“Creating Sustainable Indigenous Community in a 21st Century World” was based on Dr. Cajete’s preliminary research into indigenous communities of Maori, Native Hawaiians, Canada First Nations and the Bhutan in the Himalayas.

Weaving Research Communities Together: Research Protocols in Indian Country
The 2010 Northwest Regional Conference on Protection of Cultural Properties and Tribal and Indigenous Peoples

Featuring Keynote Speaker
Dr. Gregory Cajete, Ph.D.

“Creating Sustainable Indigenous Community In a 21st Century World”

April 16th, 2010
8:30 a.m.
at The Longhouse Education and Cultural Center

Free and Open to the Public

On-line Registration at: www.evergreen.edu/2010_conference_registration  On-site Registration Begins at 8 a.m.

This conference is made possible by generous donations from the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Tulalip Tribes and TESC President’s Diversity Fund, and co-sponsored with TESC First Peoples’ Advising Services.

Hosted by Northwest Indian Applied Research Institute, The Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA
For more information contact: (360) 867-6689, ralina@evergreen.edu

Photos by Craig Chanowski
www.chanowskiphotography.com
Dylan Dressler (Gros Ventre) was the 2010 Master of Public Administration (MPA) - Tribal Government speaker for the Hooding Ceremony, held at the Longhouse Education and Cultural Center at The Evergreen State College on June 11, 2010.

Dylan was asked to share some of the 2010 Tribal MPA cohort’s shared memories at Evergreen. She reflected on the struggles and triumphs that her class experienced together. “We are the 4th MPA Tribal Cohort in Evergreen’s history and over half of my entering classmates in 2008 are graduating here today,” she told the audience. “On a national scale, that is a huge success for Indian Country!”

In another anecdotal comment, Dylan calculated that in her two year commute from Spokane to Evergreen, she traveled 27,552 miles.

Dylan shared with the audience that her class came from all four directions, including, Cherokee, Chippewa, Choctaw, Colville, Gros Ventre, Hualapai, Lummi, Muckleshoot, Nisqually, Puyallup, Quinault, Sioux, Turtle Mountain, White Earth Apache, Yakama, as well as Mexican and Euro-American. “We’ve completed hundreds of papers on Tribal issues and learned to type 100 words per second. We’ve learned how each word on paper has merit and most importantly, we’ve created new friendships & bonds that will last forever in our collective memories,” she said.

Dylan grew up in Spokane, Washington. She and her husband just welcomed a new baby boy, Francis Koda Dressler, on September 26, 2010. “I am proud to say that I am a Geoduck Greener and part of the 2010 graduating class. I am very honored to have met such amazing people.”

Dylan Dressler
Hooding Ceremony Student Speaker

“Congratulations
Tanya Altstatt Menchaca, Raymond Alvarado, Kara Briggs, Dylan Dressler, Erin Genia, Ronice Goforth, Natosha Kautz, Terri Mai, Deborah Marchant, Dawn Miller, Vivian Parker, George Patececk, Monica Patterson, Jerry Pelletier, Kathy Pierre, Cassandra Sharron, Samuel Stitt, Emily Washines

Northwest Indian Applied Research Institute
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Graduate student Emily Washines grew up on the Yakama Nation reservation in Toppenish, Washington. She came to The Evergreen State College in 2008 to attend the Master in Public Administration program that gives her the opportunity to specialize in Tribal Governance. Before she came to Evergreen, Emily completed her undergraduate degree at Central Washington University where she worked in Admissions from 2003 to 2010. She laughs when she realizes that her eight month old daughter has spent her entire life in graduate school with her.

After graduation, Emily plans on publishing the research she conducted in the Enduring Legacies Native Cases Project. The Evergreen project allows graduate researchers and educators to develop teaching curriculums in the form of case studies that are culturally relevant on key issues in Indian Country. The teaching modules are available on The Evergreen State College website.

The project gave Emily the opportunity to examine the return of the wapato (potato) on the Yakama Nation reservation. “I was doing this as my graduate capstone project,” she said. “I wanted to study the return of the wapato that hasn’t been on our land for 70 years,” she explained. The phenomenon has puzzled tribal members. “I found out that this was the result of the tribe [Yakama Nation] purchasing 400 acres of land,” she explained. When the tribe decided to dam some parts of the Toppenish Creek on the new lands, the water table was raised. “When the wapato returned, it returned without seeding and to the surprise of everyone!” she exclaimed.

Emily is excited about the return of the indigenous potato to her nation. “I hope that you will pass on the message that in the Treaty of 1855 we are instructed to protect the resources for those not yet born,” she said. Emily sees the return of the wapato as a precious resource needing protection and nourishment, so that it can benefit all tribal members in the future.

"I was doing this as my graduate capstone project. I wanted to study the return of the wapato that hasn’t been on our land for 70 years."
“Some knowledge is too sacred to be researched. Students and faculty need to consult Native people before attempting research of this kind”
--Warren King George, (Muckleshoot)