

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
for the
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY NATIVE AMERICAN
ADVISORY BOARD TO THE PRESIDENT

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING IS entered into by and between WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY (“WSU”) and the several Native American tribal nations and governments signatory below (the “Signatory Tribes”), with reference to the following facts:

WHEREAS, WSU is a land-grant university whose mission encompasses community services and efforts to deliver quality education to all citizens of the State of Washington; and

WHEREAS, WSU recognizes and affirms for itself established Federal and Washington State policies under which Native American tribal governments are treated as distinct legal and political entities, with their own powers of self-governance and self-determination; and

WHEREAS, WSU acknowledges that its locations statewide are on the homelands of Native American peoples, who have lived in this region from time immemorial and as an academic community, we acknowledge our responsibility to establish and maintain relationships with these tribes and Native peoples, in support of tribal sovereignty and the inclusion of their voices in teaching, research and programming; and

WHEREAS, WSU and the Signatory Tribes acknowledge that the Memorandum of Understanding originally created the Native American Advisory Board to the President on November 8, 1997, and honors their 25-year collaboration to improve the quality of educational services and opportunities provided to Native American students at WSU; and

WHEREAS, WSU and the Signatory Tribes recognize the opportunity to deepen and expand its collaboration to better serve Native American students, faculty, staff, and community across the WSU system; and

WHEREAS, WSU and the Signatory Tribes acknowledge that the Memorandum of Understanding originally signed on November 8, 1997, is hereby replaced with this amended Memorandum of Understanding;

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties agree as follows:

1. The parties affirm their commitment to the ideals stated in this Memorandum of Understanding.
2. The Board shall be comprised of the following members:
 - a. The President of WSU, or his/her designee;
 - b. The Provost of WSU, or his/her designee;
 - c. The President of the Ku-au-Mah Alumni Society of WSU;
 - d. A student representative from the WSU Tribal Nation Building Leadership Program; and
 - e. Those Tribal Chairpersons, or their designees, whose nations are signatories below.
3. The Board may, by consensus, add such other representatives to its roster as may seem to it most advantageous to achieving its mission.

4. The Board's mission shall be to strengthen the relationship between the University and the Signatory Tribes at the highest levels, and to ensure Native American students are provided with intellectual, academic, cultural, and social support to cultivate a sense of belonging and nation building at WSU. In carrying out this mission, the Board shall perform the following functions:
 - a. Provide advice and counsel to strengthen the partnership between WSU and Native American tribes of the Northwest;
 - b. Assist WSU in seeking to strengthen the functions and services established for Native American students and communities, and to assist in facilitating the delivery of those services in areas under the jurisdiction of the Signatory Parties where appropriate;
 - c. Promote a campus climate conducive to meeting the cultural, social, and academic needs of the Native American community at WSU;
 - d. Provide consultation on and advocate for Native American educational opportunities, programs, courses, and certificate/degree programs throughout the University, to serve the needs of Native American students, other students, and the Signatory Tribes;
 - e. Review, as appropriate, relevant reports, policies, procedures, and recommendations from the WSU Native American advisory bodies (i.e., committees, boards, societies, etc.) and the University administration; and
 - f. Establish such internal procedures and rules as may be most appropriate to assist the Board in achieving these goals, including appropriate policies and internal structures (such as subcommittees).
5. To ensure that the Board can fulfill its mission, WSU will provide staff and resources in an amount to be agreed upon from time to time between the Board and WSU for the Board's use. WSU shall have final decision over the amount of such support and the way University staff and/or funds are used, to ensure that such resources are properly utilized as required by State and Federal law.
6. The Board's function shall solely be an advisory one to the President of WSU.
7. The Board shall meet at least twice a year, one time during the fall semester and one time during the spring semester. Meetings shall be called pursuant to procedural rules to be adopted by the Board and may be open to the public if the Board so determines.
8. WSU reserves the right to enter into an MOU agreement with Tribes whose traditional and customary tribal boundaries are included in portions of Washington State enumerated in RCW 28B.15.0131. Other Tribes may be added to the Board by majority vote of the Signatory Tribes. All Signatory Tribes and WSU Board members must agree to participate fully in the Board's work as outlined herein.
9. This Board and its functions may be altered or dissolved at any time by majority vote. WSU reserves the right to dissociate itself from the Board at any time should it regard Board actions as not promoting the best interests and academic freedom of the University.
10. This Memorandum imposes no legal obligations upon any party hereto. Rather, it set out terms for cooperation to work towards and achieve the mission outlined in #4 of this MOU agreement. No portion of this Memorandum shall be construed to imply that any such legal obligations exist among any of the signatories.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Signatory Parties have executed this Memorandum of Understanding amended on January 31, 2023, and originally created between WSU and Signatory Tribes on November 8, 1997, as set forth below.

Washington State University

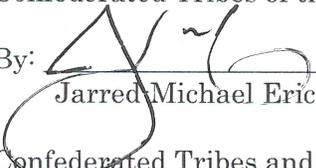
By: 
Kirk Schulz, President

Date: 4/28/23

By: 
Elizabeth Chilton, Provost and Executive Vice President

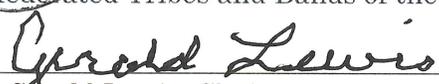
Date: 4/28/23

Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

By: 
Jarred Michael Erickson, Chairman

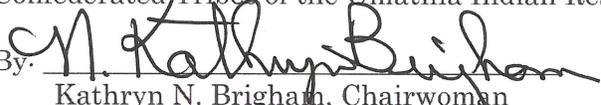
Date: 4/28/23

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

By: 
Gerald Lewis, Chairman

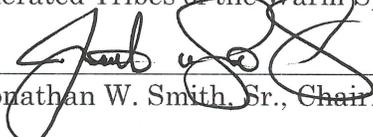
Date: 04.28.23

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

By: 
Kathryn N. Brigham, Chairwoman

Date: 4/28/23

Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation

By: 
Jonathan W. Smith, Sr., Chairman

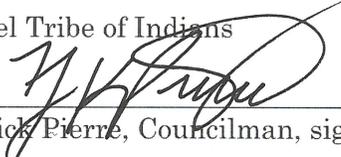
Date: 4/28/23

Cowlitz Indian Tribe

By: 
Mike Iyall, Delegate, signing for Chairwoman Patty Kinswa-Gaiser

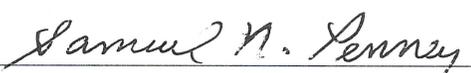
Date: 4/28/23

Kalispel Tribe of Indians

By: 
Nick Pierre, Councilman, signing for Chairman Glen Nenema

Date: 4-28-23

Nez Perce Tribe

By: 
Samuel N. Penney, Chairman

Date: 4-28-23

Spokane Tribe of Indians

By: 
Monica Tonasket, Councilwoman, signing for Chairwoman Carol Evans

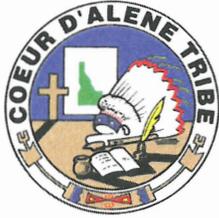
Date: 4-28-23

WSU Tribal Nation Building Leadership

By: Ermi Butler

Date: 4/28/23

Ermi Butler, Student Representative from WSU Tribal Nation Building Leadership Program



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The below named Signatory Party, representing the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, agrees to participate fully in the Board's work as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding amended on January 31, 2023, originally created between Washington State University and signatories on November 8, 1997.

Coeur d'Alene Tribe

By: Chief James Allan

Date: 4-26-23

Chief James Allan, Chairman

Washington State University

By: Kirk Schulz

Date: 5-8-23

Kirk Schulz, President



Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

A Federally Recognized Indian Tribe Organized Pursuant to 25 U.S.C. § 476
* 11404 Moorage Way * La Conner, Washington 98257 *



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The below named Signatory Party, representing the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, agrees to participate fully in the Board's work as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding amended on January 31, 2023, originally created between Washington State University and signatories on November 8, 1997.

Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

By: Steve Edwards

Date: 3/27/24

Steve Edwards, Chairman
Swinomish Indian Senate

Washington State University

By: Kirk Schulz
Kirk Schulz, President

Date: 3/27/24



WASHINGTON STATE
UNIVERSITY



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The below named Signatory Party, representing the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, agrees to participate fully in the Board's work as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding amended on January 31, 2023, originally created between Washington State University and signatories on November 8, 1997.

The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation

By: 

Date: 11/1/24

Dustin Klatush, Chairman

Washington State University

By: 

Date: 11/1/24

Kirk Schulz, President



UPPER SKAGIT INDIAN TRIBE

25944 Community Plaza Way • Sedro-Woolley, Washington 98284
Phone (360) 854-7000 • FAX (360) 854-7004



WASHINGTON STATE
UNIVERSITY

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The below named Signatory Party, representing the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe, agrees to participate fully in the Board's work as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding amended on January 31, 2023, originally created between Washington State University and signatories on November 8, 1997.

Upper Skagit Indian Tribe:

By: _____

Jennifer R. Washington
Upper Skagit Tribal Council Chair

Date: _____

6/2/2025

Washington State University:

By: _____

Elizabeth R. Cantwell, President

Date: _____

9/26/25