

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

For the cooperative development and delivery of educational services and scholarly endeavors related to Native Americans

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING is entered into by and between LEWIS-CLARK STATE COLLEGE (LCSC), NORTH IDAHO COLLEGE (NIC), NORTHWEST INDIAN COLLEGE (NWIC), THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO (UI), and WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY (WSU) with reference to the following:

WHEREAS, LCSC, NIC, NWIC, UI, and WSU are committed to delivering the highest quality educational services to the citizens in the States of Washington and Idaho; and

WHEREAS, LCSC, NIC, NWIC, UI, and WSU each have formed special relationships with one or more of the Native American Tribes whose traditional land bases are located in the states of Idaho, Oregon, Montana and Washington; and

WHEREAS, LCSC, NIC, NWIC, UI, and WSU have traditions of successful collaborations with said Native American Tribes who have encouraged cooperation between higher education institutions and efforts related to the Tribes;

NOW THEREFORE, the parties agree as follows:

1. The parties hereby agree to establish a committee, known as the Native American Collaborations Committee (Committee), that will report to the Provosts of LCSC, NIC, NWIC, UI, and WSU.
2. The Committee shall consist of three work groups representing:
 - a. Student Services, including but not limited to, recruitment, retention, and transition;
 - b. Native American Studies; and
 - c. Other programs or services relating to Native American education and outreach.
3. The Committee shall be comprised of the following members:
 - a. The Tribal liaison for each institution or if such a position is not filled the Provost or his/her designee;
 - b. The Dean's of those units offering instruction in Native American Studies or his/her designee;
 - c. The Director of those units that recruit and provide support services to Native American students or his/her designee;
 - d. The Director of those units that have special projects or programs with Native American tribes and/or people.

The Committee may, by consensus, add such other representatives to its roster as may seem to it most advantageous to achieving its mission.

4. The Committee may, by consensus, develop working groups in each of the above named areas and may add such other representatives to its roster as may deem advantageous to achieve its mission.

5. The Committee's mission shall be to strengthen the instruction and scholarship about, and services to Native Americans offered by each institution. In carrying out this mission, the Committee shall perform the following functions:

- a. Enhance existing shared instructional opportunities related to Native Americans;
- b. Establish an organizational framework to serve as key contacts for gathering and sharing information related to higher education efforts involving Native American people and tribes;
- c. Develop long and short term collaborations related to research, instruction, and service related to Native Americans; and
- d. Where appropriate, jointly seek external funding to further support collaborative projects.

6. To ensure that the Committee can fulfill its mission, each institution will provide staff time and resources in support of member participation in Committee meetings and activities. Each institution will retain final control over their own resources and personnel to ensure that such resources are properly utilized as required by State and Federal law.

7. Participation in programs coordinated by the Committee is voluntary. The Committee shall have no power to mandate any action or expenditure by and of the agreeing institutions. Each institution reserves its rights and privileges of academic freedom to determine its own curriculum and other educational characteristics.

8. The Committee shall meet at least twice each academic year, once during each fall and spring semesters. Meetings shall be called pursuant to procedural rules to be adopted by the Committee, and may be open to the public if the Committee so determines.

9. The Committee shall have a chair chosen by its members. The chair shall be appointed for a term of two years. The position of chair will not be filled by a representative of the same agreeing institution for more than two consecutive appointments.

10. The Committee and its functions may be altered or dissolved at any time by majority vote, and LSCS, NIC, NWIC, UI, and/or WSU may dissociate themselves from the Committee at any time should they regard Committee actions as not promoting the best interests and academic freedom of their institution.

11. This MOU imposes no legally binding obligations upon any party hereto. Rather it sets out terms for mutual cooperation and respect to improve the efforts of LCSC, NIC, NWIC, UI, and WSU to provide educational services and scholarship to and about Native Americans.

LEWIS-CLARK STATE COLLEGE

By: Dene Kay Thomas
Dr. Dene Kay Thomas, President

Date March 24, 2008

NORTH IDAHO COLLEGE

By: Priscilla Bell
Dr. Priscilla Bell, President

Date March 24, 2008

NORTHWEST INDIAN COLLEGE

By: Cheryl Crazy Bull
Dr. Cheryl Crazy Bull, President

Date March 24, 2008

THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

By: Timothy P. White
Dr. Timothy P. White, President

Date March 24, 2008

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

By: Elson S. Floyd
Dr. Elson S. Floyd, President

Date March 24, 2008