

## Tribal Relations, Curriculum Development, and American Indian Indigenous Studies Advisory Board

### Background:

Community and technical college enrollment and completion rates by students from Tribal communities were low prior to the global health crisis of COVID 19, but the pandemic has exacerbated these rates. The disproportionality of American Indian/Alaska Native student recruitment, retention, and completion rates can be addressed through building collaborative partnerships and consultation between local Tribes and community and technical colleges. (RCW 43.376 Government to Government with Indian Tribes). The SBCTC is attempting to address these disparities by developing a robust outreach initiative, trainings for colleges, and curriculum review to incorporate indigenous knowledge systems.

A handful of our community and technical colleges are working with local Tribes to build trust and relationships from which to build authentic, respectful change and open pathways of opportunities. Albeit successful is small pockets, this Tribal engagement needs statewide coordination and training, so colleges are appropriately prepared to begin this work with sovereign nations. Community and technical colleges across have mobilized and are requesting technical assistance to engage regional/local Tribes.

### Timeline and Activities to Date:

**November 2021:** Director Tribal Relations & Curriculum Development hired (Lynn Palmanteer-Holder, member of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville and a long-serving university educator, tribal leader, and administrator).

**January 2022:** Statewide Tribal consultation survey administered to each SBCTC college to create an inventory of current tribal/college projects, partnerships, and curricular offerings.

**February / March 2022:** Washington State Community and Technical Colleges American Indian Indigenous Studies Advisory Board Kickoff: Established the Washington State Community and Technical Colleges American Indian Indigenous Studies Advisory Board This advisory board is comprised of representatives from College and Tribal communities<sup>1</sup>. Over the next 18 months, the advisory board will develop a statewide strategic plan to build government-to-government relationships between the college system and 29 federally recognized tribes. This strategic plan will aim to reduce American Indian/Alaska Native education and employment disparities; raise institutional awareness of tribe historical burdens; raise the consciousness to address contemporary barriers by making space for Indigenous knowledge and curriculum, and increase opportunities for Indigenous scholars, professional teachers, and administrators.

**March 2022:** College Spark Washington awards the SBCTC an Education Equity Fund grant of \$180,000 to do this work.

**April/May 2022:** Washington State Indian Education Association and UW Indigenous Pedagogy Summit held for Community and Technical Colleges.

**May 2022:** Washington State Community and Technical Colleges American Indian Indigenous Studies Advisory Board two-day Retreat at Green River College in collaboration with Muckleshoot Tribe.

---

<sup>1</sup> Partnering Divisions/Commissions/Councils and Tribal Leader and Education Boards:

- WACTC
- Instruction Commission
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Office
- Research and Planning Commission
- Diversity and Equity Officers Commission
- Washington Student Services Commission
- Library Leadership Council
- Workforce Education Council
- Tribal Leaders Congress on Education
- Washington State Indian Education Association
- UW Center for American Indian Indigenous Studies
- Washington State Native Education Advisory Committee
- Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction