

# Funds Distribution Report

**Recipient Organization:**  
**Western Washington University Foundation**

**Address:**  
516 High Street  
Bellingham, WA 98225

**Contact:**  
(360) 650-3027  
<https://foundation.wwu.edu>

**Organization's General Goals:**  
The Foundation is led by a group of dedicated board members who grow awareness of the importance of private support to public institutions.

**Date of Award:** 2018 Q2  
**Level:** \$7,501 to \$10,000

For more information, please read the attached report from Western Washington University Foundation.

8802 27th Ave NE  
Tulalip, WA 98271

**TulipCares.org**

## Funding Report: Q2 2018 14.2

### Websites:

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

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

WWU Foundation  
<https://foundation.wwu.edu/>

July 16, 2019

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 September 2018 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 "Beading, Weaving, Eating and Reading" program and the Native American Student Lunches; 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.

### **"Beading, Weaving, Eating and Reading" program**

*Beading, Weaving, Eating and Reading* is a space at WWU that works to support Native students on a primarily white, settler-serving campus. Beginning as an independent study focused on Indigenous women in literature, and expanded to include 10-15 tribally diverse Indigenous students and faculty, as well as the topic of a final capstone degree requirement, this group meets regularly to read Indigenous women's literature, bead, weave, create traditional arts, and cook and eat traditional foods. The *Beading, Weaving, Eating and Reading* group generates welcoming spaces for Indigenous peoples to engage in ceremony and tradition in higher education, where they are traditionally marginalized by colonial structures and inequities.

Significant traumas for Native students have occurred from losses of culture, language, traditional practices and traditional foods-all of which occur continuously in higher education systems. As Native peoples, we resist this oppression and work to develop our own ways of healing from intergenerational traumas and include Indigenous knowledge systems in mainstream education settings. Working to Indigenize the academy, this group reads Indigenous women's literature, creates Indigenous arts (primarily beading and weaving), and eats traditional Indigenous foods. Indigenous students and faculty join together to learn, grow, and heal.



Making moccasins, sewing ribbon skirts, and beading at *Beading, Weaving, Eating and Reading* sessions during the 2018-19 academic year.

*Being undocumented, I feel like I often have very romanticized notions of where I come from. I moved to the United States when I was six months old and have not been able to return back to my grandmothers' lands. Beading, Weaving, Reading, and Eating is so sacred to me because it has given me a home.*

*My first time picking up thread and a needle was to create a medicine bag. I started it Spring of 2016 & put the last jingle on the day before Trump's election into office. Sparks from my ancestors best dreams guided my genetic memory to create this piece alongside the guidance of Anna Lees, Kristen B. French & Alana Quigley.*

*Prior to being in this space, I felt very disconnected from my ancestors and my home. I did not know who I was. I began to talk more and more with my abuelita to understand who we are and where we come from. One winter, I was beading on the dining room table, while my abuelita was cooking and she shared a memory of her mother and her aunties beading together. I hold that with me whenever and wherever I bead. Currently working on beading a pair of moccasins with traditional Oaxacan flowers to honor my bisabuelas.*

*I am grateful for those in Beading, Weaving, Reading, and Eating who continue to hold healing and loving space for me since my first year at Western. I am grateful for the stories, the laughter, the tears, the chisme, and the transference of knowledge we engage in whenever we read.*

### **Native American Student Lunches**

Over the course of the whole academic year, Native American Student Lunches provide a sense of place, community, cultural identity, and relationship-building for Indigenous students. Once a quarter, CEED sends out invitations, opens its doors, and lays out a free buffet lunch. A typical invitation to a Native Lunch says "Please come eat lunch and connect with Native community, students, staff, faculty and allies," and adds that "All are welcome! Bring your friends and family!"

The average attendance at Native Lunch is 25-30. These gatherings contribute to student success by allowing for students to identify resources both within the faculty and the student body to whom they can turn. Topics discussed include academic skills and strategies, academic resources, culturally relevant support, as well as relationship building.

Sometimes Native Lunches are hosted for special guests, for example NASU hosted a Native Lunch for Valerie Segrest on February 28, 2019, when she presented on Muckleshoot Food Sovereignty for the Huxley Speaker Series. Our most recent Native Lunch was hosted for Mike Bruised Head for the Honoring Dr. William G. Demmert, Jr. Lecture Series on May 22, 2019.

Gift  
Valerie  
Segrest



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

NASU is more than a club, it's a community. NASU is an ethnic club within WWU's Associated Students' Ethnic Student Center. NASU is a club that comes together to be there for one another, share traditions with one another, and strive to teach the WWU community about its traditions, beliefs and values through campus events. NASU also strives to invite anyone and everyone to be a part of the club—you do not have to be Native to be in the club—and strives to make everyone feel like they have a comfortable environment to turn to while at Western.

Organizing cultural events and academic support are opportunities for NASU members to cultivate leadership skills that they may be able to bring to their nations as they begin post-college careers. These activities also build community and cultural identity, which contribute significantly to Native American students' capacity to excel in their studies and complete their degrees.

For many years, NASU has been invited to and involved in events on campus that support Indigenous ways of knowing and being, as well as informing the campus community about AI/AN government, history, and culture. NASU has often provided gifts in honor of Indigenous guest speakers on Western's campus. With continued inspiration, NASU has been offering gifts such as blankets and their own jam, beadwork or weaving for Indigenous keynote speakers and graduating Indigenous students.

Of the five requests made by the Native American Student Union at WWU in 2016, four have been met or are in the process of implementation:



NASU members make jam for gifting to speakers and other honored guests.





Laural Ballew with Western alumnus Bernie Thomas, education director of the Lummi Nation School, April 4, 2019, at Western's Board of Trustees' ceremony welcoming her and recognizing the historic importance of the creation of the University's first executive director of American Indian/Alaska Native and First Nations Relations & Tribal Liaison to the President of Western. Fifty years ago, Thomas and Nancy Wilbur, who also was present for the ceremony, co-founded the predecessor to the current WWU Native American Student Union (NASU).

- On April 4, 2019, Western's Board of Trustees passed Resolution 2019-01 recognizing the Western Washington University Office of American Indian/Alaska Native and First Nation Relations. The University hired the first Executive Director, Laural Ballew, in January 2019. The Tribal Liaison to the President has both external and internal-facing leadership responsibilities. The Tribal Liaison represents the president and the Board of Trustees as liaison and representative to American Indian/Alaska Native and First Nations governments. Internally the position advocates for the support and success of American Indian/Alaska Native students on campus.

- NASU's 2019 Revival Powwow was held on April 12 and 13, 2019, in Carver gym, with financial support from Western's Office of the President. This event was well attended by visitors from throughout the Pacific Northwest and Canada.



NASU members sell T-shirts at their 2019 Revival Powwow, April 2019.

- Government-to-Government Trainings for WWU administration are scheduled to take place in the summer and fall of 2019 for key administrative personnel, to be facilitated by the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs. This initiative will be mutually beneficial for building stronger relationships between the university and tribal governments in serving American Indian/Alaska Native students.

- The conversation regarding tribal enrollment verification or descendency is currently in the process of implementation for those students applying to WWU and scholarships that are allocated for

American Indian/Alaskan Native students housed within WWU.

- A traditional longhouse on campus will enable the university to promote and sustain cultural awareness with the development of programs, events, seminars and activities to foster inclusive environments for American Indian/Alaska native students. This will be an ongoing objective for the Tribal Relations Office in conjunction with the President.

The new Multicultural Center is scheduled for completion this summer. 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.

NASU has a long history of student engaged with WWU.

For five decades, NASU has been a welcoming, community-based organization that has supported the well-being of students as they strive to honor and support their communities through education.

NASU relationships are



NASU students at Alcatraz.

