

For TESC Native Programs website: <http://www.evergreen.edu/nativeprograms>

NATIVE PROGRAMS AT EVERGREEN

“When I first walked on that campus, the beautiful thing that I felt there was the Spirit. The Spirit said ‘Come’. This is a place for people to hear what your ancestors wanted you to pass on.”

—Vi Hilbert (Upper Skagit),
Daniel J. Evans Chair Scholar (1995)

“Evergreen is an institution of education that conveys the lessons of the past to the leaders of tomorrow. Through Native American and World Indigenous Peoples Studies, Evergreen transcends the limits of education to reach out to people of all backgrounds and beliefs.”

—Billy Frank, Jr. (Nisqually),
former member of the Evergreen Board of Trustees

Established in 1969, The Evergreen State College is a small public, liberal arts college with an outstanding national reputation. Evergreen has a long history of bridge building with Native American communities in the region. Since the early 1970s, the college has developed a unique combination of Native programs, both academic and public service, that are not offered at other institutions of higher education.

The uniqueness of this comprehensive set of programs is enhanced by the fact that the programs were developed in collaboration with local tribes. Tribal partnerships are vital to Evergreen’s Native programs and have been since the beginning. In keeping with Washington State’s Centennial Accord, Evergreen works on a government-to-government basis with tribes to jointly develop programs that respond to the needs of tribal people in the Northwest.

Mary Ellen Hillaire (Lummi) initiated the Native programs in 1972 to make Evergreen a hospitable place in higher education for cultural literacy. The college today embraces its Native student community of 4.4 percent-- which is more than twice the ratio of Native students than all other public four-year colleges in Washington. An astounding 6 percent of all Evergreen graduate students are Native American (the state population of Native Americans is 2.7 percent). The college’s faculty is 7.2 percent Native (compared to 0.6 percent nationwide).

Evergreen has an unparalleled combination of academic and public service programs, designed in partnership with Northwest tribes, to make a lasting impact on education in Indian Country. Currently, the college has these Native American academic and public service programs:

- * Native American and World Indigenous Peoples Studies (on-campus undergraduate);
- * Reservation-Based/Community Determined Program (undergraduate);
- * Master in Public Administration Tribal Governance program (which began in 2002)
- * “House of Welcome” Longhouse Education and Culture Center

- * Northwest Indian Applied Research Institute.
- * Evergreen Center for the Improvement of K-12 Education.

Together these programs enable the college to continue and expand upon its history of responding in partnership to the educational needs of Indigenous peoples. In addition to these programs, students at Evergreen can work with Native American Studies faculty throughout the undergraduate curriculum (such as in the Expressive Arts), and in graduate programs such as the Master in Environmental Science (MES) and Master in Teaching (MIT) programs. In all Evergreen programs, Native American students, community members and tribes have a dedicated place in higher education, and easy access to technology and research services.

Native American and World Indigenous Peoples Studies
<http://www.evergreen.edu/catalog/2007-08/planningunits/nas.htm>

Native American and World Indigenous Peoples Studies (NAWIPS) encompass interdisciplinary undergraduate programs on the Olympia campus. The on-campus, 1-3 quarter programs (courses) apply Indigenous perspectives to Native Studies and examine the effects of European/American social values and structures on Native history and contemporary life. NAWIPS curriculum focuses on the vitality and diversity of Native nations, and respects the value of Indigenous knowledge. It examines the global effects of colonialism, the unique treaty relationships between tribal nations and settler governments, political decolonization and cultural revitalization in the contemporary era, and the responsibilities of non-Native neighbors and allies in this process. NAWIPS programs focus on the Indigenous peoples of the Pacific Northwest, the Americas and the world.

