

## **2019 ESA Statewide National American Indian Heritage Month (NAIHM) Events**

### **ESA HQ**

ESA HQ held its 21<sup>st</sup> celebration on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Over 100 people enjoyed a luncheon of Indian tacos with fry bread prepared by members of the Chehalis Tribe, members of the South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency (SPIPA) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, and Olympia Division of Child Support (DCS) staff. The celebration included two American Indian Arts and Crafts tables and presentations made by Vickie Era Pankretz, an Alutiiq Indian artist and teacher from Alaska, and Dana'e Marshall, an ESA employee and member of the Navajo Nation. Attendees were treated to a performance by the Wa He Lut Salish Sea Drum & Dance Group, who performed traditional dance, drumming and songs.

### **Economic Services Administration Celebrates National American Indian Heritage Month** by Georgia Payne

The Economic Services Administration (ESA) held its 21<sup>st</sup> annual celebration of National American Indian Heritage Month (NAIHM). November is the officially recognized month to celebrate and commemorate the heritage of American Indian and Alaska Natives. It is a time to honor the contributions, achievements, and sacrifices of America's first people, and a time to learn and celebrate the rich cultural and historical legacy of Native people.

Each year the sitting **President** and the Washington State **Governor** issue Proclamations to acknowledge NAIHM and reaffirm the commitment to respect each tribe's sovereignty and cultural identity.

ESA  
Headquarters  
hosted their  
celebration on  
November 5,  
2019 at the  
Capital View 1  
building in  
Olympia.



Over 100 people enjoyed a luncheon of Indian tacos with fry bread prepared by members of the Chehalis Tribe, members of the South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency (SPIPA) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, and Olympia Division of Child Support (DCS) staff. Lunch included smoked salmon with cream cheese, a variety of chili donated by ESA staff, pumpkin pie with whipped cream, and assorted cookies.



The celebration included two American Indian Arts and Crafts tables and presentations made by Vickie Era Pankretz, an Alutiiq Indian artist and teacher from Alaska, and Dana'e Marshall, an ESA employee and member of the Navajo Nation. Dana'e is also involved with the 7generations Intertribal Culture Family that is a local urban Intertribal group here in the Pacific Northwest.



Attendees were treated to a performance by the Wa He Lut Salish Sea Drum & Dance Group, who performed traditional dance, drumming and songs. This talented group of elementary and middle school students from the Wa He Lut Indian School at Frank's Landing in Olympia WA proudly performed in custom made regalia consisting of traditional colors, textiles, and designs that tell the story of creation from local Salish Sea Native culture. ESA extends our appreciation and sincere thanks to all the presenters, cooks, volunteers, staff and everyone who participated and donated towards this event. Without your help we could not host such an awesome event each year. We are already looking forward to next year's NAIHM celebration. Hope to see you there!

# Division of Child Support (DCS)

## Everett

On November 14, 2019 the Everett DCS Tribal Team held their annual Native American Heritage Month Celebration. The event consisted of a morning and afternoon presenters and a free Indian Taco Lunch Buffet for attendees.

The morning session included Jessyca Murphy from the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission on Sexual & Domestic Violence. Her topic was Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit Persons (MMIWG2S).



The afternoon sessions included a presentation from Natosha Gobin, Dx<sup>w</sup>lǎšucid Lushootseed Teacher for Tulalip Tribes and Marysville School District, who told stories and had cultural artifacts to share. Our second afternoon presenter, Rose Ness, Clinical Director at didg<sup>w</sup>álič Wellness Center, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, presented and discussed the clinics history, methods of treatments, and successes regarding the opioid epidemic. -- We were honored to have Tulalip Tribal Child Support staff come for the day. A total of 72 attendees joined in the celebration and included DCS staff, HCS staff, DCYF, and tribal partner .

Above are a few pictures taken by Jeff Herrmann, PBS3, and CSD Tribal Liaison for Tulalip Tribes.

