

**2nd Annual Washington State/Tribal Indian Education Summit
Chief Leschi Schools on the Puyallup Indian Reservation
July 22-23, 2004**

Higher Education Forum
Facilitators: Julian Argel and Augustine McCaffrey
Recorders: Barbara Aston and John Hopkins

Key Issue:

Communication and Collaboration between Tribes, State, and Institutions of Higher Education

Recommendations:

There was a consensus among attendees at the forum that most of the issues we face regarding recruitment and retention as well as curriculum issues have changed very little over time. The attendees decided to focus on specific recommendations to be accomplished as well as identifying responsible parties for the action steps. The intention is to impact higher education at the institutional levels and the highest state levels regarding Indian education.

1. Plan and present an information/education day with the Washington State Higher Education Coordinating Board, State Board of Technical and Community Colleges, Tribal Education departments, OSPI, and Representatives from Institutions of Higher Education. One of the first goals would be to recommend that there be tribal liaisons to the Higher Education Coordinating Board and the State Board of Technical and Community Colleges. Before initiating this recommendation, we need to be more knowledgeable of the function and operation of these boards and the history of state/tribal interaction in these areas.
2. Create a Website with links to higher education institutions and programs, resources, contacts, etc.

Next Steps:

1. Endorsement from the Summit
2. Leadership for the planning and hosting of this information/education day provided by the Washington State Native American Higher Education Consortium (WSNAHEC) and Yapqinm (East of Cascades Tribal/Higher Education group).
3. Identify a home for the website (possibly the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs website). Communicate to institutions of higher education and education organizations and tribes to provide links for this web site and to create information useful to Native students and tribes.