

Tribal Liaison

Statutory and/or Budget Language

\$150,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2024 and \$150,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2025 are provided solely for a tribal liaison at the office of the superintendent of public instruction to facilitate access to and support enrollment in career connected learning opportunities for tribal students, including career awareness and exploration, career preparation, and career launch programs, as defined in RCW 28C.30.020, so that tribal students may receive high school or college credit to the maximum extent possible.

Purpose

This proviso funds the Career Connected Learning (CCL) Tribal Engagement Specialist. This position works in the Office of Native Education (ONE), under the direction of the ONE Director, and in partnership with the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Department. This position will work collaboratively with program leads in the CTE Department to ensure consistent communication and expansion of career-connected and work-based learning opportunities within the state's tribal compact schools, and school districts serving tribal youth. This position will support CTE program development, expansion of career exploration, preparation, launch activities and the establishment of CTE graduation pathways to increase access and outcomes for tribal youth.

Description of Services Provided

- Communicated on behalf of the tribes, the State Tribal Education Compact Schools (STECs), the Washington State Native American Education Advisory Committee (WSNAEAC) and the state's tribal youth to inform the Career Connect Washington (CCW) system, including engaging with the ESD CCL Coordinators.
 - In partnership with CCW communication Team Soapbox, the Tribal Liaison developed a [Guide for Washington State Tribes](#), a resource that Washington state tribes can utilize to learn, engage, and apply for CCW and Native American Perkins grant opportunities.
- Supported the development of high quality and culturally relevant CTE programs, CTE graduation pathways, and CCL opportunities for tribal youth. Supported the increase of dual credit opportunities and access to high quality industry recognized credentials for tribal youth.
 - Partnership with Pacific Education Institute to develop culturally relevant CTE frameworks (aquaculture and fisheries and forestry) including tribal voice and input ensuring materials and subject matter are accurate and respectful of tribal sovereignty and practice.



- Provided direct technical assistance, collaboration, and communication to educators, counselors, administrators, and stakeholders to close opportunity gaps for tribal youth in accessing high quality CTE and CCL opportunities.
 - In partnership with Region 16 Comprehensive Center, we developed a film series, [Career & Skill Development Impact Stories](#). This film series highlights culturally sustaining and career and skill development programs in Washington state. The videos feature interviews with programs that are deeply involved in career and skill development. The highlighted programs include Chief Leschi School (Puyallup Tribe), Enumclaw School District (Muckleshoot Tribe), Taholah School District (Quinault), and Kalispel Training Center (Kalispel Tribe).
 - In an historic collaboration, the Tribal Liaison partnered with the Washington Association of Career and Technical Administrators (WACTA) in co-collaboration to provide a conference that provided opportunities for administrators to learn, engage, and witness in best-practice tribal relations, CTE program development, and community partnership development. The 2024 WACTA was also the rollout of the first House Bill 1426—Government-to-Government Relationships Training—with a focus on CTE specifically created for CTE Administrators.
- Provided direct support within tribal compact schools and districts that serve tribal youth to educate teachers, counselors, and administrators on the CCW and OSPI CTE framework, implementation strategies, and resources available.
- Provided regular updates to CCW Advisory Team and Cross-Agency Workgroup, ESDs, School Districts, regional partners, and school districts regarding best practices related to providing access to tribal youth.
- Provided Sovereignty 101, Tribal Consultation, and Intergenerational Trauma training to OSPI CTE, CCW, CCL, WA STEM, and other outside workforce organizations.
- Provided keynote addresses, presentations and workshops to OSPI internal organization, outside organizations, and tribal education organizations, including Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Centennial Accord, Washington State Indian Education Association, and Western Washington Native American Education Consortium.

Criteria for Receiving Services and/or Grants

N/A

Beneficiaries in the 2023-24 School Year

Number of School Districts	ALL
Number of Schools	ALL
Number of Students	ALL
Number of Educators	ALL
Other	ALL

Are Federal or Other Funds Contingent on State Funding?