## Yakima

In celebration of the NAIHM, for the 2nd year in row Yakima DCS held its annual Toy and Clothing Drive to benefit tribal foster children under the supervision of Nak-Nu-We-Sha. We began our toy and clothing drive November 12, 2019 and concluded it on December 11, 2019. Last year Tribal Liaisons delivered hundreds of toys in December to some very happy and excited children and we did the same this year. We delivered the items on December 12, 2019 to coincide with Nak-Nu-We-Sha's Christmas celebration.





## Spokane

DCS invited Spokane Tribal member Warren Seyler to do a history presentation on 11/6/19 regarding the Spokane Tribe. About 60 people show up to listen to him. Some of our DCS staff came and chatted with me after the training about how much they learned and how much they enjoyed the presentation. The most common feedback was from attendees who stated they have lived in the Spokane area for many years and had no idea of its history. Four hours was too long for some, but overall, the feedback was very positive.

## Olympia

*The Olympia FO celebrated NAIHM with a chili, soup, and cornbread lunch on November 14, 2019. Staff were also invited to create native inspired beaded keychains.*

## Vancouver

The Vancouver DCS office celebrated Native American Heritage Month on November 12, 2019 by inviting the Cowlitz Tribal Drum Group to share their culture through songs. The entire building was invited including CSO, DDDS, DCFS and DCS. Cassandra Sellards-Reck brought her young students to perform along with others. They were very enthusiastic and inspiring. The Cowlitz Drum Group performs at many events like public events, funeral services and on the Canoe Journey. A few months ago they performed at the 32nd Annual National Conference on Race and Ethnicity (NCORE) in Portland, Oregon. The group loves to share their songs as a way of keeping their culture alive and representing their tribe. Cassandra said they were honored to be invited to share with us.

Also, the Cowlitz spiritual leader, Tanna Engdahl, gave a slide show and talked about the history of the Cowlitz Tribe and their progression to recognition, where they have been and where they are going. It was a moving and inspirational program. Homemade Pumpkin cookies were served to all attendees.

## Seattle

The Seattle DCS FO invited Dr. Mike Tulee from the United Indians of All Tribes Foundation to speak on November 7, 2019. Dr. Tulee is a very engaging speaker and provided staff with good information on the history of the Daybreak Star Center and the United Indians of all Tribes Foundation. The event was well attended. Staff were treated to light refreshments which were also very popular. All in all, a great event. Tribal Liaison Ethan Cassady also hosted a Ted Talk on November 12, 2019 entitled "Surviving Disappearance: Re-Imagining & Humanizing Native Peoples."

## Community Services Division (CSD)

### Aberdeen

We had Titus Capoeman from the Quinault Tribe present at our All Staff in November. He is the maker of the tribal paddles that Aberdeen and Region purchased. He described the purpose of the paddle, his heritage, the symbolism around the Canoe Journey's, what the tribe is doing to keep their traditions alive.

The Aberdeen Community Services Office has the opportunity to work with several local tribes. One of the tribes we work with is the Quinault Indian Nation (QIN) and they are located in Taholah, WA. The reservation land is made up of spectacular forests, rivers and coastline. It encompasses more than 208 thousand acres providing many natural resources and a large variety of wildlife throughout such as elk, deer, bald eagles and cougars. We have been introduced to an important member of their tribe, a young man named Titus Capeoman, who holds three positions. He is a 28 year old US Marine Vet who has been clean and sober for two years now. The positions he holds within the tribe are, Cultural Advisor for the TANF program, Cultural Teacher and Position 1 on the Quinault School board. In addition to the positions he fills, Titus is an accomplished artist and follows in his father's footsteps. He has created three Pacer Paddles for Economic Services Administration. Two Paddles will be hung at our Region Office and the one pictured with Titus will be hung in Aberdeen. The Pacer Paddle Titus is holding has a Thunderbird painted as a memorial for his late father who passed away when Titus was a senior in High School. It wasn't until Titus returned from the military and went through treatment that he really became interested in art. He is now able to produce a Pacer Paddle from scratch in about two hours! The Pacer Paddles at the Region office have red painted tips which are a recognizable symbol of the Quinault Tribe. The Pacer Paddle sets the pace of the Canoe and should be that of a heartbeat. Currently Titus is working on gaining drums for students to learn their sovereign songs. It would be compared to American students doing the Pledge of Allegiance. The Tribe is constantly working on keeping up their traditions and growing stronger. The Quinault Tribe is lucky to have such a devoted and talented member as Titus Capeoman.





