

THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE MASTER IN TEACHING PROGRAM

# THE CONNECTION

FALL 2016 . VOLUME 16 . ISSUE 1



the evergreen  
state college  
olympia, washington

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**FIELD + COMMUNITY RELATIONS** | Loren Petty

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**FACULTY 2016-2018**

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**COVER + CONTENT PAGE IMAGES**

**Front Page Collage**

Top Left: MIT 2018 cohort’s Sustainability Field Trip to Nisqually Wildlife Refuge

Bottom Left: Return to Evergreen Panel (see page 6)

Top Right: Sean Riley, MIT 2005 and Riel LaPlant MIT 2018 Candidate

Bottom Right: Christina Vernon, MIT 2014

**Content Page Photograph**

Graduate assistants: Ryan Campeau, Michelle Sample and Riel LaPlant of the Blackfeet Nation at the Return to Evergreen President’s Brunch

# MiT Program 2017-2019 Moves to Tacoma Campus

Reported by the Tacoma Weekly: "Many Tacoma-area teachers, including Christina Vernon, have something in common. They earned their teaching degrees in a social justice-focused Master in Teaching (MiT) program offered by The Evergreen State College. Evergreen is currently accepting applications for its fall 2017 MiT program, which will be offered at the college's Tacoma location in the Hilltop neighborhood. Evergreen's upper division Tacoma Program, which helps undergraduates complete their bachelor's degrees, will share its classrooms and facilities on 6th Avenue with the 2017 MiT students.



MiT Alumni, Christina Vernon, MiT 2014

According to director Pat Naughton, Evergreen's MiT program is aimed at college graduates who want to make a difference in the world. The program is producing well-qualified teachers who are ready to help a diverse range of children and teens become critical thinkers and successful students.

In 2016, 100 percent of Evergreen's June MiT graduates seeking teaching jobs were employed by fall. Evergreen's two-year MiT program is distinct from traditional teacher education programs. First, while it incorporates all the state required areas for certification in curriculum planning, assessment and teaching methods, it does so in an intense interdisciplinary format rather than in separate courses taught in isolation. Second, candidates stay together and are supported by the same faculty in a learning community throughout the program. Finally, time is taken for extensive hands-on experience working with school-age students, including two full quarters of student teaching, more than most degree programs. This helps prepare effective and successful teachers.

For more information about the Evergreen MiT program, including the fall 2017 offering in Tacoma or fall 2018 offering in Olympia, and to see a list of scheduled information events, visit [evergreen.edu/mit](http://evergreen.edu/mit). Or call (360) 867-6559 to request materials. To learn more about Evergreen-Tacoma's undergraduate degree completion options, visit [evergreen.edu/tacoma](http://evergreen.edu/tacoma)."

FOR FULL ARTICLE, VISIT:

<http://www.tacomaweekly.com/news/article/evergreens-master-in-teaching-makes-a-difference-for-area-children>



Tacoma Campus Mural

## MiT Receives Grant to Improve Recruitment and Cultural Competency Practices

In late September the state's Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB) invited teacher education institutions to apply for Special Project Grants which would support programs taking steps to diversify the teacher workforce and deepen the cultural competence of candidates entering the profession. Evergreen was notified late October they were one of ten awardees, and received the maximum \$10,000 available. To accomplish the grant priorities, our proposal had to select from a PESB list of targeted activities. Our faculty and staff chose 1) to create a committee of community leaders (including target population representatives) and college representatives to **analyze and recommend revisions for recruitment practices and admissions policies**, and 2) to create a committee of community leaders (including target population representatives) and college representatives to **analyze what cultural competence training is integrated within MiT's program and field experiences and to examine its effectiveness. Let us know if you are interested in participating on one of these committees planning to meet approximately 3-4 times during Jan.-May 2017.**

With Evergreen's MiT program slated to be run at the Evergreen Tacoma site for the new cohort beginning fall 2017, this funding was timely and allows MiT to **hire a part-time recruiting specialist for Jan.-May (see position description at <https://www.facebook.com/Evergreen.MiT/notes>).**

Our hope is to find someone who can do outreach in the Tacoma region in person and through social media to community groups and others who can encourage people from underrepresented populations to consider teaching as a career and Evergreen as a great choice for certification. Let your friends and family know about this exciting opportunity to improve MiT's visibility and attractiveness to potential candidates.

