



## Tulalip Charitable Contributions Funds Distribution Report

**NAME OF AGENCY:** Western Washington University Foundation

**DATE OF AWARD:** 2017 Q1

**ADDRESS:** Old Main 430, MS 9034, 516 High Street, Bellingham, WA 98225

**CONTACT:** (360) 650-3027, <https://www.foundation.wvu.edu>

**GENERAL GOALS:** The Foundation was established in 1966 as a vehicle to receive and encourage private giving to WWU. Since that time, donors now provide nearly \$15 million annually to the University in the form of annual gifts, endowed gifts, estate gifts, and gifts in kind such as real estate, equipment and art. Gifts fund student scholarships, as well as program and faculty member support.

**SPECIFIC USE FOR THIS AWARD:**

This award went towards programs and operational expenses. For more information please read the attached report from Western Washington University Foundation.



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Old Main 430  
516 High Street  
Bellingham, Washington 98225-9034  
(360) 650-3027  
www.wwu.edu

## Funding Report: Q1 2017 14.2

### Websites:

Native American Student Union:  
<https://orgsync.com/43025/chapter>  
<https://www.facebook.com/wwunasu>

Center for Education, Equity and Diversity (CEED):  
<https://wce.wwu.edu/ceed/center-education-equity-and-diversity>  
<https://wce.wwu.edu/ceed/audiovideo-resources>

May 31, 2018

Dear Marilyn Sheldon,

We are writing to report to Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions about how your gift of [REDACTED] to Western Washington University Foundation in May 2017 helped the Native students who are attending Western, and also educated allies.

Your gift was divided among three programs at Western Washington University: [REDACTED] went to Woodring College of Education's Center for Education, Equity & Diversity (CEED) to support both the Native American Student Lunches and the "Beading, Eating and Reading" program; and [REDACTED] supported the National American Student Union (NASU), for cultural events and academic support.

In total more than 200 people were impacted with the help of this contribution.

### Native American Student Lunches

Each quarter in collaboration with NASU, CEED hosts **Native Lunch**. This lunch was organically initiated by two Native scholars, Dr. William G. Demmert, Jr. and Dr. Joseph Trimble, over 30 years ago, as opportunity for Native faculty to meet and mentor Native students at WWU. This tradition has continued with support from Tulalip Tribes. CEED and NASU are able to sponsor lunch several times a year for Native students, faculty, and staff, as well as

friends and allies to Native students on WWU's campus. It is a time to connect with each other, enjoy a welcoming space, and share culture, laughter, and a meal.



Dan First Scout Rowe speaking on a panel of Native college students, staff, and faculty at a Native Lunch in honor of Native middle school students from Vista Middle School.

While most Native Lunches are informal opportunities for community and relationship building, some lunches support AI/AN student events or potential Native WWU students, including a welcoming lunch for Native Vista Middle School students and our celebrations to honor our Native graduates.

With the generous contribution of Tulalip Tribes we have been able to host five Native Lunches during the 2017-18 academic year, with a total attendance of about 175 students, faculty, staff, administrators, and tribal community members.

*"We are always told to look seven generations ahead and create a world that we want our children's children to live in, that preserving culture and community across generations is crucial to our survival. To me Native futurity begins with showing Native kids that they can succeed, that they can do better, that they are strong and resilient, that they have a future, and that there is a place for them in higher education if they want it. This funding provides us the tools necessary to help create the connections and begin constructing a better future for our youth."*

### **NASU Graduation Celebration and Native Lunch**

With a legacy of supportive Indigenous faculty, staff, and students, as well as a strong NASU and Native Lunch community, we have had the privilege to honor our Native students when they graduate from college. These Native lunches and graduation celebrations are particularly significant. Our Native students consistently Indigenize and decolonize our Predominantly White Institution (PWI). They bring love, beauty, and brilliance to WWU and they do the same for their own communities or the communities they work within when they graduate. We cherish these events and are grateful to have the opportunity to blanket each student as they continue their journey in a good way.

