

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Attention Western Oregon University students

There will be an official groundbreaking and blessing of the new Health and Wellness Center at WOU.

You are invited and encouraged to come!

Monday, Oct. 5, at 10:30 a.m.

Parking lot F behind the old PE building

For more information, contact 503-879-1478.

College preparation presentation

Presented by Sheridan High School ASPIRE Program

Taught by College Preparation and Admissions Expert Joe Bernard.

Who: Transportation will be provided for CTGR/Native high school students interested in college

Where: Sheridan High School — location TBA

When: Tuesday, Oct. 20 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

For more information or to sign up to attend, call 503-879-1478.

Free computers for Tribal college students

The Education Division and the Procurement Department are happy to announce an opportunity for college students to obtain surplus Tribal computers.

In order to qualify applicants must meet the following criteria:

- 1) Be an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.
- 2) Be pursuing a degree as a full-time student.
- 3) Must be in good standing with Higher Education Programs.
- 4) Must have completed 90 college-level quarter credits of 60 semester credits in his/her selected degree program.
- 5) Must submit an official transcript and have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5.

A random drawing will take place to determine which students will receive a surplus computer. Students are only eligible to receive one surplus computer and will not be eligible to reapply for future surplus distributions.

Applications will be accepted through the end of the day on Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2009, at the Education Division. There is no residency requirement to this drawing. Computers must be picked up in person or the Tribal member can arrange to have someone pick up the computer for them. Computers may be shipped at the Tribal member's expense via UPS standard flat rate.

For more information or an application, contact the Education Division office at 1-800-422-0232, ext. 2275.

CTGR Higher Education Program applications now online

Applications are now available online for all CTGR Higher Education programs. Visit the Tribal Web page at www.grandronde.org/depts/education/ to learn more about the various funding programs available to enrolled Tribal members pursuing a higher education.

Call Education at 1-800-422-0232, ext. 2275, if you need assistance determining which program application to submit.

Program deadlines:

Bachelor Degree & Adult Vocational Programs

July 1: Fall Term/Semester

Nov. 1: Winter Term/Spring Semester

Feb. 1: Spring Term

Competitive scholarship (all categories)

April 30 each year

Part-time college

Ten days prior to first day of class

Non-credit program

Ten days prior to the first day of the class, training or conference

FAFSA (required for all Bachelor Degree & Adult Vocational Program students)

By Feb. 15 to the Tribal office each year.

Education Open House Wednesday, Oct. 7 — 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Head Start/Preschool

Youth Education-K-12 Program

Kindergarten/Chinuk Wawa Language Immersion Program

Higher Education Programs

Tribal Library — Book giveaway!

Participate in BLACKOUT BINGO!

New this year:

Attend breakout sessions on college

Preparation for middle school and high school students and parents

BBQ Dinner — FREE — 5:30 p.m.

Youth Education covered area.

Student Spotlight: Eric Bernando

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

Tribal member Eric Bernando earned his Master in Education through the Sapsik'walá program at the University of Oregon on Aug. 18.

Tribal member Jennifer Wolpe earned the same degree in the same program in August (see *Smoke Signals*, Sept. 15, 2009, issue).

As an undergraduate, Bernando earned a bachelor's degree in History from Portland State University.

"When you go out and teach in the Native American community," Bernando said, "the ultimate goal is to integrate the Native way of thinking into American education system. Even if you teach in a school that doesn't have a lot of Native Americans, you still have the opportunity to make sure that they learn about Native Americans in the proper way."

"For so long, Native Americans have been forced into a one-size-fits-all education system. We attempt to make Native Americans more Boston (Americans from Europe). There are many other groups in this country that have been disenfranchised by the education system, so it helps you deal with their concerns as well."

For the moment, Bernando joins Wolpe and some 70 of 80 University of Oregon master's graduates in still looking for work. Also like Wolpe and others, he has put his name to start substitute teaching.

"I've always wanted to be an educator," Bernando said. "I knew that I would end up in education. But when I found out that there was the program to teach Native Americans (UO's Sapsik'walá program), I thought that was really cool."

One of his biggest surprises was learning just how many Native Americans do not get a good education.

Bernando knows firsthand that many Native Americans also have done very well in the education system. In his family, he said, "My great-grandmother, my grandmother went to college; and that was way back when women and Native Americans did not (generally) go. All of their children went to college. My family basically said, 'You need to go to college to better yourself.'"

"There are a lot of Native American youth out there who don't really see any way out of their situation. So they join gangs, do drugs or alcohol because they believe they have no other option. I realized that there's more of that than I thought there was. A large portion of the youth in Grand Ronde definitely need more activities, things for teenagers and young adults to do."

Among standout lectures during his education, Bernando said, "We got to hear from Oregon educators and Native Americans about where they see Native American education in Oregon going."

Bernando did his student teaching at Churchill Alternative High School in Eugene for two terms, and for another at the Jefferson Middle School in Eugene.

"Students like it when you cook, so I brought all the ingredients in for a buffalo and elk stew. Most have never tasted it before. Most," he said, "wouldn't know that tomatoes are Native American foods, native to South America, like potatoes."

He also brought in a lot of Native American items to share.

"I made a drum as part of Sapsik'walá program, and brought in the drum." He photographed petroglyphs (Native American designs carved on rock) and pictographs (Native American designs painted on rock), and brought them in for students to see.

Bernando, who will be 29 on Oct. 10, was born and raised in Portland. His mother is Tribal member Debi Bernando and his sister is Tribal member Erin Bernando. ■