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Reservation-Based / Community Determined Program

<http://www.evergreen.edu/tribal>

The Reservation-Based / Community Determined program serves students with 90 or more college credits with an interdisciplinary liberal arts program leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree. Designed for place-bound students deeply connected to tribal communities, the program has been “reservation based” from the beginning with classes held on Indian reservations in western Washington. “Community determined” means that the program is initiated at the tribes’ request, that a tribal advisory board provides curricular direction, and that program content addresses significant community issues and utilizes community resources. The program began on the Quinault Indian Reservation under the direction of Dr. Carol Minugh and has served tribal communities at Lower Elwha Klallam, Makah, Muckleshoot, Nisqually, Port Gamble S’Klallam, Quinault and Skokomish (and soon at Tulalip). Students attend weekly classes at the reservation sites and also attend Saturday classes at the Longhouse where all students come together for classes, workshops and cultural events. Hundreds of students have earned their degrees through the reservation-based programs and gone on to graduate school and various positions in tribal government, social services, education, and other fields.

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Master of Public Administration in Tribal Governance

<http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/tribehome.htm>

The Tribal Governance concentration focuses on structures, processes and issues specific to tribal governments. The concentration is also appropriate for those working with governmental or other organizations in a liaison role with tribal governments. Students go through the entire program as a cohort and finish in two years in this structured program. The Tribal Governance program only admits students every other year. It is the only degree-granting program in the nation to focus on structures, processes and issues specific to tribal governments. Provides current and future tribal leaders with the knowledge and skills needed to work successfully in Indian Country. The degree prepares students for a wide range of jobs in tribal, federal, state and local governments and in nonprofit organizations. The Tribal MPA program can now be taken jointly with the Master of Environmental Studies (MES) program.

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“House of Welcome” Longhouse Education and Cultural Center

<http://www.evergreen.edu/longhouse>

The Evergreen State College’s Longhouse Center is the first building constructed on a public campus that is based on Native American tradition — a physical embodiment of Evergreen’s commitment to our partnerships with tribes. The Longhouse exists to provide service and hospitality to students, the college, and the surrounding Native communities. With a design based in the Northwest Indigenous Nations' philosophy of hospitality, its primary functions are to provide a gathering place for hosting cultural ceremonies, classes, conferences, performances, art exhibits and community events. The Longhouse provides the opportunity to build a bridge of understanding between the regions' tribes and visitors of all cultures. The primary public service work of the Longhouse is to promote Indigenous arts and culture. It does so through continuing programs such as Native art sales and symposia, Native Arts Marketing Service, an Artist in Residence Program, and Native Creative Development Program. It also hosts gatherings of Native artists, including basketweavers, woodcarvers, and Pacific Rim visual artists.

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Northwest Indian Applied Research Institute
<http://www.evergreen.edu/nwindian>

In 1999, the Washington Legislature established the Northwest Indian Applied Research Institute (NIARI) at The Evergreen State College to work with tribes on issues of critical importance to the future of their communities. NIARI uses research methods to address important issues such as Tribal Governance, Economic Sustainability, Natural Resource Management, and Cultural Revitalization. Evergreen has a proven history of educational service to the tribes. Through the development of NIARI, the college has taken its commitment to the Indigenous people of Washington state one step further. The Institute expands the services which the college can offer the tribes, enabling Evergreen to assist local tribes to meet their economic, governance and resource goals. At the same time, the Institute provides additional, real-life learning opportunities for Evergreen students. The Institute's mission is to serve the interests of the area's tribes, by applying the principles of applied research, putting theory into practice, and making available college and community resources to address the needs of Washington state tribes and Native people.

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Evergreen Center for Educational Improvement

<http://www.evergreen.edu/ecei>

The Center seeks the best instructional tools, techniques and models, then creates opportunities for sharing them. Some of the most experienced reformers are working within the region's K-12 districts today. The Center helps make their expertise more widely available. The Evergreen Center collaborates with school districts, professional organizations, government agencies, businesses and communities to address issues of educational restructuring and reform around math, science and culturally appropriate curriculum. Teams of educators and community members join in their efforts to develop integrated curricula for their schools and community. The Center developed and provided Native American reading curriculum for grades K-2 throughout Washington. The Center is currently working with the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis on the development of the community-based history and culture curriculum of the Chehalis people.

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Evergreen Library's Native American Studies resources and services

<http://www.evergreen.edu/library/catalog/NAWIPS.htm>