## Columbia River

DCS hosted a building wide drumming event with the Cowlitz Tribe. It was a 2 hour event which allowed our staff to rotate in and out.

## Pierce South

The Cultural Diversity committee creates displays each month on interesting topics to help bring awareness of different cultures in celebrating their achievements, inventions, celebrations, colors, textures and tastes.

Indigenous Peoples Month, November 1-30, 2019

Posters:

- Wes Studi's Biography and achievements
- Navajo Code talkers 1942 – 1945
- Totem Pole poster
- Informational Q & A covering: Trail of Tears, First Thanksgiving, Largest Native American Reservation in USA
- Information on – Lucy Covington, Colville Tribe; Ada Deer Menominee, Native American Advocate; Louise Erdrich, Turtle Mountain Chippewa; Billy Frank, Jr, Activist, Nisqually tribal member; Oren Lyons, Onondaga, Turtle Clan of the Seneca Nations; Richard Oakes, Activist, Mohawk Tribe; Forrest Gerard, Blackfeet Tribe of Montana; Elizabeth Peratrovich, Tlingit, Lukaax.'adi Clan; Pascal Poolaw, Kiowa, Highly Decorated War Hero; Mary Golda Ross, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma; Wes Studi, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma

Poems by Loren R. Stafford of Turtle Clan: "Don't Call Me Indian!" and "WANABE Indians, you are not my kin!"

We had two maps on display which showed Tribal locations within the United States in the late 1800's and a more current one. This showed a distinct change that has occurred over time.

We continue to have on display a current Tribal list.

Marie Natrall, Ph.D., Regional Mngr. Office of Indian Policy (OIP)– spoke at All Staff Meeting on November 19, 2019. Marie inspired us with her family's history sharing photos and family tree; also the importance of being connected to our elders and their rich heritage.

## Port Angeles

REDI group sent out the attached email to staff.

November is Native American Heritage Month, or as it is commonly referred to, American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month.

On August 3, 1990, [President of the United States George H. W. Bush](#) declared the month of November as **National American Indian Heritage Month**, thereafter commonly referred to as **Native American Heritage Month**. First sponsor of "American Indian Heritage Month" was through the American Indian Heritage Foundation by the founder Pale Moon Rose, of Cherokee-Seneca descent and an adopted Ojibwa, whose Indian name Win-yan-sa-han-wi "Princess of the Pale Moon" was given to her by Alfred Michael "Chief" Venne <sup>[1]</sup> <sup>[2]</sup>

The Bill read in part that "the President has authorized and requested to call upon Federal, State and local Governments, groups and organizations and the people of the [United States](#) to observe such month with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities". This was a landmark Bill honoring America's Tribal people.

This commemorative month aims to provide a platform for [Native people](#) in the United States of America to share their culture, traditions, music, crafts, dance, and ways and concepts of life. This gives Native people the opportunity to express to their community, both city, county and state officials their concerns and solutions for building bridges of understanding and friendship in their local area.

Washington state is home to 29 federally-recognized Indian tribes. Tribal governments are improving people's lives, Indian and non-Indian alike, in communities from Neah Bay to Usk.

Learn more about the economic impact of Washington Tribes in the new report: [The Economic & Community Benefits of Tribes in Washington](#).