MiT looks forward to this infusion of funding to assist in increasing the number of teacher candidates from bilingual backgrounds, from communities of color, for men pursuing elementary education, and for those wanting to teach math and sciences. We also want to improve the retention of our program candidates, and work to ensure all our graduates leave with the dispositions and skills to teach and advocate for ALL children and teens.

Another component of MiT's equity grant proposal was to sponsor a free showing of the documentary ***Most Likely to Succeed*** (<http://www.mltsfilm.org/>) on **Saturday, Feb. 4, 2017 at noon at Evergreen Tacoma**. Anyone interested in taking a look at the history of education and how K-12 students attending schools using inquiry, project-based education (similar to Evergreen's model) remain engaged should attend. A community discussion will follow. Check out our MiT website in mid-January for more details.

Per PESB, all grant recipients by a June 30, 2017 deadline must also **develop an Equity Action Plan (EAP)** with a clear vision, goals, timeline, and implementation strategies to measure progress. MiT will create their EAP in conjunction with Evergreen's new 2016-2017 Strategic Equity Plan (<http://www.evergreen.edu/equity/>) which was introduced Nov. 11, 2016 by the Equity and Inclusion Council (co-chaired by MiT faculty member Phyllis Esposito).

# RETURN TO EVERGREEN EVENT

On October 15, alumni, faculty, and current students flocked to the Library building for the fifth annual Return to Evergreen event. Speakers addressed diverse topics of interest during panel sessions aimed to stimulate reflective thinking and conversation.

The session titled "Teachers are Agents of Change" addressed the role of social justice in the classroom, featuring MIT Alumni panel: Nate Gibbs-Bowling '04 Tacoma MiT '06; Sean Riley MiT '05; Jerry Price '93, MiT '95; Sarah Applegate '93, MiT '95; and Katie Agren '05, MiT '07.



Pictured Right: Nate Gibbs-Bowling, Sean Riley, Katie Agren, Sarah Applegate, Jerry Price.



In a panel titled "Fulfilling Our Innate Need to Create: Technology's Role in Building a Community of Creators and Problem Solvers," MIT alumnus Mac Jones, MiT '07, spoke on his use of technology and hands-on learning in the classroom.

Pictured Left: Mac Jones

The 2016-2017 MiT work study assistants filmed and created videos featuring excerpts from the panel discussions, including:

**Evergreen Master in Teaching Program Preparation**

**Social Justice in the Classroom**

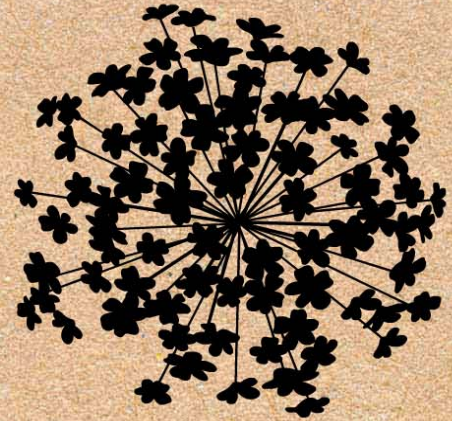
**Building Relationships with Students**

