

## U of O: effort to recruit Native students

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 About 150 University of Oregon students identify as Native American. A survey last year found that about half of those are enrolled in federally recognized tribes. "Historically, people literally moved us out of the way, so we come from communities and reservations that have very few opportunities to access higher education," said Jason Younker, an associate vice president and adviser to the president on sovereignty and government-to-government relations. Younker is a member of the Coquille Nation. "When students get to uni-

versities, they are usually the only one from their community. They find that there are very few Natives on campus." The University of Oregon began collaborating with Oregon's tribes two decades ago to make the campus a place where Native students succeed. In 1998, university leaders created the "residency by Aboriginal rights program," granting in-state tuition to members of all tribes with historic relationships to the territory that was Oregon, regardless of where they live now. The school began flying the flags of Oregon's nine

tribes outside the student union. As of 2014, students can minor in Native American studies. And in 2005, the tribes helped create and pay for the Many Nations Longhouse, a community center traditional to some Oregon tribes. Students from different tribes meet there regularly to study or eat potluck dinners, Younker said. The Native residential community will open this fall in a new dorm next to the longhouse. Native American students and anyone focusing on indigenous studies can live in the community.

## AARP driving course in W.S.

An AARP Smart Driver Course of drivers 50 and older who want to refresh their driving skills will be held in Warm Springs on Thursday, May 18. The course will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Family Resource Center. The registration cost is being covered for Warm Springs residents and tribal members by the Warm Springs Health and Human Services Branch. To sign up, call the library at 541-553-1078. Successful completion may qualify the person for a discount on insurance.



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