## Puyallup

During November, our REDI team sent a series of emails to staff concerning American Indian Heritage Month. I have attached those messages for reference. In addition, our REDI team constructed a board, as they do each month, to highlight the monthly REDI theme. Our board provided historical information about the Trail of Tears.

November is Native American Heritage Month. The month is a time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native American people. Native American Heritage Month is also an opportune time to educate the general public about tribes, to raise a general awareness about the unique challenges Native people have faced both historically and in the present, and the ways in which tribal citizens have worked to conquer these challenges. The REDI committee will be sending out a weekly email, focusing on an individual issues Native Americans face today. This week we'll be addressing "Indian" sports mascots, logos, and symbols, specifically, the Redsk\*ns. Many Americans will argue that these names are inappropriate when used in general, but that as a team name, it is part of the tradition of that area.

However, as documented in a comprehensive review of decades of social science research, derogatory "Indian" sports mascots have serious psychological, social and cultural consequences for Native Americans, especially Native youth. Most concerning in considering negative stereotypes of Native people, are the alarmingly high rates of hate crimes against Native people. These factors together indicate a very real need to take immediate action in a number of areas, including the removal of harmful images as well as the education of the general public, to diffuse additional hateful activity against Native people.

The NFL's Washington football team name "Redsk\*ns" is a dictionary defined racial slur. The slur's origin is rooted in government bounty announcements calling for the bloody scalps of Native Americans in the 1800's. From the early 1900's up until today, the term has been carried on as a racial slur in popular culture. For much of the 20th century the term was used interchangeably in movies and books with the word "savage" to portray a misleading and denigrating image of the Native American.

This derogatory term was selected by team owner George Preston Marshall for use by the team in 1932 at a time when Native people were continuing to experience government and social policies to terminate tribes, assimilate Native people, and erase Native human and civil rights. In 1933, Marshall was the self-appointed leader amongst NFL owners to institute what would become a 13-year league-wide ban on African-American players from the NFL. The Washington football team did not integrate until 30 years later, when Marshall was forced to do so. While the team has moved on from Marshall's segregationist policies, it has refused to close the chapter on Marshall's ugly use of race-based marketing at the expense of Native people and communities.

While Native opposition to the name has not waived, public concern about the Washington football team's name has grown. NCAI (National Congress of American Indians) has continued to educate the public and advocate for a name change along with Native and non-Native allies through the campaign [Change The Mascot](#).

For more information about Native American Heritage Month you can visit the site:

<http://www.ncai.org/initiatives/native-american-heritage-month>

With Thanksgiving right around the corner, I thought it might be interesting for Native American Heritage month to do some research on the first Thanksgiving. After all, as a child, I was taught that this was a rare, peaceful event in American history in the relations between the Native Americans and the newly arrived Pilgrims. However, as with many of the stories we are told as children, the truth is a bit cloudier.

The Pilgrims landing in Plymouth in 1620 were not the first Europeans the Native Americans had encountered. The Native Americans had been trading with European sailors for quite some time by that point. In fact, as a result, many Europeans kidnapped Native Americans and sold them as slaves in England and other parts of Europe. In addition, Europeans brought a variety of diseases for which the aboriginal population had no resistance. Mortality rates eventually rose to up to 90% throughout the entire continent by the time the Pilgrims arrived in American to settle. White explorers would find these abandoned Native villages and plunder any supplies that were left, including desecrating grave sites to steal food left by mourners for their dead. Native Americans were understandably very wary of these new Europeans, as they realized they intended to settle in America and not leave like other Europeans usually did.

A member of the Patuxet tribe, Tisquantum, more widely known as Squanto, is widely recognized as being an integral part in developing relations between the Pilgrims and Native American tribes in the area. Squanto was kidnapped in 1614 by one of John Smith's lieutenants after luring tribe members onto their ship with a promise to trade with them. He was sold into slavery in Europe and eventually made it back to America to find that most of his tribe had been wiped out by one of the many diseases brought by the Europeans. He was then kidnapped by the Wampanoag tribe when he returned. Due to his slavery in Europe, Squanto spoke fluent English and was then sent by the Wampanoag tribe to develop relations with the English settlers. He taught them native techniques for farming and fishing in the area, as most of the first settlers were artisans and craftsmen, rather than farmers.