**Advice to Teacher Leaders**

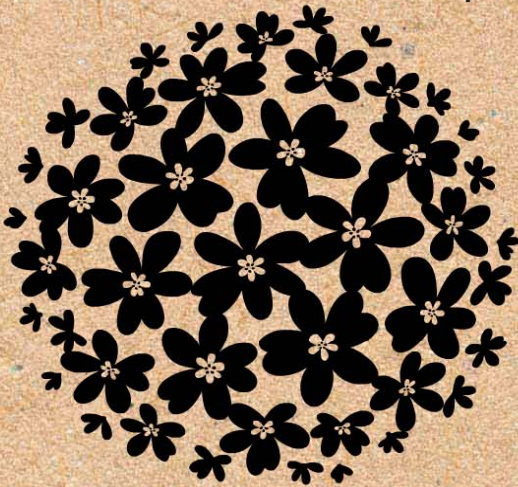
**Hands-On Learning Through Technology in the Classroom**

View these videos through the MiT website: <http://www.evergreen.edu/mit/> or The Evergreen State College YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/evergreen/playlists>.

# A Call for Nominations for The Evergreen State College and Teacher Education Programs 2017 Distinguished Educator of the Year!



The Evergreen State College and Teacher Education Programs proudly announce a call for nominations for the 2017 Distinguished Educator of the Year! The purpose of this award is to recognize and honor an alumni educator who has made a significant contribution to the field of education. Nominees must be alumni of The Evergreen State College Teacher Education Programs, TEP, MiT or M.Ed., and have demonstrated expertise or outstanding service (current or retired) in the classroom, school, district, and/or community. Self-nominations are welcome. The award will be presented in Spring 2017



Last year's winner of the  
2016 Distinguished Educator of the Year:  
Michaela Gile, MiT 1999, pictured with  
some of her students at Northshore Recovery  
High School in Beverly, MA.

————— →  
"For me, there is nothing more meaningful  
than to help restore their belief in their  
academic competence and personal  
power." -Gile

Please contact Loren Petty:  
[pettyl@evergreen.edu](mailto:pettyl@evergreen.edu) for a copy of the  
Distinguished Educator Nomination Template  
and Areas to Consider for the Distinguished  
Educator Award.



# Welcome Cohort 2018!

Cohort Theme:  
 TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATORS  
 Transforming self and schools in service of  
 students and communities through reflective pedagogy.



(Left to Right) **First Row:** Brittany Thomas (on leave), Jade Garvey, Julie Roby.

**Second Row:** Diya Biglow, Victoria Abbott, Riel LaPlant of the Blackfeet Nation, Noah Ahlstrom, Maggie Arbeeney, Emily Martin, Amy Cole, Hayden Zabel, Michael Caldwell, Kevin Kim, Tiara Hill, Chandawin Srey.

**Third Row:** Jennifer Mullen, Christina Arnold, Sean Wood, Evan Sanders, Paul Cavanagh, Rebekah Schroeter, Makenna Taggart, Kyla Stelling.

**Fourth Row:** Jordan Rawls, Michelle Sample, Nick Walsh, Reid Vasek, Ryan Campeau, Kelly O'Dell, Shelbie Michaels, James Jarnigan.



## MiT Cohort 2018 Statements

We asked our **MiT 2016-2018 Cohort** what it means to be a transformative educator, a quote from Fall's readings, non-negotiables during the program, quotes from faculty that stuck with them, and their power song. Here's what they had to say:

### Quotes from Fall readings

"The point is that the young understand certain principles, make clear the reasons for their decisions, and revise their norms intelligently in response to the contingencies of the world...He wants the young to know, above all, what they are doing and why; he wants them to be able to explain in understandable language; he wants them to make sense" (Teacher as Stranger, Maxine Greene)

### Power songs?

"Pokemon Theme Song" Chandawin and Riel

"Can't Hold Us" (Macklemore & Ryan Lewis)

Ryan Campeau

"Almost There" (Princess and the Frog)

Michelle Sample

"Feeling Good" (Nina Simone) Kyla Stelling

"How Bizarre" (OMC) Paul Cavanagh

"Working 9-5" (Dolly Parton) Maggie Arbeeny

### Non-Negotiables

"Cooking healthy meals at home and bringing leftovers for lunch! Eating out has remained a treat, not a necessity"

"Spending 1 day a week doing something fun with my significant other."

