

# Funds Distribution Report

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**Recipient Organization:**  
**Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences**

**Address:**  
111 University Parkway, Suite 202  
Yakima, WA 98901

**Contact:**  
(509) 452-5100  
<https://pnwu.edu>

**Organization's General Goals:**  
Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences educates and trains health care professionals emphasizing service among rural and medically underserved communities throughout the Northwest.

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<b>Date of Award:</b>	<b>Level:</b>
2019 Q1	\$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences.

8802 27th Ave NE  
Tulalip, WA 98271  
**TulalipCares.org**



April 27, 2020

Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions  
Attn: Marilyn Sheldon  
8802 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE  
Tulalip, WA 98271

**Re: Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences Grant Report – Q1 2019 14.2**

Dear Ms. Sheldon,

Thank you for your recent grant award to Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences' (PNWU) *Roots to Wings* (RTW) program. Your continued support has enabled progress towards our goals to increase the number of American Indian/Alaska Native and Latino students in health science education and careers and decrease health inequities through education access opportunities.

**2019-2020 Academic Year Overview**

During the 2019-2020 academic year, *RTW* facilitated five transformative co-mentoring sessions that merged Next Generation Science Standards and cultural traditions of American Indian/Alaska Native communities. Unfortunately, due to the novel Coronavirus pandemic, and the closing of PNWU's campus on March 16, *RTW* had to cancel session #6 regarding capstone projects and the program's closing ceremony on April 28. Overall, the program impacted 80 sixth through twelfth grade students (52 students from Mt. Adams School District, 18 from Yakama Nation Tribal School, and 10 from Chief Leschi Schools) and 20 PNWU medical students.

*RTW* continues to serve as an exemplary model for co-mentoring. During the 2019-2020 academic year, Program Director, Dr. Mirna Ramos-Diaz presented the model at the *International Mentoring Conference* in Gainesville, FL and the *Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Annual Conference* in Washington, DC. *RTW* was also accepted for presentation at the American Education Research Association Annual Conference in San Francisco, CA, however that was also canceled due to COVID-19.

Perhaps the program's success this year can be summed up in a few quotes from participating youth and medical students: "It is empowering for everyone involved!" and "This experience has definitely been very different from my previous mentorship experience. There is a sense of community and bonding that came out of this experience that I think I will never forget."

Again, thank you for your continued support. We couldn't do this important work without you. If you have questions or would like to schedule a visit, please contact me at [Lottie.parker@pnwu.edu](mailto:Lottie.parker@pnwu.edu) or (509)249-7858.

Thank you,

Lottie Parker  
Assistant Director of Foundation Relations

Enclosures (2): Roots to Wings Brochure; Photos



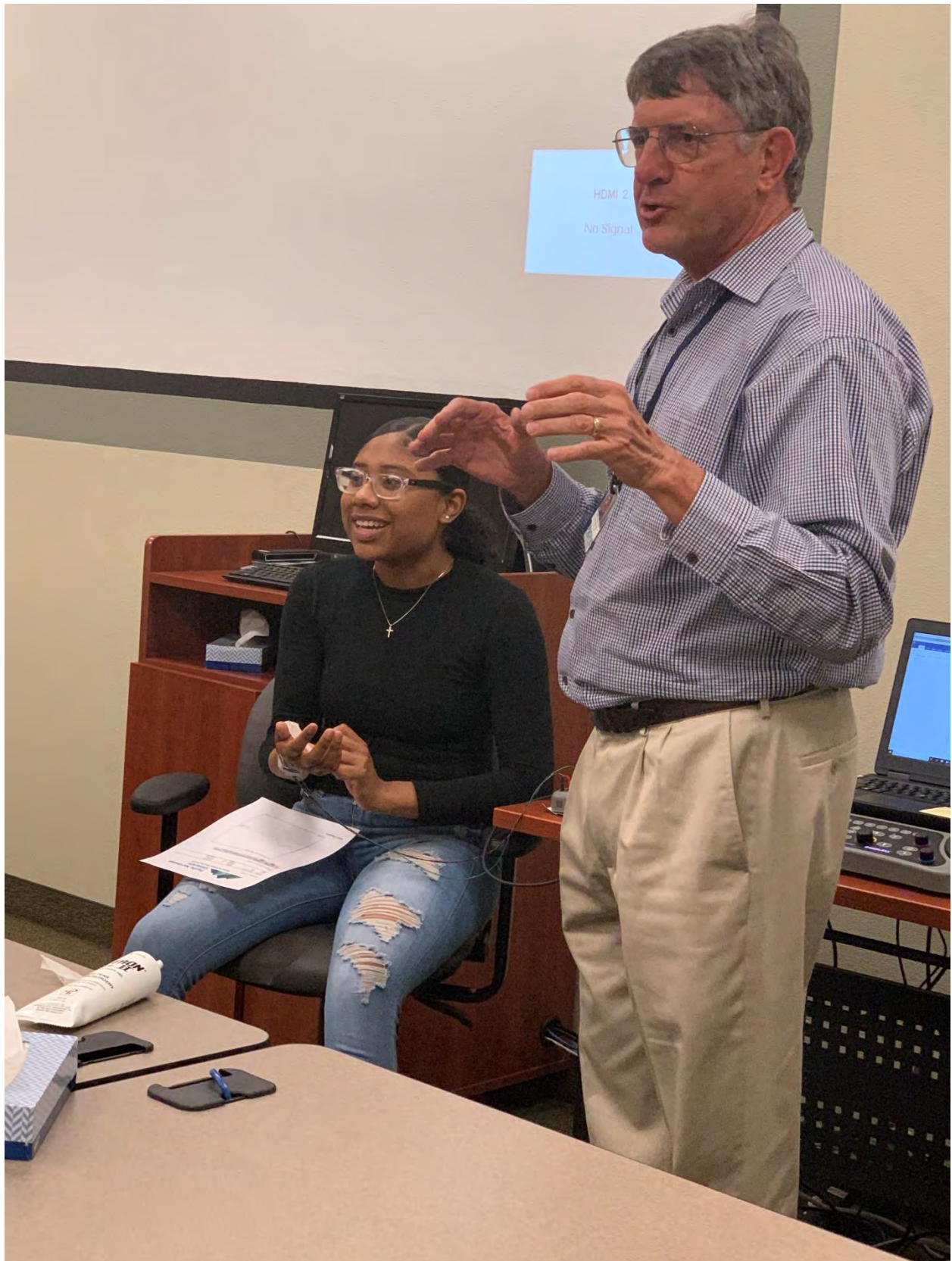
*Figure 1 RTW students walking through the Welcoming Tunnel in Butler Haney Hall before a session.*

**Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences  
Roots to Wings – Grant Report Photos**



*Figure 2 Yakama Elder Tony Washines chatting with PNWU Associate Dean for Preclinical Education and faculty, Dr. Robert Sorrells, before a session.*





*Figure 3 PNWU faculty providing instruction to RTW participants during an EMG lab.*



*Figure 4 PNWU faculty using the EMG machine with RTW participants in session #5.*





*Figure 5 Students learning how to use EMG machine in session #5 with PNWU faculty.*



*Figure 6 PNWU mentors and faculty showing RTW students how to use the EMG machine during session #5.*



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Roots to Wings – Grant Report Photos**



*Figure 7 PNWU medical student mentors and faculty, Dr. Robert Sorrells before a RTW session.*

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*Figure 8 RTW co-mentors testing during a session.*





*Figure 9 RTW students testing hearing during session #5.*



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*Figure 10 Lecture via Zoom in Butler Haney Hall with a Traditional Ecological Knowledge Scholar, Ciarra Greene, American India, who presents the connection between traditional knowledge and the sciences.*

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*Figure 11 PNWU President, Dr. Michael J. Lawler and Yakima Lions Club President, Dr. Ruth Bishop. The Lion's Club provided funding for laptops to RTW during the 2019-2020 academic year.*





### Health Sciences Education



### Cultures Shared



### Collaborative Program



### Re-create *Roots to Wings* in Your Location

We want to see *Roots to Wings* grow and expand into other locations and with other students. Contact the Director, Dr. Mirna Ramos-Diaz for information and strategy on creating something with students in your area.

### Donate

Your support directly impacts your community, and your donations will help educate, train and influence the next generation of healthcare professionals emphasizing service among rural and medically underserved communities throughout the Northwest.

### Contact Us

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Director of *Roots to Wings* Transformative Co-Mentoring Program  
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509.249.7796  
200 University Parkway  
Yakima, WA 98901



Pacific Northwest University  
OF HEALTH SCIENCES

## Roots To Wings Transformative Co-Mentoring Program







## About Us

Roots to Wings is a transformative co-mentoring health sciences education pathway program for Native American and Mexican-American students in grades six through twelve and osteopathic medical students. The collaborative program involves Mt. Adams School District (MASD), Yakama Nation Tribal School (YNTS), Chief Leschi School (CLS), Heritage University (HU), and Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences (PNWU).

## Mutual Mentoring Relationship

Osteopathic medical students are encouraged to develop a mutual mentoring relationship with the students from MASD, YNTS, CLS. This relationship deepens the medical students' understanding of both Native American and Mexican-American cultures, values and traditions, while stimulating today's youth to pursue an education in healthcare /STEM professions. Through the program, our medical students learn firsthand the challenges of providing care in underserved populations and fosters their desire to serve in rural communities as primary care physicians.

### o Mission

Roots to Wings believes in the full development of every person, with emphasis on Native Americans and Mexican-Americans living on the Homelands of the Yakima Nation, leading to quality education and healthcare access.

### o Vision

Youth deserve access to quality education to become change agents entering the health field and transforming their community. We empower youth to improve their academic and spiritual potential while remaining true to their values and traditions.

### o Goals

To increase the number of Native Americans and Mexican Americans in osteopathic medicine and STEM professions. To decrease health inequities through education access opportunities.



## Core Values

Roots to Wings program is embodied in these key values:

**Community co-ownership:** commitment to responding to underrepresented youth by partnering to maximize educational opportunities in the Yakima Valley with a focus on Native American populations.

**Collaboration:** respectfully work with compassion, integrity, and openness with educational institutions to enhance the education of youth, college, medical students and other medical professionals.

**Humility:** gather in the circle to listen and honor the place of not knowing. This leads to awareness, openness, and cultural sensitivity, which inform our plans and actions.

**Egalitarian:** understand that each person has important and significant gifts to offer collectively.

**Traditional knowledge:** we value the integral participation of the tribal elders in the education experience.

**Compassion:** every plan of action executed must emerge with kindness for all.