



Dialogue for Democracy

a statewide public forum connecting communities and education

Edmonds Community College Team Action Plan

Team members:

Andrea Alexander, Member, Potlatch Fund

Richard Asher, Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, Edmonds Community College

Joey Ketah, Community Connections AmeriCorps Member, Edmonds Community College; and
Administrative Assistant, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Economic Development
Corporation

Amy Markishtum, President, Potlatch Fund

Thomas Murphy, Anthropology Instructor, Edmonds Community College

Communities to be impacted by team:

Students at Edmonds Community College

Native American Community

Issue focus:

Improving education regarding Native American communities at Edmonds Community College

Facilitating the success of Native students at Edmonds Community College

Providing service opportunities for students in the Native community

Framework for action:

- **Statement of Hope:**

We hope to improve the quality of its education regarding Native Americans, enable Native American students to succeed at our campus and beyond, and to offer service opportunities to the Native community that would need community-defined needs.

- **Guiding Questions:**

How can Edmonds Community College respond more effectively to the needs of Native students and the Native community? How can we ensure that the needs of the Native community play a primary role in developing service opportunities in Native organizations and communities?

- **Key Spheres and Time Frames:**

This dialogue emerged out of the involvement of Native students and speakers in campus events such as the Powwow and our Brown Bag Lecture Series. Andrea Alexander of the Potlatch Fund has helped EdCC organize a panel discussion on Makah whaling and spoken on philanthropy in Native communities. She has expressed an interest in recruiting volunteers and/or interns from EdCC. Joey Ketah has been an important student leader who has played a central role in organizing these events on campus and is now a part-time AmeriCorps member. She also works with Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians.

One of the suggestions that came out of the Dialogue for Democracy was the need for more curriculum on tribal government and business.

The question now is: Who else should we involve in this dialogue?

Adrienne Manson de Jesus approached the American Indian Student Association about reviving Winterhawk, a support group for Native students in Edmonds School District.

Gail Morris, Indian Education Program Assistant for Edmonds School District, approached Tom Murphy about getting more involved with Edmonds Community College. Joey has suggested (and I would echo that suggestion) that we invite Adrienne and Gail to be involved in future dialogue.

Ann Paulson, Chair of the Business Department at EdCC, has approached Tom Murphy and the Teaching and Learning Diversity Committee, about her interest in recruiting a more diverse faculty in the Business Department. I have invited Ann Paulson to participate with Joey and me (plus other AmeriCorps members and faculty members working on other projects) in Washington Campus Compact's Summer Institute and Self-Reflection and Renewal Activity, June 28-30th.

Claudia Kauffman, Native Action Network and Board of Trustees for Evergreen State College, participated with Antioch at the Dialogue for Democracy and is also interested in developing service opportunities with Edmonds Community College. Claudia has played a key role in several of our powwows and will be invited to speak on casinos as part of our Brown Bag Lecture Series in the fall. We could use her visit as an opportunity to continue dialogue in a formal setting here on campus.

Joey has suggested that we make government-to-government contact with our local Tulalip Tribes. We will draft a letter and ask the college president Jack Oharah to send it to the Chairman of Tulalip Tribes. The letter may include an invitation to attend Claudia Kauffman's lecture and campus dialogue events associated with it.

We have also dedicated one of our full-time AmeriCorps members (beginning Sept. 1, 2004) to working on developing and sustaining this dialogue, facilitating service opportunities in the Native community and with Native students in Edmonds School District, and assisting faculty members in developing service learning (including helping with the powwow production course) opportunities.