"Sleep!!"

"Work-out three times a week minimum (mainly running).

I kept at it and as a result completed the OlyTrot on Thanksgiving at my fastest pace ever. I realize sticking with my non-negotiables did something else, they gave me an anchor and reminder to take a break from such an intense program. Every time I hit the road, I remember the transformation I want to make in students' lives and I think about what I need to do to make it so as a future teacher"

### What does it *mean* to be a transformative educator?

"A transformative educator seeks to empower their students to tackle the challenges of living in an inequitable world. They meet the students where they are, and seek to both prepare them to be engaged and proactive in changing the world for the better, and to be successful at an individual level within the reality of their systemic constraints"

### Favorite Quotes from Faculty

"Name it" - Phyllis and Sonja

"There has never been a better time to do this work" - Phyllis

"... It depends."  
- Phyllis

"TO WHAT END???"  
- Phyllis and Sonja

"Expectations of our students come from our mindsets"  
- Sonja

"Writing is messy! And that's normal" - Emily

# MIT SECOND YEAR COHORT 2017



Megan Decker  
Elementary Educa-  
tion  
Mentor Teacher:  
Cori Hancock at  
South Bay Elementary



Christine Yorba  
Elementary  
Education  
Mentor Teacher: Jo-  
anna Barnes at  
Lydia Hawk  
Elementary



Molly Davidson  
Elementary  
Education  
Mentor Teacher:  
Greta Gustavson at  
South Bay  
Elementary



Katarina Corda  
English Language Arts  
Mentor Teachers: Brynn  
Gomez and  
Kristen Anderson at  
North Thurston High  
School



Kent Johnson  
Biology; Science  
Mentor Teacher: Heidi  
Perry at  
North Thurston High  
School



Michael Valett  
Biology; Science  
Mentor Teacher:  
Chris Gundersen at  
Bush Middle School



Shae Savoy  
English Language Arts  
Mentor Teacher: Kirk  
Weaver at  
Lakes High School



Emily Monahan  
Elementary Education  
Mentor Teacher: Pam  
Yusko at  
Garfield Elementary



Rachel Laurendeau  
Elementary Education  
Mentor Teacher: Su-  
san Stillwell at  
Madison Elementary



Rebecca Wyllie  
de Echeverria  
ML Humanities  
Mentor Teacher: Justin  
Brooks at  
Lochburn Middle School



Justin Olmstead  
Elementary Education  
Mentor Teacher: Sarah  
Cano at  
Park Lodge Elementary



Leah White  
Elementary Education  
Mentor Teacher: Autumn  
Omdahl at  
Pioneer Primary School



Austin Schorno  
English Language Arts  
Mentor Teacher:  
Angela Farley at  
River Ridge High  
School



Drew Bigelow  
ML Humanities  
Mentor Teacher:  
Sammi Percefull at  
Pioneer Middle School



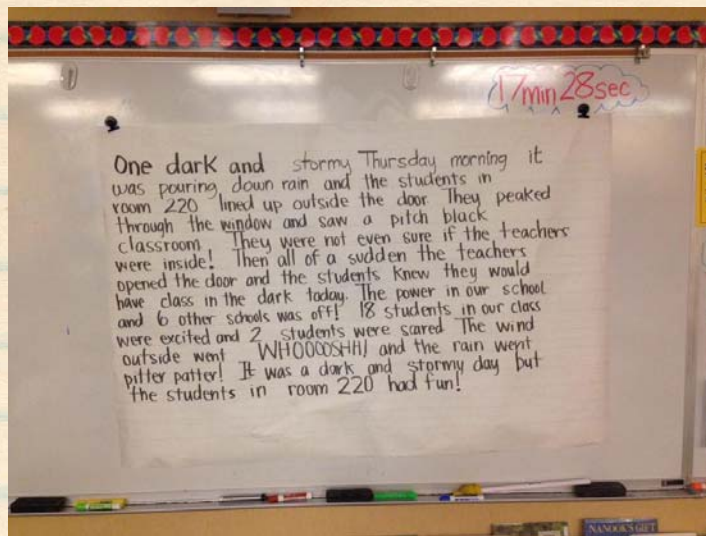
Zayna Salloum  
Elementary Education  
Mentor Teacher: Laura  
Allen at  
Blix Elementary

