

## **Tulalip Tribes' Probation Officer Now Academy Certified**

*By Wendy Church, Tribal Court Director*

The Tribes' Probation Officer officially graduated from the Washington State Criminal Justice Commission with over 80 hours of academy training. Jim Furchert is now a state certified probation officer.

Some of the classes required were: mental health, chemical dependency, personal safety, ethics, motivational interviewing, risk assessment, domestic violence, and DUI training.

The purpose of the Tribes' Probation Office is to monitor compliance of court ordered services, such as chemical dependency treatment, mental health counseling, drug testing, house arrests, arrange for community service, track no contact orders, and participates in Wellness/Drug Court.

Jim has worked for the Probation Office since 2005. He previously worked at the Tribes' Casino as a security officer, and also worked at beda? chelh as a presenting officer. He has an associates degree in criminal justice from Everett Community College and is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in law and justice at Central Washington University. Jim is engaged to Donna Nez, an enrolled Navajo tribal member.

Probably the most challenging aspect of his job is coordinating with the many different departments it takes to help court clients. However, Jim says, the most gratifying part is being able to see clients successfully complete their probation requirements without having to go to jail. Jim works with tribal member, Ida Lopez, Probation Officer Assistant monitoring clients within the court system.

A probation office is important to the Tribes' law and justice system because without one, there would be no one to monitor compliance with court orders, thus, getting people to help themselves get well.

With Mr. Furchert's state certification, the Tribes' Probation Office meets state requirements meaning that can stand shoulder to shoulder with any other jurisdiction.