We have three upcoming NASU and BWER graduates this year. We will be hosting a Native Lunch in their honor. One of our Native graduates, Dalton Jones (Cheam band, Stolo Nation), who is graduating with an undergraduate in Physics and attending UCLA for a Ph.D. program, described the importance of the NASU community:

*“Being a part of NASU at WWU has been a beautiful experience and has made me feel welcomed and at home during some tough times in my life. I will always cherish the friendships and memories that I have made with everyone here. As a Native STEM major I haven't felt very welcomed or at home with the majority of my peers, but NASU has always provided a place where I feel like I belong and can be myself.”*

Sincere gratitude and appreciation for the support by Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions is expressed at each Native Lunch.

### **Native American Student Union (NASU) Cultural Activities and Academic Achievement**

Since May 2017, NASU has been actively cultivating their principles as a council rather than as a general university club. With this vision, NASU members elected council members representing expected university committees, as well as working collaboratively on NASU goals. NASU Club meetings were held weekly on Monday evenings, with an additional Tuesday afternoon meeting for elected council members.

An overarching theme and collective goal of 2017-2018 was community building and creating welcoming NASU spaces. With this in mind, NASU hosted a bowling night, a potluck BBQ at Lake Whatcom, and movie nights; invited BWER to host beading sessions; and held frybread sales.

This also meant cultivating relationships beyond WWU's campus. NASU collaborated with Northwest Indian College and Whatcom Community College on many social events throughout the academic year, including collaborative dinners, stick games, and healing circles. Reaching into the K-12 community, NASU and BWER members hosted a Native Lunch and campus visit for the Native Club and Language and Culture class of Vista Middle School students.

Recognized as a founding and influential group, NASU regularly is invited to speak or work with faculty and staff across campus. This year they worked with Native faculty and staff hosting events with local tribal leaders and learning protocol to honor elders and community members. In collaboration with BWER, NASU members made gifts and continue to work on their own protocol for interacting with the university when asked to sponsor, collaborate, or open university spaces.



On April 28, 2018, council member Kali Chargualaf (Suquamish), hosted a NASU retreat within her community during the Renewal Pow-Wow weekend. NASU members met and discussed the highlights of the year and revisited goals and NASU priorities for the upcoming year. Continuing with their goals of building community within NASU and within communities they attended the Pow-Wow and spent the weekend within the Suquamish community.



NASU students and advisors attending NASU retreat and Suquamish Pow-Pow April 28, 2018.

**“Beading, Weaving, Eating and Reading” program**

Beading, Weaving, Eating, and Reading (BWER) has grown into a beautiful, collective space for Indigenous students and allies with the support of Tulalip Tribes. BWER is an artistic and healing space centered on respect, community, and reciprocity. This year we added “Weaving” to the name (originally called “Beading, Eating & Reading) in recognition of weaving as a traditional art form engaged in by our local community members. This group meets regularly to read Indigenous women’s literature, bead, weave, create traditional arts, and cook and eat traditional foods. NASU leaders are using some of the



Beading, Weaving, Eating and Reading Fieldtrip to Shipwreck Beads in Lacey, Washington.

*“Beading, Weaving, Reading & Eating is a space I don't even think I have the words to describe! It's unbelievable how much this program has grown since it began my freshman year. Going to Shipwreck this past Memorial Day Weekend was a very emotional and overwhelming experience in the best way possible. I'm beyond excited to see what our current and future beaders create with our new supplies. The possibilities are endless.”*



Making moccasins at a November 2017 session of Beading, Weaving, Eating and Reading.



art they create as gifts during protocol, for example after the 2018 Demmert Lecture, when the NASU leaders stepped forward to thank the speaker, Dr. Leslie Harper. Dr. Harper was gifted earrings, a medicine bag, and other gifts from Co-Salish artists and businesses.