# STUDENT TEACHERS TALK

We asked our MIT 2015-2017 Student Teachers about their first days teaching, and here's what they had to say:

"If I didn't know how to be flexible before, I do now! We didn't get power (or water) at our school until almost 1pm! I completely had to change up my plan for the entire day because we couldn't use the computers and it was too dark for the kids to read or see any worksheets! We ended up taking the sentence "there was a storm" and turning it into a detailed story about our exciting day. Then all the kids drew an illustration for our story and we presented it to the class next door (including rain and wind sound effects! The kids loved it!"

**Molly Davidson**, MIT 2017, Student Teaching at South Bay Elementary with Greta Gustavson, MIT 1996



"My first weeks of student teaching have been awesome! It has gone smoothly because I already know my mentor teacher and we moved up from 7th to 8th grade so I already know many of my students"

**Rebecca Wyllie de Echeverria**, MIT 2017  
Student Teaching at Lochburn Middle School with Justin Brooks, MIT 2006

"It has been a wonderful learning experience so far. We have lots of work to do, but the pay off will be all the more rewarding. As a class we will be able to look back at this time and reflect on how far we've come and all the progress we've made together. We're not there...YET!"

**Megan Decker**, Mit 2017  
Student Teaching at South Bay Elementary with Cori Hancock

"I'm having a lot of fun getting to know my students. I think the biggest thing I didn't know about is how quickly you start to care for your students and their success"

**Kent Johnson**, MiT 2017,  
Student Teaching at North Thurston High School  
with Heidi Perry, MiT 1998

"It was much more about teaching A LOT of routines, procedures, and expectations with only a little content, and building that positive classroom community. Now that I am with Autumn Omdahl at Pioneer we talk about these things daily with the kids and it is just wonderful" **Leah White**, MiT 2017

Student Teaching at Pioneer Primary School  
with Autumn Omdahl , MiT 2005

"My first days of student teaching went much smoother than I had anticipated! I was surprised at how much I had to contribute to our second grade team as we prepared for students. It has been such a treat getting to know all of our new students and I'm excited to help set the stage for a successful year!"

**Rachel Laurendeau**, MiT 2017  
Student Teaching at Madison Elementary  
with Susan Stillwell, MiT 2000

"I am totally loving my student teaching experience so far. I am thrilled about how I am feeling more and more confident in my ability to teach and have an emerging teacher presence. This program has definitely given me the tools and preparation that I need to not only feel successful, but prepared to teach. Thank goodness for MiT teachers and staff!"

**Christine Yorba**, MiT 2017  
Student Teaching at Lydia Hawk Elementary  
with Joanna Barnes, MiT 2010

# THANK YOU!

We would like to thank the following Schools and Teachers for hosting our second year student teachers:



## Clover Park School District

Kirk Weaver—Lakes High School  
Justin Brooks—Lochburn Middle School  
Sarah Cono—Park Lodge Elementary

