HERITAGE MONTH

Focus

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS

·Serve as a site for culturallyappropriate classes, lectures, workshops and conferences;

Serve as a catalyst for increasing the number, variety and visibility of courses addressing Native American issues at PSU;

In collaboration with Oregon tribes, help PSU develop a specialized curriculum in tribal leadership that will be transmitted to tribal sites using distance learning technology.

PROJECT DETAIL

PSU has donated land for the building site that lies at the southern tip of the Park Blocks, bordered by Interstate 405, SW Broadway and SW Jackson Streets. The design for the building was prepared in consultation with students and PSU's Native American Community Advisory, a group formed to advise PSU on student retention and student support services. The design team includes Don Stastny who led the design team that created the Museum at Warm Ssprings, David Sloan (Navajo) who collaborated on the design of the Cultlural Resource Center for the National Museum of the American Indian at the Smithsonian Institution, and Brian McCormack (Nez Perce), a landscape designer. The building includes the following elements:

·Central gathering area for 200-300 for traditional events and community functions;

Gallery/lounge area that will house art and historical exhibits;

Student resource room with computer facilities, distance learning capability; and space for study, research, seminars, and a library;

Recreation room for community and children's activities;

·Conference room for community and children's activities;

·Conference room for student and community use;

Offices for Native American student groups;

·Kitchen for preparation of traditional meals;

Outdoor area with a stone fire pit in the shape of a salmon; and

Rooftop garden and Honor Courtyard where new graduate names will be engraved.

FUNDS NEEDED

Currently, Portland State University has secured 44% of the funds necessary to build the Center. About 1.7 million remains to be raised before the Center becomes a reality. PSU has received \$1.3 million toward the project goal of 1\$3 million.

There is no facility like this in the six county metropolitan region – an area with more than 15,000 Native American residents – and none like it in the state. The Native American Center will be a place of respect, a place of cultural identity, and a place of common ground – a new focus and center for Native Americans.

Anyone who is interested in learning more about the Native American Center can contact Donna Schaeffer, Director of University Development at 503/725-5034.

A Native American Education

By Ohiyesa (Charles Alexander Eastman)

Our children were trained in the natural way – they kept in close contact with the natural world. In this way, they found themselves and became conscious of their relationship to all of life. The spiritual world was real to them, and the splendor of life stood out above all else. And beyond all, and in all, was seen to dwell the Great Mystery, unsolved and unsolvable, except in those things that it is good for one's spirit to know.

We taught our children by both example and instruction, but with emphasis on example, because all learning is a dead language to one who gets it secondhand. Our physical training was thorough and intelligent, while as to the moral and spiritual side of our teaching, I am not afraid to compare it with that of any race.

We conceived the art of teaching as, first and foremost, the development of personality; and we considered the fundamentals of education to be love of the Great Mystery, love of nature, and love of people and country.





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