

# Ambrose joins Tribal Council staff

By Ron Karten

*Smoke Signals staff writer*

Former Hatfield Fellow Francene Ambrose has joined the Tribal Council office as an administrative assistant.

She studied at the University of Washington and graduated from Portland State University, earning a bachelor of science/liberal arts degree. She combined Sociology with Native American and Black Studies.

Since 2006, she has been working on her master's in Public Administration/Tribal Governance degree at Evergreen State College in Olympia, Wash., and Portland State University.

She was the Grand Ronde Tribe's 2008 Hatfield Fellow, working in the office of Sen. Ron Wyden.

"It was an historic time to be in D.C.," she said. "I was able to be in D.C. when President Obama was voted in for the first time. I was there for the hearings and appointments for Supreme Court Justice (Sonia) Sotomayor, director of Indian Health Service Dr. Yvette Roubideaux and Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar.

"I worked on ensuring that Tribes received funds in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, worked on the re-authorization of the Indian Healthcare Improvement Act, Indian Veterans Housing Opportunity Act and was able to 'drop' my 99-year Lease bill in the hopper where bills get their start. I was able to set up a hearing for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Tribal Police about the need for passing the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2009."

She also handled the Grand Ronde Tribe's request for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

**Francene Ambrose recently started as Tribal Council's new administrative assistant. Ambrose was the 2008-09 Mark O. Hatfield Fellow, a fellowship program that was started by Spirit Mountain Community Fund.**

stimulus funds.

With all that though, she said, "The most powerful thing for me was viewing the original treaties with Tribal Council."

As a fellow, she also worked with the nine Oregon Tribes on specific bills. Now focusing her talents in the Grand Ronde Tribal Council office, she is working on projects to benefit the Tribe.

"I felt like this was my opportunity to give back to the Tribe in a meaningful way after they provided me with a scholarship and a wonderful fellowship," Ambrose said.

"I am excited to work with the Tribal Council once again. After being a fellow, I have not had the opportunity to work on policy issues and look forward to jumping back into it.

"Both my studies and the fellowship helped me step into this position. I am familiar with, or can easily catch up on issues, having worked on or been in the back-

ground, and I can draw on my nonprofit work and volunteer experience."

She started as administrative assistant on June 24 and currently is in training in the Tribal Council office. To start, she is organizing the council's paper files, saving them electronically to make them easily searchable.

"We are also working on updating and organizing the office and meeting space," she said.

However, with her legislative experience, Executive Coordinator Stacia Martin has in mind some projects based on that experience.

"I am excited to see where that is headed," Ambrose said.

On the way, Ambrose has accumulated experiences that will serve the Tribe well:

- As a student, she was Peer Mentoring Program coordinator at the University of Washington;
- She worked in the Office of Development at Portland State;
- She was development manager for the National Indian Child Welfare Association;
- She worked as an intern for the Portland Veterans Affairs Medical Center through the Student Temporary Employment Pro-

gram;

- She was a clerk in the Title VII Indian Education Program;
- She has been on the Native American Student & Community Center Advisory Board with a Portland State Presidential appointment. She recommended policies, programming and procedures to the board;
- She was president of the Portland State chapter of the American Indian Science & Engineering Society;
- And she was the assistant to the director of the Portland State Native American Student & Community Center.

Since 2004, Ambrose has been a volunteer with the Bow and Arrow Culture Club in Portland. The nonprofit's mission is to provide Native Americans the opportunity to gather and celebrate their culture and traditions. The group plans the City of Roses Delta Park Powwow each year on Father's Day weekend, which starts powwow season.

She has been the group's treasurer and most recently was its fundraising coordinator. She and her husband, Jerald Harris, have run a silent auction at the powwow for the last two years.

"We enjoy their family friendly events that are drug- and alcohol-free. It is a great group for those wanting to drum, dance and socialize with other Natives in the area," she said.

Ambrose was raised by her grandfather Corky Ambrose in White Swan, Wash., on the Yakama Reservation.

Today, though, Ambrose and Harris, who builds and repairs computers and also studied for a master's degree in Public Administration at Evergreen State College, are looking for a home in the Grand Ronde area.

"This is the first time that I will be living on my reservation," she said, "and I am excited and proud to start the adventure of learning about my ancestral history here." ■

## BOOK FOR SALE

"The Kalapuyans: A sourcebook on the Indians of the Willamette Valley" by Harold Mackey, Ph.D.



This book, through collaboration between the Cultural Resources Department, Mission Mill Museum, and the Mackey Family, has been re-released in a second edition with a new cover, an updated bibliography with more current and accurate sources, new photographs, and a new afterward explaining the Grand Ronde Tribal perspective.

\$13.00 per book  
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