

Together We Open Doors to Learning

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“House of  
Learning”

Peninsula College  
Longhouse

## Year-in-Review Highlights of 2014-2015

Since its inception, the House of Learning Longhouse at Peninsula College has centered on developing relationships between Tribal communities and Peninsula College for the advancement of cultural learning and higher education success on the Olympic Peninsula. The mission and goals of the Longhouse, established in 2007, continue to shape all partnerships and programming. The Longhouse proudly shares highlights of its accomplishments in 2014-2015 based on its mission and goals:

**Mission: The House of Learning Longhouse at Peninsula College builds bridges of understanding and knowledge among local tribes, students, educators, and the larger community by establishing a special place for all students and community members to meet, learn and interact.**

Ensuring that the special legacy of the Longhouse mission flourishes, we celebrate two special achievements this year:

- Production and promotion of 30-minute documentary film: ***House of Learning: The Spirit of the Peninsula College Longhouse***, with three debut events in Port Angeles and Forks. The documentary is now available on DVD and the Longhouse website: <http://pencol.edu/aboutpc/longhouse/history>
- The Peninsula College Foundation has established **the Longhouse Endowment Fund**, a new way that the community can contribute to ensure the long-term legacy of the Longhouse.

**Strategic Goal: The Longhouse serves as a tool for student recruitment and retention for Native Students and diverse student populations:**

- **Coordination with Tribal Education Partners:** The Longhouse and Student Services coordinate regularly with Tribal Education Partners to facilitate intake and support for tribal students. The Longhouse hosts **bi-annual meetings with all Tribal Education Partners** to discuss recruitment, retention, new programs, challenges, and new ideas for Native student higher education achievement, with approximately 20 partners participating.
- **Specialized advising:** The Longhouse and Multicultural and Inclusion services provide “single point of contact” advising and support for self-identified Native and Latino students, with specialized community resource referrals and outreach that engaged over 300 students in 2014-2015.
- **Community Outreach:** Longhouse and Student Services have offered “Going to College” workshops at Neah Bay and Port Angeles High schools, and hosted Longhouse visits from middle schools, high schools, and Tribal Youth organizations in the area, with college outreach to over 200 6-12<sup>th</sup> grade students across the peninsula.
- **Longhouse Scholarship:** Longhouse Scholarships, which are full-tuition, full-year scholarships awarded each year to a student selected by each of the six local tribes, are promoted and administered through the Longhouse and Student Services. Five students received this special scholarship in 2014-15, for a total of 15 total Longhouse Scholarship recipients since 2013.
- **Student Leadership development:** The Longhouse and Multicultural and Inclusion Services staff have organized student leadership experiences and club development, including forming and advising a diversity-focused student club, organization of student and staff participation in the Washington Students of Color Conference, and student fieldtrip opportunities, including the First Peoples Conference at Green River Community College and the grand opening of the UW Longhouse. An estimated 60 Peninsula College and high school students participated in these leadership learning opportunities last year.
- **AA Bridge program and partnership for RBCD BA:** The Longhouse and Multicultural and Inclusion Services continued collaboration to promote and host the Evergreen State College’s Reservation Based Community Determined (RBCD) Bachelor of Liberal Arts program, while recruiting and advising Native students in the Peninsula College AA Bridge program, a customized Associate in Arts program inclusive of Native perspectives. The AA Bridge program included five students and the RBCD remained at a steady six students in 2014-2015, with nine expected in the next year. The AAA Bridge program will benefit from stronger outreach initiatives in the future, and also the potential inclusion of a Native Perspectives class offered at PC in spring 2016.
- **Native Graduates Celebration:** Twenty-one Native graduates were recognized in the first Native Families Graduation Celebration in June 2015, with over 70 participating students, family members and tribal/campus/community supporters.



- **Outreach to Spanish-speaking communities in Forks and Sequim:** The Longhouse and Multicultural and Inclusion Services collaborated this year with Financial Aid staff to organize Spanish language sessions of College Goal financial aid event in the Forks and main college campuses, as well as collaborating with the Hispanic Families Association of Forks to sponsor a Community Communication Skills workshop in Spanish in at the Forks PC site.