## Steilacoom School District

Sammi Percefull—Pioneer Middle School



## Tacoma School District

Laura Allen—Blix Elementary

## Tumwater School District

Chris Gundersen—Bush Middle School



## Olympia School District

Pam Yusko—Garfield Elementary  
Susan Stillwell—Madison Elementary

## Pioneer School District

Autumn Omdahl—Pioneer Primary School



## North Thurston School District

Joanna Barnes—Lydia Hawk Elementary  
Brynn Gomez—North Thurston High School  
Kristen Anderson—North Thurston High School  
Heidi Perry—North Thurston High School  
Angela Farley—River Ridge High School  
Dena Green—Salish Middle School  
Greta Gustavson—South Bay Elementary  
Cori Hancock—South Bay Elementary

# THANK YOU!

We would like to thank the following Schools and Teachers for hosting our first year practicum students:

## North Thurston School District

Marion Lemon—Chinook Middle School  
 Ray Nelson—Chinook Middle School  
 Randi Sue Decker—Chinook Middle School  
 Adeena Chamberlain—Chinook Middle School  
 Amanda Lang—Horizons Elementary  
 Wendy Sevier—Horizons Elementary  
 Cierra Meyer—Horizons Elementary  
 Ivan Morales—Horizons Elementary  
 Walter Kassil—North Thurston High School  
 Justin Hinchcliffe—North Thurston High School  
 Amy Solomon-Minarchi—North Thurston High School  
 Susan White—North Thurston High School  
 Lori McAllister—North Thurston High School  
 Traci Kinney—Seven Oaks Elementary  
 Courtney Adams—Seven Oaks Elementary  
 West Edwards—Seven Oaks Elementary  
 Greta Gustavson—South Bay Elementary  
 Tiffany Peters—South Bay Elementary  
 Cindy Peterson—South Bay Elementary

## Olympia School District

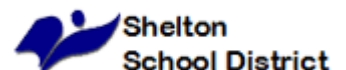
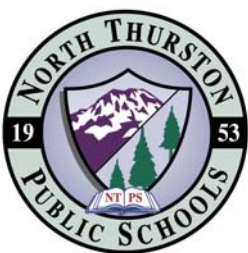
Cecily Schmidt—Capital High School  
 'Tighe Kraves—Capital High School  
 Carolyn Gilman—Olympia High School  
 Linda Smith—Olympia High School  
 Val Davis—Olympia High School  
 Heather Murphy—Olympia High School  
 Darla Knutzen—Reeves Middle School

## Tumwater School District

Kristin Jewell—Tumwater High School

## Shelton School District

Shannon MacPhree—Oakland Bay Junior High  
 Alaine Ward—Oakland Bay Junior High  
 Tracy Lusby—Oakland Bay Junior High  
 Heather Roossien—Oakland Bay Junior High  
 John Perry—Oakland Bay Junior High



# \*FREE PUBLIC WORKSHOP\*

## SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL CURRICULUM WORKSHOP

The inclusion of tribal sovereignty curriculum in Washington State schools

WEDNESDAY | JANUARY 18th | 1-3pm | SEM 2 A3109



A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP WITH:

### JERRY PRICE

Jerry Price, MIT 1995, teaches U.S. History and Washington State History and Government at Ridgeline Middle School in Yelm, Washington. Jerry has been a member of the Social Studies Cadre since its inception, and also worked on the revision of the Social Studies Grade Level Expectations. Additionally, Jerry is a middle level writer and presenter for the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's "Since Time Immemorial" Tribal sovereignty curriculum and is currently working on a project for the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.

### MARK BOWDEN

Mark Bowden, MIT 2007, is a teacher at Yelm Middle School, where he has been teaching 7th and 8th grade history for the last 10 years. He has been working on tribal integration into his curriculum for almost his whole career. He helped officially integrate local native culture and history into the 7th grade scope and sequence and was part of a team that helped develop a curriculum centered around the local Nisqually tribe. He has been active in piloting the Since Time Immemorial curriculum and is a part of a group that has presented at regional and national conferences on the topic.

