

COMMITTEE REPORT

Higher Education

Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians -
2024 Midyear Convention

Canyonville, OR

DISCUSSION

Zoe Higheagle Strong, Vice Provost for Native American Relations and Programs and Tribal Liaison to the President, Washington State University

The presentation from Washington State University (WSU) for the ATNI Education Committee on May 21, 2024, covers various initiatives and policies related to tribal engagement, education, and historical context.

Here are the main points:

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):

- Originally signed in 1997 and revised in 2022.
- Aims to strengthen relationships between WSU and signatory Tribes, ensuring Native American students receive academic, cultural, and social support.

Executive Policy 41: Tribal Engagement Consultation and Consent:

- Formalizes policies and procedures for interactions between WSU and Tribal governments.
- Emphasizes adherence to state and federal laws, recognizing Tribes' sovereign status.
- Training faculty, administrators, staff and students across the WSU system.
- The policy pertains to any work that may have a foreseeable impact on Tribes.

Native American Scholarship Program:

- A \$1.7 million Washington State Proviso sponsored by Representative Lekanoff.
- A two-year pilot program to establish scholarships covering the full cost of attendance for Native American students.

Pacific Northwest Hydrogen Hub:

- A multi-state coalition to develop clean hydrogen solutions, including partnerships with Tribal Nations.
- Aims to create a clean hydrogen ecosystem, promote high-quality jobs, and focus on social equity and environmental justice.

Land-Grant University History:

- Discussion of the Morrill Act of 1862 and the Enabling Act of 1889, which provided land for the establishment of WSU.
- Emphasizes the historical context of land appropriations from Indigenous peoples and the lasting impact on Tribes.

- Trust lands managed by the WA State Department of Natural Resources generate revenue through timber sales, agricultural leases, and mineral leases.
- Revenue contributes to the Agricultural College Permanent Fund and the Scientific School Permanent Fund, managed by the Washington State Investment Board.
- WSU is actively working towards reparations through scholarships, programs, and support services for Native students, Native faculty cluster hire, not charging for facility space, etc.

Casey Wynecoop, Assistant Director, wələbʔaltx^w – Intellectual House, Office of Minority Affairs & Diversity, University of Washington

The presentation from the University of Washington (UW) for the ATNI Education Committee on May 21, 2024, focuses on updates and developments related to the wələbʔaltx^w – Intellectual House, funding initiatives, and community engagement efforts. Here are the main points:

Phase 1 Updates for wələbʔaltx^w – Intellectual House

Alumni Dinner:

- Events aimed at fostering connections among alumni.

Student Technologies Fund (STF) Award:

- Received \$220,921 for technological enhancements.
- Installation scheduled from July 1st to July 16th.

Margarett A. Cargill Philanthropies Award:

- Awarded \$250,000 for two years (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2026).
- Focus on creating and supporting multigenerational relationships to encourage student retention, attainment, and progression.
- Programs include the Alumni Mentorship Program, Elders Dinner Events, and initiatives to increase Native student applications through workshops and recruitment materials.
- Increase the use and access of the Intellectual House (IH) for community and arts events like Craft Night and Student Community Events.

Phase 2 Updates for wələbʔaltx^w – Intellectual House

Funding Status:

- Raised \$10 million out of a \$15 million goal through a mix of tribal and private donors.
- Fundraising efforts are ongoing.

Staff and Faculty Open House Feedback:

- Emphasis on the inclusion of Native alumni and K-12 outreach.
- Importance of providing a safe and supportive space.
- Ensuring urban Indians feel part of the community.
- Native language presence and the need for teaching space and scheduling priorities for community and learning spaces.

Lynne Dennis, Tribal Liaison, Evergreen State College

The Evergreen State College, in partnership with the WA State Board of Community and Technical Colleges, will host a Government-to-Government Summit on June 18, 2024. This event, taking place at the Evergreen Longhouse, aims to strengthen relationships between Washington Tribes and higher education leaders. The summit will focus on advancing Indigenous knowledge and improving educational access and career training for Indigenous communities. Key sessions include discussions on tribal student success,

instructional best practices, and roundtables with tribal leaders and liaisons. The summit is free, but registration is required.

The Third Annual Elected Tribal Official Academy

- Dates: April 15-17, 2025
- Location: Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort, Suquamish, Washington
- Host: Suquamish Tribe
- Purpose: The academy aims to enhance the knowledge of newly elected tribal officials on topics such as sovereignty, jurisdiction, government-to-government relations, and financial responsibilities.

House of Welcome Cultural Art's Center

Join Evergreen on May 29, 2024, from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM at the Burke Museum's Cascade Room for an evening dedicated to preserving and celebrating Native arts and cultures. Hosted by Ellen L. Ferguson, this event aims to create an endowment for the House of Welcome Cultural Arts Center. Enjoy engaging with artists, grant partners, and savoring delicious Indigenous foods.

ADOPTED AND RECOMMENDED TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NO RESOLUTIONS

COMMITTEE - TABLED

Resolution # & Title:

Minutes/Report submitted by: Zoe Higheagle Strong
Committee Chair