**Strategic Goal: The Longhouse creates a space on campus to experience and study Native arts, culture and history:**

- **Longhouse Gallery** offers three exhibitions each year showcasing Native artists, often including Studium Generale presentations by the artists and Longhouse receptions. This year the Gallery featured the Fanny Taylor historical collection from Olympic National Park; an intergenerational exhibit with Makah artists Logan Martin, his father Bill Martin, and his late Great-Grandfather Frank Smith; and photographer Meredith Parker (Makah).

- **Permanent art collection:** The Longhouse has a growing permanent art collection, and was proud this year to sponsor a Donor Recognition installation in the Great Room, featuring Wolf Masks by artist David Jackson (Quileute) and a wolf graphic design by Ervin James Ashue (Hoh).



- **Cultural Fair:** In collaboration with Port Angeles High School, Lincoln Skills Center, Stevens Middle school, and the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, the Longhouse hosted the first Native Cultural Fair, with presentations by high school students on Native culture, history, language, and natural resources. Over 100 middle school, high school, and PC students participated in this event, as well as faculty, staff and community members. The Fair was followed by a community presentation at Studium Generale by the Elwha Klallam Tribal Chairwoman, General Manager, and Klallam Heritage and Training Center Director on the return of cultural belongings of Tse-Whit-Zen to the Tribe, followed by a reception in the Longhouse.
- **Button Blanket project:** Lower Elwha Klallam elder and educator Jamie Valadez led a five week Longhouse workshop series with middle and high school and Peninsula College students to create a Coast Salish Button Blanket, which was gifted to the college with ceremony during the March Native Cultural Fair. Over 50 students and community members participated in the project.
- **Cradleboard project:** Klallam elder Jamie Valadez and Elwha Tribal Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) partnered with the Longhouse in the Cradleboard Project, where new and expecting parents and family members created cradleboards while discussing parenting topics. Over 15 families participated in the workshop.
- **Cedar weaving workshop:** Peninsula College student Jennifer James (Makah) led workshops on cedar weaving for 13 PC students, creating pins that were shared with graduates in in the Native Graduation Celebration.
- **Film screenings and discussions:** The Longhouse collaborated with Magic of Cinema Film series to offer two screenings of the documentary *Reel Injun* followed by student panel discussions in Port Angeles and Forks campuses. We partnered again to host a screening and discussion with Derek Evans, star of the documentary, *Come Hell or*

*High Water: The Battle for Turkey Creek*, focusing on issues of environmental justice and communities of color. An estimated 200 students and community members participated in these events

- **Arts and Social Justice:** The Longhouse collaborated with both Foothills Writers Series and Studium Generale to present lectures, readings and workshops with poet and scholar Duane Niatum (Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe), poet and filmmaker Sonya Rosario, and *Champions of Change* educator and activist Erin Jones. An estimated 80 students and community members participated in these events.



**Strategic Goal: The Longhouse serves as a cultural and educational resource to the College and the community:**

- **The Longhouse coordinated with faculty as a resource to arrange a variety of learning activities in Peninsula College classes, including:**
  - English class presentations from Master Storyteller Roger Fernandes (Lower Elwha Klallam)
  - Native perspectives on health presentation to Nursing students by elder Elaine Grinnell (Jamestown S’Klallam)
  - Hosting Bridging Cultures Learning Community classes in the Longhouse.
- **Professional Development opportunities:** The Longhouse helped to organize professional learning opportunities with PC faculty and staff, including the summer **Native Cases Institute** (five faculty participated); the **Washington Students of Color Conference** (five faculty and staff participated) and a training on **Safe Zone** development (25 faculty and staff participated)
- **Collaborations with tribal communities:** The Longhouse team participated in a variety of collaborations with tribal communities, including:
  - Annual meetings with each of six area Tribal Councils and Peninsula College President
  - Lower Elwha Klallam Wellbriety Group development
  - Elwha Youth Coalition membership and project participation
  - Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe staff collaboration meetings

**The House of Learning Longhouse would like to thank its many collaborative partners who have made possible the wide-ranging and inclusive programming achievements of 2014-2015, with particular appreciation to:**

- Hoh Tribe
- Quileute Tribe
- Peninsula College Board of Trustees
- Peninsula College Foundation
- Port Angeles School District
- Sequim School District

