Director Larry Wright Jr. "We are excited to welcome her to the NCAI team and look forward to her insightful leadership in communications as we all continue our work to protect tribal sovereignty and uplift Indian Country."

In her new role, Ms. Parker will lead NCAI's Communications Department, shaping the organization's strategic messaging, strengthening media engagement, and ensuring NCAI continues to provide timely and impactful information to Tribal Nations, policymakers, and the public. Ms. Parker is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation. (NCAI welcomes Mary Parker as director of communications: NCAI. Home. (2025, March 12). <https://www.ncai.org/news/ncai-welcomes-mary-parker-as-director-of-communications>)



## READ NCAI President Mark Macarro's State of Indian Nations Address

We thank the Creator for bringing us together today. The wisdom and values of our elders are the bedrock of our communities. And the powerful voices of our youth in Indian Country embolden the hope I have for all of us. To our Native veterans, thank you for your service.

Let's also take a moment to breathe in the rich diversity and strength of our thriving Tribal Nations that are in this very room.

I believe this is a moment for hope in Indian Country. Our stories and histories continue to have much to offer everyone in this nation. Our songs tell us of a time on earth before the moon was in the sky. Indeed, we've been here an awful long, long time.

And there's an unwavering spirit that has secured the strength of our communities today. We are the first Americans, and our Tribal Nations are the first governments.

I am speaking today not only to Indian Country but to all our fellow American citizens, who increasingly turn to us for wisdom, collaboration, and solutions to our shared challenges.

We continue to make strides in representation in everything from elected office to outer space to what I believe will be a historic night at the Academy Awards next month. [in reference to Lily Gladstone}

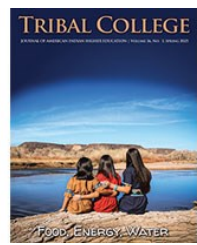
The work always continues, but the state of Indian Nations is strong and on the rise. (NCAI welcomes Mary Parker as director of communications: NCAI. Home. (2025, March 12). <https://www.ncai.org/news/ncai-welcomes-mary-parker-as-director-of-communications>)



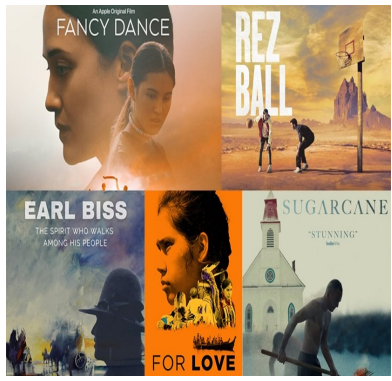
# TRIBAL COLLEGE

JOURNAL OF AMERICAN INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION

## Native Films You Should Be Streaming in 2025



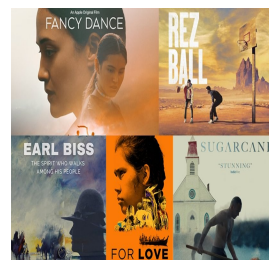
*For Love* is a documentary that reveals the injustices inflicted upon generations of Indigenous people by Canada’s governmental programs. Attempting to assimilate First Nation’s citizens into the mainstream culture since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Canada transitioned from a policy of sending children to residential boarding schools to one that “scooped” them from their family homes and placed them in non-Native families. The number of failed placements and adoptions are shameful in their own right, but the adoptees’ trauma of losing their sense of belonging has helped contribute to a tragic suicide epidemic. The power of the film comes from the hope embodied by the victims. They have turned their pain into successful demands for investments in their communities and led culturally grounded events that offer healing through the restora-



*Rez Ball* is a sports drama inspired by the stories of New Mexico’s Native American high school basketball culture. The fictionalized film follows the Chuska Warriors’ attempt to coalesce as a championship team using the tenants of “rez ball” to work as a team, strike quickly, and communicate using the Diné language. Despite impressing with quick passes and fastbreaks, the players are each carrying personal and inherited burdens that threaten their success. With the support of their community, they recognize their potential to accomplish great things. The film’s power comes from its ensemble cast who collectively laugh, grieve, argue, and bond over their shared commitment to overcome obstacles. Directed by Sydney Freeland (Navajo), who co-wrote the screenplay with Sterlin Harjo (Seminole), the film showcases how the wisdom inherent in tribal cultures translates to perseverance both on and off the court. (Netflix)

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## 5 NATIVE FILMS YOU SHOULD BE STREAMING IN 2025



***Sugarcane*** is a documentary that highlights the resilience of First Nations' residential school survivors. Blending historical research and personal interviews, co-director Julian Brave NoiseCat (Canim Lake Band Tsq'secen of the Secwepemc Nation) documents the trauma that occurred at a school run by the Catholic Church. The film reveals evidence of unmarked graves, a son's recognition that he was conceived when a priest assaulted his mother, and the ways in which former pupils still struggle with the ramifications of what occurred during their time there. NoiseCat's father's time at the school led to him abandoning his son, but the director shows how he is breaking that cycle with his own children. Indigenous Catholics traveled to hear the Pope apologize for the horrors they and their peers had to endure. The film helps to show how the process of healing has only just begun. (*Hulu*)

