



Center for Native Education



Join Us in Celebrating ECHS Week!

From May 4-10, early college high schools and their partners around the country will celebrate Early College High School Week, bringing together students, administrators, parents, community leaders, and legislators to honor the commitment and success of the Early College High School Initiative. **Please send us a message of what you're doing so we can report it to the national initiative**

Ways you can participate:

- at your school
- their experiences to post on YouTube or Facebook
- your local radio station

to-be graduates, or recent success stories to the local newspaper on the [ECHS Website](#) [planning guide](#) is also available from ECHSI

Spring Conference Wrap Up

Thank you all for participating in our annual spring conference! It was great to see everyone, and the event was a huge success!

If you attended the conference and would like to be reimbursed, please make sure you send Rebecca a copy of your hotel room receipt, plane fare, and the address to which you would like

your reimbursement sent. If you haven't already, please fill out an [evaluation](#) and send it to us! If you missed the conference, or want to revisit it, here is a copy of Dawn's powerpoint on [leveraging data for sustainability](#), and Willie's presentation on the [vision of early college](#).

Coach Cornel's Corner



In my professional career I have witnessed students move from various states of unawareness (unconsciousness) to varying degrees of self-awareness (consciousness). ...For teachers of AI/AN students, I recommend that they take a deeper dialectical approach to understanding of

the multiple and interconnecting relationships that speak to a more profound understanding of the politics of difference.

Those students and teachers who know themselves as cultural beings are not intimidated by those who claim cultural supremacy and hegemony. I believe tribal people should build upon its past history, and change approaches, as necessary, to take into account the new condition of the present. No group of people should have a monopoly on the interpretation of the human experience or on making plans for its posterity

Monthly Conference Call Wednesday May 19, 9:00am PST

Please note that the Center for Native Education will host monthly information-sharing conference calls between Willie Wolf, CNE Director, & the Early Colleges in our network. All site coordinators are urged to participate in the monthly conference calls.

To join the dialogue, call: 1-866-453-5550, and enter PIN #3547985 when prompted. The goal of these monthly phone meetings is to make the Center for Native Education a more cohesive unit, where we all work and learn together. Please make it a priority to take part in these discussions.

Teacher Spotlight: David BrownEagle, Medicine Wheel Academy



This month, we are getting to know David BrownEagle from Medicine Wheel Academy in Spokane, WA. He teaches American Issues, Washington State Indian History, World History, Social Responsibility Training, and Economics, and during lunch break he drums and sings with the students.

Rebecca: So David, tell me about yourself

David: My Name is V. David BrownEagle, kwil kwil sta (Red Antelope), named after my grandfather, Moses Lott of the Spokane Tribe on my mother's side.

My mother is Dorothy Lena (Lott) BrownEagle of the Spokane Tribe, Maternal Grandmother is Emma Lott and Maternal Grandfather is Moses (kwil kwil sta) Lott, both of the Spokane Tribe of Indians. My father is Victor BrownEagle of the Ho Chunk Nation of Wisconsin, Paternal Grandmother is Grace BrownEagle and Paternal Grandfather is Frank

BrownEagle, both of the Ho Chunk Nation. I have one brother and one sister. Each of these family members that I speak of have passed on to the other life. In my heart and spirit each lives on. I have 10 beautiful children and 15 beautiful grandchildren

I am enrolled in the Spokane Tribe of Indians and Ho Chunk on my father's side, 4/4 Indian.

R: Why did you choose to work in education?

D: Education chose me by happenstance. Glad it happened this way. Love education and working with the young people. I believe that traditional knowledge and academic knowledge can go hand in hand. The power of the heart and mind is twice as powerful when together and not in conflict with one another. The spirit of being is the spirit of doing.

R: What do you enjoy about education?

D: I love to teach, to be part of the young people's lives, as they expand their learning. Not just the academic learning but the knowledge they gather in relation to themselves. Giving them a new view on how academic knowledge is a connection to their traditional knowledge aka who they are in relationship to

their total existence, and how that educational process adds to what and who they are. To see their excitement and wonder when they discover that understanding in whatever they are learning.

R: What are some interesting projects your students are working on right now?

D: In my one high school class we are studying the historical, past and present, effects of the Bill of Rights and the Constitution on Native Americans then and now. How the history goes deeper than what is usually offered, this includes but is not limited to treaties, sovereignty, tribal traditional laws, state and federal laws, Indian Civil Rights, etc. and possible future legal ramifications and what can be done to address those concerns. It is an eye opening experience.

R: Lastly, what is your hope for the future?

D: Within each of us lives our ancestors and so does our future generations yet to come. How we conduct ourselves is a tribute in their honor. May our children's children remember us and honor us by saying our name because of the good things we do today.

Links to Resources for Teachers and Administrators

Eaglecrest Books are a set of Primary levelled books that represent First Nations children. Stories reflect experiences of First Nations children involved in cultural activities and in everyday life at home and school.

www.eaglecrestbooks.com

Indian Education Calendar of Upcoming Events and Other Pertinent Information

This calendar focuses on events in the Pacific Northwest, but also has a section for nationwide events.

"I don't think anybody anywhere can talk about the future of their people or of an organization without talking about education. Whoever controls the education of our children controls our future."

Wilma Mankiller