



GHC NATIVE PATHWAYS

GHC NATIVE PATHWAYS PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

December 2024



The Tribal Nations Summit, held on December 9th and established by Executive Order 13647, is the flagship annual convening of the Federal government and Indian Country, and reflects the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to strengthening Nation-to-Nation relationships. The Summit reinforces the fundamental principles of Tribal sovereignty, Tribal Self Determination, and the federal governments trust responsibility, in order that Native Nations and Native peoples thrive, prosper, and retain their reserved rights.

NOTABLE WINTER QUARTER DATES

*Jan 7, First Day of Classes
Log In to Canvas Classrooms

***Evergreen Weekend Gathering Dates
(Feb. 4&5; March 4&5)**

*January 13 Last Day for 100% Refund

* January 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day

*January 27, Last Day for 50% Refund

*March 27, Last Day of Instruction

Grays Harbor College Native Pathways Students Prepare for Winter Quarter

GHC Native Pathways Students are gearing up for winter quarter. Checking class schedules, buying text books, and other preparation tasks are on students' minds as January 7th marks the beginning of winter quarter.

The basic online delivery of the curriculum favors place based students as well as those who have family and work schedules to contend with. The curriculum is also unique in that it offers cultural relevance through the Electives and Humanities distributions. Also those faculty who have attended the Native Cases Institute and who teach mainstream courses use Native Case Studies from the Evergreen Enduring Legacies website to further support areas of cultural relevance.

THE EVERGREEN CONNECTION The GHC Native Pathways Program is also referred to as the Bridge Program connecting to the upper division Native Pathways Program at The Evergreen State College where all students meet at the Evergreen Longhouse for lecture and seminar twice during the quarter. (see below) The degree is also transferrable to other four years colleges.



In this issue:

Pg. 1 - Tribal Nations Summit; Winter QTR

Pg. 2 - Native Pathways Program Information

Pg. 3 - NW Indian Fisheries and National News

Pg. 4 - Student Letter



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 Winter Quarter are in February and March.

GHC Native Pathways Winter Curriculum

Anthropology 216, Library 101, Political Science 202,
General Psychology 100, Health Promotion 101,
Astronomy 100

Humanities classes

Hum 101, Hum 105, Hum 108, Hum 111

While many core courses in the curriculum contain cultural relevance through the use of Native Case Studies, the Humanities courses have direct cultural relevance in course content.

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 Tribal Nations and/or urban areas are also very welcome to be part of the program.

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 on 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.





STUDENTS EXPLORE SALMON FOCUSED CAREER PATH

In an effort to energize the region's tribal youth about careers related to salmon recovery, the NWIFC and the Tulalip Tribes hosted a Native Youth Salmon Summit this fall. The two-day summit provided activities showcasing career pathways into natural resources management work critical to sustaining salmon populations in the Pacific Northwest.

FEDERAL FUNDING SUPPORTS TRIBAL HATCHERIES THAT BENEFIT EVERYONE

"Since time immemorial, tribes in the Pacific Northwest have relied on Pacific salmon, steelhead and other native fish species for sustenance and their cultural and spiritual ways of life," said Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland. "This funding will help us deliver historic investments from the President's Investing in America agenda that will empower Indigenous communities and safeguard resources they have stewarded since time immemorial."



SENATE APPROVES TRUTH AND HEALING COMMISSION BILL

(From Indian Country Today)

The push for U.S. accountability for the creation and operation of Indian boarding schools rolls on in the final days of the current Congressional session with Senate passage of a bill to establish a Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies.

U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz, a Democrat from Hawai'i who serves as chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, and U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, a Republican from Alaska, announced the bipartisan legislation had passed the Senate on Friday, Dec. 20.

CLIMATE YEAR IN REVIEW

(From Indian Country Today)

Heat, drought, floods, fires and storms brought record year for many tribal communities

"A lot of times when people think about climate change impacts and climate change events, they really focus on the extreme weather events like the once-in-a-lifetime hundred-year storms and the major wildfires and the major tsunamis," said Janene Yazzie the director of policy and advocacy at NDN Collective. "But I think over the last year, some of the biggest impacts we've been seeing have been the result of just the changing weather patterns in general and the cumulative impacts that that's having," Yazzie said, "creating less predictable and erratic growing seasons affecting traditional farms."

STUDENT LETTER TO A FUTURE STUDENT

(This letter was an assignment in GHC English Professor Sarah Aiken's course)

Dear Future Student,

Welcome to Grays Harbor College! My name is Vanessa Mills, and I am a freshman in the Native Pathways Program. I'm 42 years old, and I decided to start college this year. As a full-time employee, full-time student, and a person with a family, my students encourage me every day. This year, I learned a lot, and I'm excited to share my experience with you.

One of the most important things I've learned is how to stay organized. I rely heavily on my calendar, which includes not just class deadlines but also family time and personal self-care. College can be tricky, especially when studying online, so my advice is to stay on top of your syllabus and review your modules regularly. Watch all the videos, and don't hesitate to reach out to your instructors if you need help. This technique helped me succeed in my first quarter, and I'm feeling very proud of how far I've come.

Starting from scratch can be intimidating, but I want you to know that it's okay to start at the beginning. I started with the most basic classes and saw significant growth throughout the term. Don't feel ashamed if you need to relearn things—everyone's journey is different. When I first started, I was nervous and anxious, and I even struggled with my anxiety. But as I progressed in my studies, that anxiety slowly went away. I encourage you to reach out to your teachers, tutors, and study buddies. I had a wonderful group of friends who helped me stay on track and provided constant encouragement.

This past semester has been incredibly challenging for me personally. I lost my fiancé at the start of the term, and by the end of the semester, I lost my baby brother. Despite these personal struggles, the Grays Harbor College community, especially Ms. Aiken, was understanding and supportive. This is one of the things I truly appreciate about GHC—they're here to help you, no matter what you're going through. Be sure to communicate with your teachers if you're struggling, and remember: the only person who can truly fail is yourself. But if you fall behind, don't beat yourself up. It can be tough to catch up, but don't give up. You've got this.

One of the most rewarding parts of this class is seeing how your writing improves over time. At the end of the course, you'll notice that you're writing more clearly, without slang, and with stronger writing skills. You might even notice yourself applying these skills in places like social media or text messages! Practice makes perfect.

Here's another tip: always bring your laptop with you. I missed a couple of weekly check-ins because I left my laptop at work, and it's easy to forget how important those small tasks are. Also, find a study spot where you're comfortable. For me, work was the best place to study because when I get home, I'm ready to relax.

No matter what struggles you've faced in life, I'm incredibly proud of you for deciding to go to college. It's not always easy, but it's worth it. Take time for yourself when you need it, and remember that it does get stressful, but the rewards are worth it in the end.

I send you love and light as you begin your journey. Be confident—you've got this!

With love,
Vanessa Mills