No

State Funding History

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2024	\$150,000	\$133,911
2023	\$150,000	\$124,253
2022	\$150,000	\$125,907
2021	\$150,000	\$66,887

Number of Beneficiaries Per Fiscal Year (e.g. School Districts, Schools, Students, Educators, Other)

Fiscal Year	Number of Beneficiaries
2024	N/A
2023	N/A
2022	N/A
2021	N/A

Programmatic Changes Since Inception (If Any)

N/A

Program Evaluation or Evaluation of Major Findings

- Native American Career and Technical Education Program (NACTEP): Perkins provides funding to federally recognized Indian tribes, tribal organizations, Alaska Native entities, and eligible Bureau of Indian Affairs funded schools' (Washington STECs) CTE programs for Native Americans and Alaska Natives. There are four Washington state NACTEP funding recipients. The recipients include Chief Leschi school, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Northwest Indian College, and South Puget Intertribal Agency.
- House Bill 1426 Government-to-Government CTE Training: After this first year rollout of House Bill 1426—School Administrator Government-to-Government Training—which mandates in renewing administrator certificate on or after July 1, 2023, where continuing administrators must attend a 5-hour Government-to-Government Relationships Training, the Tribal Consultation Program Supervisor identified a need through training feedback that a CTE focus was highly desired and needed. The OSPI Tribal Consultation Program Supervisor and the Tribal Liaison collaborated and developed a 5-hour Government-to-Government CTE-focused training meeting the requirements of House Bill 1426 and the needs of Washington state CTE administrators. The training provides focus on Introduction to Tribal Sovereignty in Washington State, Boarding Schools and Historical Trauma, Identifying Native Students in Public Schools, Tribal Economic Development,

and Best Practices in Culturally Relevant CTE including framework development, tribal partnership development, and community engagement. The first training was presented on October 18, 2024, at the WACTA conference. The training will continue in partnership with WACTA for their spring and fall annual conferences.

- Several Washington State Tribal departments and programs have been identified as potential career and technical training programs that should be included in providing tribal students dual credit opportunities increasing graduation outcomes. A sample of Tribal Employment & Training Programs, Tribal Summer Youth Employment Programs, Tribal Skills Centers, and Tribal TERO programs have been shared and presented throughout the state to internal and external partners to encourage and enhance partnership opportunities.
- Providing a data analyst position to support the CCL Tribal Liaison position would be extremely beneficial. This position would require someone to do a lot of interagency and external legwork to research better and more effective ways to improve the CTE programs and success measurements for tribal communities and students.

Major Challenges Faced by the Program

Enhanced Data Support Needed to:

- Adjust all agency data streams to report maximum identification of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) students including the agency Report Card datasets.
- Separation of CTE class requirements (Ex: computer literacy required credit) versus actual CTE program participants—this leads to an inaccurate accounting of students in full programs.
- Post-program data to include program accountability and success measurements.
- Matching CTE programs to community needs in relation to local and tribal economies instead of to the educator.
- CTE program employment data in relation to local and tribal economies (to support the above bullet).
- Data sovereignty and sharing agreements—It is vital that LEAs are informed on the importance of data sovereignty and the positive impacts of data sharing agreements. Co-development of data sharing agreements with tribes is strongly encouraged. This shared information is beneficial to both LEAs and Tribes.
- Are CTE programs working with tribes (often major employers in their areas) and tribal employment programs?

Future Opportunities

- State Board Community & Technical Partnership (SBCTC) Tribal Stewards Partnership: The Tribal Stewards Program is an initiative by the Washington SBCTC to develop a workforce of environmental co-stewards and Tribal leaders. SBCTC received \$9.3 million from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The Tribal Liaison has

contacted SBCTC and developed a partnership to include a K–12 partnership in the Tribal Stewards Initiative. Twenty-four school districts receiving Title funding have been identified as potential partners. Three of those schools include STECs: Muckleshoot Tribal School, Wa He Lut, and Pascal Sherman Indian School. Six community colleges and five Washington tribes are participating. The Tribal Stewards initiative has the potential to increase dual credit programs, CCW grant opportunities, and increase access to Perkins and NACTEP funding opportunities.

- Career Connect Washington Tribal Tab Website Development: To enhance and strengthen outreach to Washington tribes the Tribal Liaison and CCW Team Soapbox have developed a strategic plan to develop a CCW tribal facing space on the current CCW website. This tab will provide tribes information, resources, and access to apply for CCW funding. The website will also provide CCW regional director contact information as well as tribal contact information for educators, school districts, and intermediaries. The website page will provide a direct link to CCW grant application to increase tribal governments and schools to apply for funding.
- Continued opportunities have been identified in professional development for LEA administrators and staff, CTE Directors and staff, and STEC administrators and staff. Professional development opportunities include Tribal Sovereignty 101, Intergenerational Trauma, Tribal Consultation, Washington State Tribal Economic Development, County Economic Development, and Skills Center Development.
- Providing a data analyst position to support the CCL Tribal Liaison position would be extremely beneficial. This position would require someone to do a lot of interagency and external legwork to research better and more effective ways to improve the CTE programs and success measurements for tribal communities and students.

Other Relevant Information

N/A

Schools/Districts Receiving Assistance

[Click here to see a list of all OSPI grant recipients in the 2024 Fiscal Year.](#)

Program Contact Information

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