

Native Youth From Around The Country Learn "Words Of Wisdom"



A thunderbird sits on the Longhouse at Evergreen State College.

By Jack Ham,
Smoke Signals Intern

Around 100 Skokomish youth spent a year setting up "Words of Wisdom," the Native Youth Leadership Academy. As Tribal youth from as far as Massachusetts and Arizona arrived, their Skokomish hosts welcomed them with smiles and friendly directions to dorms and other facilities.

On Sunday, July 17, the Native Wellness Institute together with the Skokomish Tribe, its Youth Coun-

cil and Tuwaduq Family Services sponsored a three-day conference at Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington.

On the first day, the sponsors treated youth to a traditional Skokomish dinner at a traditional longhouse on their reservation. Visitors were also introduced to the traditional songs and dances of the Skokomish Tribe.

On the second day, Native Youth Leadership Academy Training Team members Robert Johnston, Jillene Joseph and Maria Trevizo motivated the youth. They talked about goal setting in order to develop a personal vision. The way to success, they said, requires youth to take healthy risks.

On the third day, the youth gathered in "clans." Clan members took turns practicing speeches in front of each other.

"This is where it starts, learning how to speak," said Johnston on how to become a youth leader. The rest of the night, chaperones rewarded the youth with a dance for their good behavior.



Photos by Jack Ham

Talent— Tribal member Fausten Wheeler (center) makes Native necklaces.

Other activities throughout the three days included a basketball tournament; rock wall climbing, a talent show and a ropes course that helped the youth increase their self-esteem and learn trust.

"You are brilliant and talented beyond all measure," said Trevizo. Her final words for the new youth leaders of tomorrow: "I want to thank you for showing me a lot of respect," she said. ■

Summer Of Buffalo Indian Education



Photos by Rhiannon Wheeler

Performance— Students from all different age groups came together to learn a traditional Navajo song taught to them by Chet Clark. They spent all summer learning the song and were eager to play for friends and family in Salem.



Youth Talent— Tribal member Tenisha Rios plays a traditional Native American song on a flute at the showcase of the Summer of the Buffalo Indian Education, a summer school program that helps Native American youth connect with their cultural heritage. The event was held on Thursday, August 11.

2005 HeadStart Graduation



Look Out World... On Thursday, August 18, 20 students graduated from pre-school and the HeadStart Program. Some of the graduates included Raven Harmon, (Athabascan/Yupik/Colville) (above, right) Chinook Tribal member Tahoma Aleck and Grand Ronde Tribal member Hunter Latham.



Photos by Toby McClary