

# Lynda Timeus: College experience changes her life

By Diane Rodriguez

Lynda Timeus, 67, is the first person in her family to go to college. And she did it at age 55.

Lynda has been married to her husband, Harvey, for 45 years and they live in Brookings, Ore. They have three children – Clint, Jay and Sarah, plus 8 grandchildren.

Her parents are Elmer and Geri (deceased) Jordan. Her grandma on her dad's side, May Van Pelt Jordan, is where her Chetco and Tututni ancestry comes from.

Lynda's gratitude for and excitement about her college experience at Southwest Oregon Community College is evident in talking to her.

"I received education funding (for tuition and books) and was a straight-A student. I got 70 credits in 2005-06 ... the classes I completed helped me as director of the Indian Education Program (in the Brookings-Harbor School District)," she said. "I can't reiterate how much speaking, human services and psychology classes helped me grow as a person and I used that information on my job."

Unfortunately, Lynda had to leave college following a cancer diagnosis in 2007, which led to two years of chemotherapy. But she kept working – and kept using what she learned in those college classes.

"I can't tell you how thankful I was that the Tribe trusted me and helped me with book fees and tuition. I can attribute my success to learning, being willing

to reinvent myself and a willingness to work with others," Lynda said. "I gained so much confidence in myself from the college experience and learned to trust myself and know that I had a lot to share. I had as much to share, and it was as important, as those people who had gone to college and become teachers. I had as much to share with those Native children that I worked with and I wanted to make a difference in their lives."

Although you might not sense it when she talks about her schooling and her work in the Indian Education Program, Lynda says she's a quiet person. But she wants people to know "that I'm extremely proud to be Native American. I learned so much from my father and my other older relatives. I'm thankful I can share some of those things with my children and grandchildren. And I was also able to share with the children I worked with through my job."

Lynda has been giving to others especially through her job at the school just by sharing about who she is.

"I've shared a part of who I am and what I know and what my family taught me," she said. "Growing up in a large family, you learn to be kinder, more compassionate and more caring. I think I took a lot of that into my work. Just by who I am, I share that I'm proud to be Native American."

Lynda says the most pivotal moment of her life was when she started college and "realized that I could be my own person, that I had a right to my own opinions.

When I was growing up, children should be seen and not heard. I always thought I didn't have a right to really voice how I felt or what I thought. But I finally, in college, had one professor and in working with her, I really did find myself, the true me that really was worth something, that I could offer something as long as I didn't hurt anybody else.

"I couldn't be happier now, how comfortable I am with expressing myself. It's a big difference."



Lynda Timeus

File photo

For more information about the Siletz Tribal language program, please visit [siletzlanguage.org](http://siletzlanguage.org).

**2017  
Confederated Tribes of  
Siletz Indians  
Memorial Day Ceremony**

May 29, 2017  
11 a.m.  
Government Hill  
Siletz, Oregon

Procession to Veterans Memorial – Honor Guard  
Drum – West Coast Boys

*The Lord's Prayer* – Siletz Royalty  
Welcome – Tribal Council Chairman Delores Pigsley  
Memorial Day Address – Cynthia DePoe-Soulier  
Presentation of Flowers  
Gun Salute – Honor Guard  
*Taps*

Closing – West Coast Boys

Lunch at the Tribal Community Center  
Provided by the Cultural Heritage Committee – Noon

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**WHEN:** Wednesday, May 24th, 2017  
**WHERE:** Siletz Tribal Prints & Gifts,  
1520 NE Hwy 101, Lincoln City, Or 97367  
**TIME:** 2:30pm to 4:00pm  
**PHONE:** 541-996-5550

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