***Earl Biss: The Spirit Who Walks Among His People*** is a documentary that shares the amazing output and exuberant life of the Crow artist who was a major figure in the latter 20<sup>th</sup> century Native American art scene. Featuring archival footage of the artist at work as well as interviews he gave to various media outlets, the film weaves in stories from friends, family, ex-wives, and children who collectively paint him as a man whose oversized lifestyle was only surpassed by his breathtaking output. Known to sell pieces whose paint was still wet, Earl Biss traveled the world, partied with Hunter S. Thompson, lived generously, and built a reputation as a loyal but sometimes frustrating friend. The film reveals how Biss had a connection to another realm of storytelling, and how he used his brushstrokes to capture what he saw on canvas. (*Amazon Prime*)

***Fancy Dance*** is a genre-defying drama about the reverberations that echo when a sister is stolen. Academy Award nominee Lily Gladstone (Piegan Blackfeet and Nez Perce) stars as Jax, an auntie whose criminal past prevents her from watching her teenage niece, Riki, when her mother, Tawi, goes missing. Taking Riki from her grandparents' home, Jax attempts to be hopeful as the two search Oklahoma's backroads en route to a powwow that Tawi never misses. With nuanced performances, the film shows how the United States' systemic failure to protect Native women affects an individual family. Directed by Erica Tremblay (Seneca-Cayuga), who co-wrote the screenplay with Miciana Alise (Tlingit), the film will resonate with those who have been affected by the ongoing tragedy of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous People epidemic as well as shed light on how each life lost has a resounding impact. (*Apple TV*) (Winn, R. (2025, February 21). *Five native films you should be streaming in 2025*. Tribal College Journal of American Indian Higher Education. <https://tribalcollegejournal.org/five-native-films-you-should-be-streaming-in-2025/>)



## GHC NATIVE PATHWAYS STUDENTS PREPARE FOR SPRING



### 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 IS COMMITTED TO SERVICE OF NATIVE COMMUNITIES AND POPULATIONS THROUGH EDUCATION

#### THE DEGREE

The GHC Native Pathways Degree provides meaningful education and cultural enrichment through academic transfer, workforce preparation, basic skills, and service to community.

The benefits of earning the Native Pathways Degree are evident in the areas of achievement and upward mobility. Many of our students go on to earn upper division degrees and employment as well as workforce upgrades. Many used acquired skills to improve and enrich their tribal communities.

#### THE 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.

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

## MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Grays Harbor Head

Librarian, Adrienne Rousch  
shared a list of GHC Li-  
brary

Resources in celebrating the  
contributions of women  
throughout history and of  
today.

Highlighted on this list  
were E-books featuring  
women of local culture.

The E-books listed are the  
following:

***Tulalip, from my  
heart: an autobio-  
graphical account of a  
reservation community***

and

***Katie Gale: A Coast  
Salish Woman's Life  
on Oyster Bay***



## Grays Harbor College/ Native Pathways Program

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- Dr. Carli Schiffner GHC PRESIDENT Carli.schiffner@ghc.edu



### Quarterly Course Offerings

#### Grays Harbor College (Bridge Program)

(If a student placement at pre-college level on the placement test.

The length of time required to complete the degree maybe longer than outlined below.)

QUARTER	YEAR 1 COLUMN	YEAR 2 COLUMN	YEAR 3 COLUMN
FALL	FYE 101-ORIENTATION (1 CREDIT) ENGLISH 101 (5 CREDITS) B-TECH 101 (2 CREDITS) HUM 107 (1 CREDIT)	ANTH 210 (5 CREDIT) ENGLISH 102 (5 CREDIT) <b>WEEKEND CLASSES:</b> <b>HUM 103 (2 CREDIT)</b>	EARTH SCIENCE 102 (5 CREDIT) MATH 107 (5 CREDIT)
WINTER	ANTH 206 (5 CREDIT) LIBRARY 101 (2 CREDIT) <b>WEEKEND CLASSES:</b> <b>HUM 101 (2 CREDIT)</b> <b>HUM 108 (1 CREDIT)</b>	POLS 202 (5 CREDIT) GEN-PSYCH 100 (5 CREDIT) <b>WEEKEND CLASSES:</b> <b>HUM 105 (2 CREDIT)</b>	HEALTH PROMOTION 101 (5 CREDIT) ASTRONOMY 101 (5 CREDIT)
SPRING	BIOLOGY 100 (5 CREDIT) ART APPR'N: 100 (5 CREDIT) <b>WEEKEND CLASSES:</b> <b>HUM 102 (2 CREDIT)</b> <b>HUM 109 (1 CREDIT)</b>	MUSIC 105 (5 CREDIT) ANTH 216 (5 CREDIT)	5
SUMMER	OPTIONAL	OPTIONAL	OPTIONAL