The settlers, compelled by their own interests, were forced to rely on Squanto because he was the only means by which they could communicate with the surrounding Natives, and he therefore was involved in every contact for the twenty months he lived with them. He was later accused of using his proximity and influence over the settlers to make himself great in the eyes of local Natives for his own benefit. Approximately a year after the first Thanksgiving, Squanto died from an unknown disease.

Nearly all of what historians have learned about the first Thanksgiving comes from a single eyewitness report: a letter written in December 1621 by Edward Winslow, one of the 100 or so people who sailed from England aboard the Mayflower in 1620 and founded Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts. Approximately 90 Native Americans from the Wampanoag tribe attended. The Wampanoag leader, Massasoit, had given the colonists food during their first winter in 1620 when the supplies brought from England were insufficient. It is never noted if the Native Americans were invited to the harvest feast or just happened to be in the area hunting. Just over 50 colonists are believed to have attended, including 22 men, four married women and more than 25 children and teenagers. These were the lucky ones who had made it through a rough entry into the New World, including a harsh winter during which an epidemic of disease swept through the colony, felling nearly half the original group. Some 78 percent of the women who had arrived on the Mayflower had died during the first winter, a far higher percentage than for men or children. The feast took place to celebrate the fact that the colonists had their first successful harvest in the New World, mostly due to the help of the Native Americans.

(continued)

But the significance of that first 1621 harvest celebration didn't really emerge until the mid-19th century, after the writer Alexander Young rediscovered Winslow's letter and made it famous in his 1841 book Chronicles of the Pilgrim Fathers. Bradford's manuscript, stolen by the British during the Revolutionary War, was recovered in the 1850s, just in time for the magazine editor Sarah Josepha Hale to incorporate it into her campaign to create an official national Thanksgiving holiday.

In 1863, Hale achieved her goal when President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the final Thursday in November as a national Thanksgiving holiday for the first time. From its roots in the Plymouth harvest celebration to Hale and Lincoln's attempt to mend a divided nation during the Civil War, we can trace the origins of the annual celebration of family, food and gratitude we know today.

While celebrating with family and friends next week, take some time to remember the original intentions behind the holiday. With the divisive political and social climate we continue living in today, we can all use a holiday to come together as Americans and put aside our differences.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM YOUR REDI COMMITTEE!

I've attached a New York Times article below for further reading:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/21/us/thanksgiving-myths-fact-check.html>

## Shelton

The Shelton CSO hosted the National American Indian Heritage Celebration with potluck on Wednesday, November 20th. We invited the youth from the Skokomish Tribe to the event. Our tribal liaison Terri Butler shared about the Canoe Journey in 2019 and the colorful book with pictures. The youth from the Skokomish Tribe did a presentation for our staff including singing, drumming and sharing amazing stories. We also learned about the great support programs and opportunities for youth provided by the Skokomish Tribe. It was incredible and very inspiring event.

## Smokey Point

The Smokey Point CSO held its celebration on November 20<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. This year's celebration included our returning guest speaker, Natosha Gobin- Lushootseed Advanced Language Teacher and Story Teller. She provided information about traditional medicines and resources such as cedar that the Coast Salish People have and are continuing to use to this day. We were also blessed with her husband, Thomas Williams whom provided additional singing and drumming. Attached are a few pictures taken by Jeff Herrmann, PBS3, and CSD Tribal Liaison for Tulalip.

## Tri-County CSO

Tri-County CSO staff participated in the 11/6/19 presentation by Mr. Warren Seyler, Former Chairman of the Spokane Tribe of Indians, who spoke about the history of the Spokane Tribe in honor of Native American Heritage month. The event was well attended and appreciated by all the administrations in the building.