After the Eighth Annual Lecture Honoring Dr. William G. Demmert, Jr., May 22, 2018, NASU leaders thank keynote speaker Dr. Leslie Harper with gifts.

### NASU Advocacy

WWU President Sabah Randhawa has led the University toward implementation of two of the 2016 requests made by the Native American Student Union at WWU:

1. The University has created a Tribal Liaison Position, and is in the hiring process.
2. Two Government-to-Government Trainings between WWU government and the local Tribal Governments took place at WWU in 2017, facilitated by the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs.

In addition, President Randhawa has expressed interest in discussing the creation of an academic Coast Salish Longhouse on campus. And conversations are ongoing about requiring students to verify tribal enrollment or descendance when applying to WWU and scholarships that are allocated for American Indian/Alaskan Native students housed within WWU.

On April 20, 2018, the “Multicultural Center Student Groundbreaking Ceremony: Honoring Place and Student Leadership of the Past, Present and Future” was held in the Performing Arts Center Plaza, overlooking the construction site. Completion of the Multicultural Center is scheduled for June 2019. The Multicultural Center is a project to create a new home for the Ethnic Student Center and three centers under AS Resource and Outreach Programs. The expansion will combine the Multicultural Center, Viking Union, Bookstore, Multipurpose Room and KUGS within one building.

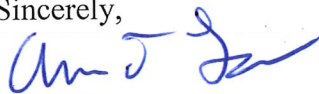
NASU was among the student groups that campaigned for the student referendum in Spring 2016 that passed by a 63 percent “yes” to assess students a \$30 Multicultural Fee, which is providing 69 percent of the \$20 million project budget, augmented by institutional funds (23 percent) and savings achieved by refinancing existing Viking Union bonds (7 percent).

NASU and other students are working toward ensuring that the Multicultural Center honors the student-led efforts to create it, guided by the slogan, “Nothing About Us, Without Us, Is For Us.” NASU is also working toward getting an Indigenous Space.

### **In Conclusion**

On behalf of the students of Western Washington University, we again want to thank you for the support by Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions. Once again, it was an honor and humbling experience for the two NASU leaders who are signing below to attend Tulalip Tribe’s Raising Hands Celebration, on October 28, 2017, and to learn about the important work of the hundreds of nonprofit organizations Tulalip Tribes supports in order to address the needs of our communities.

Sincerely,



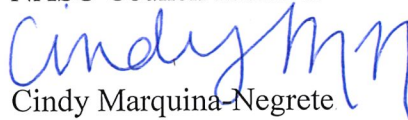
Anna Lees (Little Traverse Band, Odawa)  
Assistant Professor Early Childhood  
Education, and NASU Faculty Advisor



Kristen B. French (Blackfeet/Gros Ventre)  
Associate Professor Elementary Education,  
CEED Director, and NASU Faculty Advisor



Deviney Wynecoop  
NASU Council Member



Cindy Marquina-Negrete  
NASU Council Member



Emily Weiner  
Manager of Foundation Partnerships,  
Western Washington University Foundatio






THE CENTER FOR EDUCATION, EQUITY AND DIVERSITY PRESENTS  
**THE 8TH ANNUAL HONORING DR. WILLIAM G. DEMMERT, JR.**  
 LECTURE SERIES

**TUESDAY, MAY 22ND**  
**MILLER HALL 005**

**12:00**  
 Native Lunch In Honor of  
 Dr. Demmert and Leslie Harper


**4:00**  
 Keynote by Leslie Harper

SPECIAL GRATITUDE TO TULALIP TRIBES  
 FOR SPONSORING NATIVE LUNCH



Keynote Presentation:  
*"New Policy Considerations  
 when Developing Native  
 Language Plans"*

**LESLIE HARPER**  
 President, National Coalition  
 of Native American Language  
 Schools & Programs



This lecture is in recognition of Dr. William G. Demmert, Jr.'s  
 extraordinary international commitment to Indigenous education  
 through language immersion & culturally-based education.