*Going to the Sogorea te Land Trust and touring Alcatraz Island with WWU NASU was life changing. We got to connect with other Native peoples and helped them build the first traditional Arbor in Oakland. We got to see food sovereignty and food justice in a beautiful, real, and inspiring way. We also met prominent leaders from the American Indian Movement, and made plans to reconnect and return in November for the 50th anniversary of the occupation of Alcatraz. It was amazing because we were able to do as Christie Belcourt says and truly get out of the university and onto the land.*



NASU students at Sogorea te Land Trust.

created and sustained through on- and off- campus experiences. Recently, NASU traveled to San Francisco on a cultural, historical, and wellness journey. They visited places of cultural significance to the American Indian Movement, Urban Indigenous history and in preparation for the 50th anniversary of the Alcatraz Occupation.

### **In Conclusion**

On behalf of Native American 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 NASU leaders to attend Tulalip Tribe's Raising Hands Celebration, on October 27, 2018, 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,

Laural Ballew  
Executive Director,  
WWU Office of American Indian/Alaska  
Native and First Nation Relations

Emily Weiner  
Manager of Foundation Partnerships,  
Western Washington University Foundation



THE CENTER FOR EDUCATION EQUITY AND DIVERSITY PRESENTS  
THE 9TH ANNUAL  
**HONORING DR. WILLIAM  
G. DEMMERT, JR.**  
LECTURE SERIES

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 22  
MILLER HALL 005**

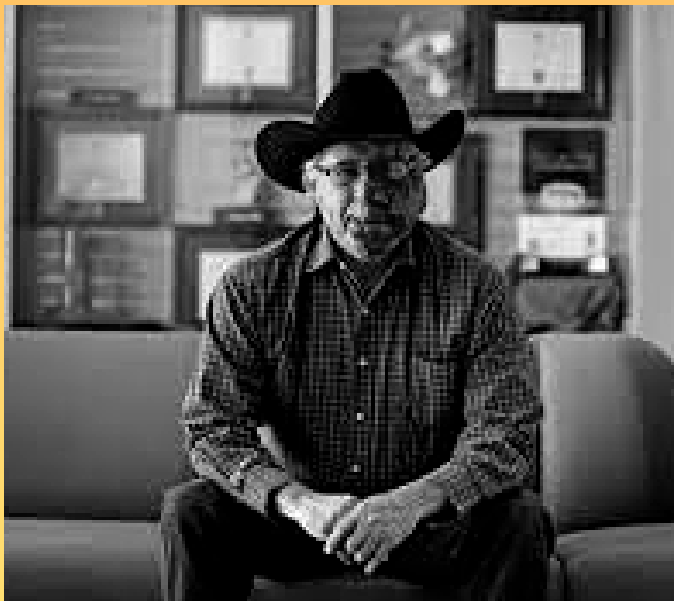
**12:00 PM**

**Native Lunch in Honor of Dr.  
Demmert & Mike Bruised Head**

**2:00 PM**

**Keynote by Mike Bruised Head**

*SPECIAL GRATITUDE TO TULALIP TRIBES  
FOR SPONSORING NATIVE LUNCH*



**MIKE BRUISED HEAD**  
– CHIEF BIRD – NINNA PIKSII

is an esteemed Kainai (Blood) tribal leader and educator. Currently, he serves a member of the Kainai Board of Education and as president of Iniskim Indigenous Alumni Chapter at the University of Lethbridge where he is completing his doctorate in Cultural, Social and Political Thought. During his time as Blood Tribe Chief and council member, he created the Kainai Ecosystems Protection Agency (KEPA). He serves as chair for the KEPA Summit, which is hosting the 6th annual event: "Planting Seeds in Napi's Territory." Linking KEPA and education, he organized a partnership between KEPA, Earth Watch, and Kainai High School for a three-year Blood Tribe Timber Limits Environment Assessment Program. Mike maintains his involvement in Blackfoot ceremonies and cultural events.

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



