

Community Fund selects Colville Tribal member as Hatfield Fellow



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

2024-25 Hatfield Fellow Kwani-Fawn Marcellay (Colville) talks with Tribal Council member Brenda Tuomi during a meet-and-greet in the Tribal Council conference room on Wednesday, June 26. Marcellay is the 25th Hatfield Fellow and will be working in U.S. Rep. Val Hoyle’s office.

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and Spirit Mountain Community Fund have selected Kwani-Fawn Marcellay as the 2024-25 Hatfield Fellow.

Marcellay is a citizen of the Colville Confederated Tribes in Washington. She is a recent graduate of Portland’s Reed College, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in anthropology.

The Tribe established the Mark O. Hatfield Fellowship in 1998 as a living tribute to Sen. Hatfield to honor his accomplishments as Oregon’s governor and a U.S. senator.

Each year, Spirit Mountain Community Fund sponsors a highly motivated Native American to serve as the Hatfield Fellow and intern in an Oregon congressional office, enhancing the mutual understanding between leadership in Washington, D.C., and Indian Country.

Marcellay is set for an eight-month term in Rep. Val Hoyle’s office. Hoyle represents Oregon’s fourth congressional district.

While studying at Reed College, Marcellay served as president of the American Indians Student Union. She also worked as a legal assistant for her Tribal public defender’s office and conducted community-based research for her Tribe related to sexual assault reporting.

Marcellay is the 25th Native American to serve as a Hatfield Fellow. She will begin her fellowship in November with a month-long orientation at the American Political Science Association in Washington, D.C.

Following orientation, she will begin her congressional placement in Hoyle’s office. It is Hoyle’s first

time hosting a Hatfield Fellow.

“I’m thrilled to welcome Kwani to my office this fall and I look forward to seeing the unique perspective she brings to the table,” she said. “The Hatfield Fellowship, established by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, is key to strengthening relationships between Oregon’s Tribal governments and the congressional delegation. It also creates the opportunity for talented individuals to work in our nation’s capitol to promote positive, systemic change and gain first-hand knowledge of the legislative process.”

Marcellay said she was honored to be selected as the next fellow.

“I am passionate about protecting Tribal sovereignty and want to leverage the skills I will gain from the Hatfield Fellowship to advocate for policies that advance Tribal rights and promote meaningful consultation with our communities,” Marcellay said. “My long-term professional goal is to become a powerful Native attorney who will proudly represent my Tribe and pursue justice throughout Indian Country. I feel the most passionate about legal issues concerning criminal jurisdiction, violence against Indian women and treaty rights. I view this opportunity as the beginning of an industrious career fighting for Tribes in and beyond the courtroom. I am eager to serve as a bridge between Tribal-federal relations and continue the legacy of public service as exemplified by Sen. Hatfield.”

Visit www.thecommunityfund.com for more information about the Hatfield Fellowship program and the Spirit Mountain Community Fund. ■

Health & Wellness Center entrance

Reminder: The drive-through entrance at the Health & Wellness Center is for loading and unloading only. The entrance was built with our Elders and those with mobility issues and their ease of access in mind. If you are coming to the center to pick up prescriptions, please park in one of our regular parking spaces. ■

Water safety



Photo by Kamiah Koch

Tribal Youth Brendyn Smallwood, 6, and his grandfather, Ron Toumi, ask Tribal Resiliency Officer Kaylene Barry about safe water practices during the Water Safety Event at the day use area in Grand Ronde on Tuesday, July 16. After Barry shared important information about water safety with attendees they received a raffle ticket for prizes.

Paid Internships in Habitat Restoration

The Native American nonprofit, [Elderberry Wisdom Farm](http://ElderberryWisdomFarm.org) is recruiting Native Americans and other people of color for its Fall Habitat Restoration Internship. This paid opportunity integrates Traditional Ecological Knowledge with local environmental conservation practices and is supported by multiple collaborative partners.

- \$3000 stipend
- 9 week training, 3 days a week
- Both classroom education and experiential service learning activities
- September 30 - December 6, 2024

Apply now:

elderberrywisdom.org/internships



Elderberry Wisdom Farm

Construction zone

Now through Dec. 31, 2024, construction is occurring for the new child development center. During this time, there will be construction traffic using the loop road around the old powwow grounds across the street from the Governance Center.

The road surrounding the old powwow grounds will have restricted access to allow the contractor adequate space to access the site, as well as store materials and equipment.

For more information, contact 503-879-2404 or Ryan.Webb@grandronde.org. ■