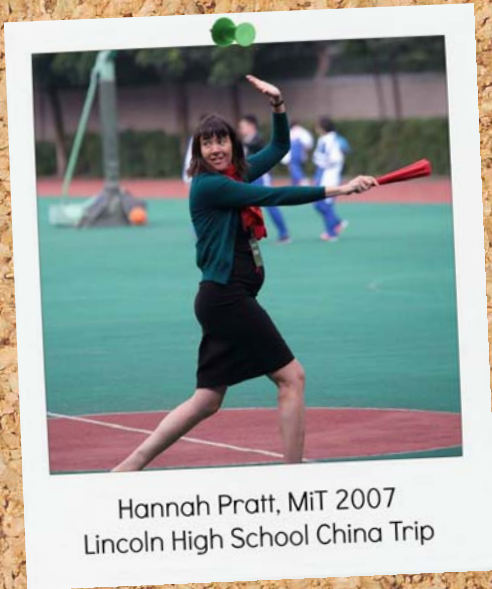




# UPCOMING EVENTS + INFO SESSIONS

- January 11th, Wednesday, 1-3pm, SEM2 A3109: Resume Writing, References, Philosophy of Education
- January 18th, Wednesday, 1-3pm, SEM2 A3109: Since Time Immemorial Curriculum
- January 25th, Wednesday, 1-3pm, SEM2 A3109: What Every Employee Must Be Told (North Thurston Schools)
- February 1st, Wednesday, 1-3pm, SEM2 A3109: HIV/AIDS: What teachers need to know.
- February 4th, Saturday, 11:30am-2:30pm, Evergreen Tacoma Campus: Film Screening of *Most Likely to Succeed*
- February 8th, Wednesday, 1-3pm, SEM2 A3109: What the librarian can do to help first-year teachers and student teachers.
- February 15th, Wednesday, 1-3pm, SEM2 A3109: The Union and YOU!
- February 22nd, Wednesday, 1-3pm, SEM2 A3109: Applying for your first job
- March 2nd, Thursday, 9am-4pm, Library 0408-0416: MIT Mock Interviews
- March 8th, Wednesday, 1-3pm, SEM2 A3109: What is the TPEP?
- March 16th, Wednesday, 1-3pm, TACOMA CAMPUS: MIT Job Fair
- March 29th, Wednesday, 9am-3pm, Tacoma Dome: Washington Education Fair
- April 5th-6th, Wednesday-Thursday, 9am-4pm, Portland Convention Center: Oregon Professional Education Fair

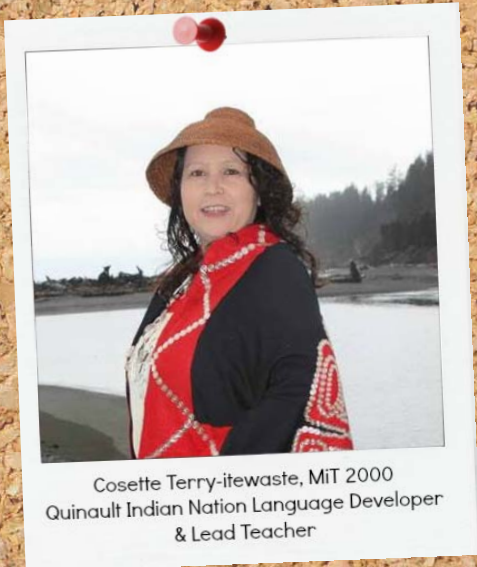
# KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR OUR JANUARY NEWSLETTER: ALUMNI EDITION



Hannah Pratt, MIT 2007  
Lincoln High School China Trip



Nate Gibbs-Bowling, MIT 2006  
Recipient of the 2016 Joseph Albert  
Dear Distinguished Alumni Award



Cosette Terry-itewaste, MIT 2000  
Quinault Indian Nation Language Developer  
& Lead Teacher

**January 2017  
Newsletter will feature:**

- Alumni Successes
- Alumni Congratulations
- Upcoming Events
- And More!!