

Higher Education **E-News**



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Native American Education

There are some good statistics on Native American Education being published. The number of Native American/Alaska Native students enrolled in colleges and universities has more than doubled in the past 30 years and this includes the number of associate's, bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees conferred to Natives in the past 25 years. However, if we compare the number of Native Americans earning degrees compared to the number of non-natives, the numbers are disturbingly unbalanced.

There are several reasons mentioned for the reduced numbers of Native American students in higher education institutions, among these are lack of high school graduates, lack of administrative support from college institutions, faculty misconceptions and stereotyping, poor student relations with the college institution, and career choice based on possibility of greater economic gain.

We see that these factors can be a deterrent to students' success at college. However, rather than focus on the negatives, let us look at what has been done in the educational system to encourage Native students' progressive move toward graduation. Diversity has to be an institutional goal rather than just the intent of a single committee or office and it must include Native Americans in those numbers. There is solid evidence suggesting that Native students and their families want equal educational opportunities.

So what are institutions of higher learning doing to make these opportunities more accessible for Native students? In making the transition to college and a new way of life more nurturing for Native students, colleges have enlisted counseling centers as part of the multi-pronged approach. This provides a safe environment for Native American students to discuss a myriad of issues that they are encountering. This is where cultural awareness of the counselor becomes a definite plus. In several studies, it has been found that Native American students prefer to receive counseling from someone who is perceived to be attuned with Native American cultural identity. Native American students prefer racially/culturally similar counselors because they feel that Native American counselors have a better conception of native cultural identity than a non-native. Native American sensitivity training must be a definite component of counselor instruction.

Also, there are clubs that Native Americans can join or form that would include some of the attributes from

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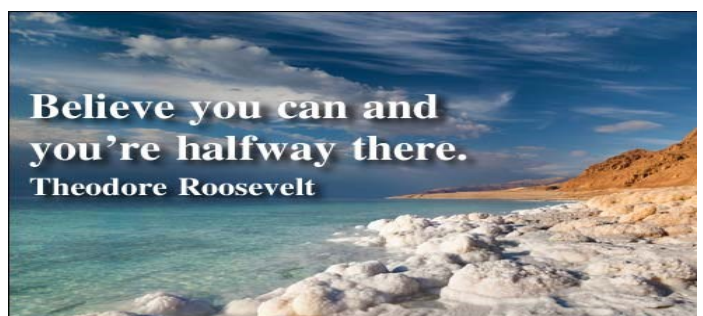
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home that they are missing, such as family, social network and community obligations. Many colleges have Native American organizations that celebrate Native American identity through programs, activities and food. Native American organizations often fall under the umbrella of ALANA (an acronym for African, Latino/a, Asian and Native American) Student Center. At least one staff member is a graduate student who serves as a role model and an observable representation that graduating from college can be really achieved.

The early introduction of Career Services in a student's college life may contribute to retention by encouraging early awareness of institutional performance criteria. Focus on a college basic, such as, the importance of maintaining a good grade point average (GPA) can alleviate pain. Also, helping students encounter career opportunities through tailored programming that explores professional work experiences could definitely give students a focus and encourage them to contemplate post-graduate possibilities. With opportunities to see companies and organizations with mission statements that reflect their own value system opens up a positive path filled with possibilities.

If we look at the major universities in our area, we see institutions of higher learning that have taken that critical next step to bridge the great divide by embracing diversity on their campuses. Schools like The Evergreen State College, University of Washington, Everett Community College and Western Washington are actively incorporating programs in Native American Studies, building longhouses, seeking to reach out to people of all backgrounds and beliefs.





Where will the Jobs be in 2020?

Jobs are going to be abundant over the next several years through 2020. This projected abundance is gleaned from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) which has completed a huge project forecasting jobs in the future. Healthcare, social assistance, professional services, business services and construction are the top occupations and will represent more than half of the 20.5 million jobs that are expected to be created.

34 million plus jobs will also be become available to replace retiring workers matriculating out of the workforce in these five areas. Of these areas of employment, only nursing will require an associates degree or higher.

By understanding the job trends, you will be able to make a better choice in selecting your career path. If you are aware of a trend at its beginning, you will have time to take advantage of selecting the educational program that will help you in acquiring one of these desirable jobs.

What are the drivers of job trends that will be impacting the future job market for you? Just to clarify, trends are brought about by change and each change has a core driver. In predicting a new trends, these are the drivers to watch for: time savers, cost reduction, jobs that can be automated, products that are easy to use, reliable safety improvements and environmental friendly innovations.

In the past, we have seen jobs appear and disappear. For instance, in the transportation industry, the horse and buggy were replaced by motorized vehicles. Desk top computers have morphed into laptops and handheld devices which use more computing power than computers of the recent past.

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The expected growth is being driven, not by the five (5) job categories but by other high-skilled sectors of a local economy. These other high-skilled area careers are increasing the demand for college and advanced degrees. This means that college and beyond becomes a critical indicator of where you will fit into the job market.

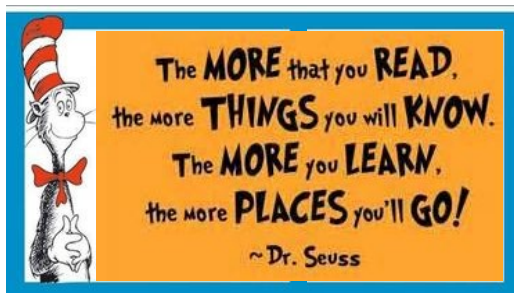
If this is an increasing concern for you, take a look at the Funding Requirement below and contact us about your educational needs and desires.

FUNDING REQUIREMENT - REMINDER!

Requirements for **Fall 2014** funding.

- Complete Higher Ed Application.
- Provide proof of enrollment as a Tulalip Tribal member.
- Provide High School Diploma or GED – If you do not have either you must sign a 6 month agreement.
- Running start students must provide a letter from their high school counselor.
- Provide results of Free Application for Federal Students Aid (FAFSA) 2014-15. <http://www.fafsa.edu.gov>.
- Provide a complete educational program plan of courses for your degree from the college/institution.
- Goal letter -State your academic goals and how you plan to achieve those goals and projected outcomes.
- Must sign the agreement acknowledging receipt and understanding of the Higher Education Policy regarding student responsibilities and probationary status.
- Class schedule.
- Tuition invoice from college/institution.
- Diving or other (physical requirement) certificate program — students must pass a UA and Physical and proper documentation must be provided.
- Room & Board—students must provide a lease agreement and W-9 from landlord and live 30 miles from home.

This documentation must be provided to Higher Ed staff at least **two (2) weeks prior to school start date**.



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