



PROGRAMMING
SUMMARY

Center for American Indian and Indigenous Studies








Introduction

CAIS is building a robust American Indian and Indigenous Studies ecosystem where faculty, staff, and students support each other academically and socially. We are a community of care that supports each other from before students begin their studies at UW, across their undergraduate and graduate careers, and into not only successful tenure but also promotion to Full Professor.

As CAIS envisions our future, we are committed to expanding the vital work we have begun, including:

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- a welcoming community for first-year and transfer All students through the creation of a cohort-based bridge program;
 - mentorship programs that facilitate American Indian Studies classes transferring from two-year colleges;
 - supportive summer training and year-long “knowledge families,” where All undergraduate students learn how Indigenous knowledges can be respectfully centered in the University;

- an All graduate student summer training program premised on collaboration, embracing the whole self, and building long-term support networks in the academy;
- a community of All faculty and graduate students workshopping their research through a shared commitment to Indigenous theories and methodologies;
- supporting the growth of local Native Knowledges on UW campuses through initiatives such as Canoe Family;
- event co-sponsorship and guest speaker grants;
- funding to American Indian and Indigenous Studies faculty for tenure/promotion dossiers, to staff for professional development, and to students for research expenses.

This work is a powerful antidote to colonialism’s minoritization and ongoing denials of the important contributions our knowledge systems make to research and teaching.

American Indian and Indigenous Studies scholars are in high demand, and community building is both labor intensive and time consuming; widespread support of these efforts is of utmost importance to the success and continued growth of our programs.



Mellon
Foundation

Who We Are

We are a community of American Indian, Alaska Native, First Nations, Native Hawaiian, Indigenous, and non-Indigenous scholars dedicated to producing knowledge that promotes the sovereignty, wellness, and understanding of northwest coastal and plateau tribes and nations and other Indigenous peoples.



Mission

Our mission is to support American Indian, Alaska Native, and Indigenous students, faculty, staff, and communities through scholarship, research, teaching, learning, and mentorship that strengthens and builds relationships among the UW and Tribes, First Nations, and other Indigenous peoples.



Vision

Our vision is to create a University of Washington that recognizes, values, and strengthens American Indian, Alaska Native, and other Indigenous intellectual traditions, communities, and futures.





Native Pathways Program

The Native Pathways Program is a partnership-building initiative with two-year community colleges to create culturally relevant and timely American Indian Studies coursework, increase Native student enrollments, and to facilitate easier transfer pathways to UW.

Core Elements:

- Deepen connections between UW and two-year colleges through cross-mentorship opportunities

Funding Supports:

- Workshops with community colleges, tribal higher education departments, and local high schools
- Creating materials to support easier transfer pathways
- Native campus community programming across 2-year colleges and UW
- Fellowship salary and benefits

New!

UWT is building partnerships with Tacoma Community College and Green River Community College to build easier transfer pathways for our Native and Indigenous students.



NUW Scholars

The Native University of Washington (NUW) Scholars is a cohort-based bridge program designed to foster community for incoming transfer and first year Native students to the University of Washington:

Core Elements:

- Hosts weeklong orientation with presentations, workshops, community building, and field trips
- Creates peer mentoring opportunities for Native students
- Offers year-long (credit optional), weekly gathering space for students to build community throughout the year
- Sets students up for success as they navigate their first year at UW

Funding Supports:

- Food for meetings
- Housing during orientation week
- Speaker honorariums
- Transportation and travel expenses

New!

A Summer class will be offered to NUW Scholars through the college edge program.

Summer Institute in Indigenous Humanities

SIIH provides training and support to undergraduate students and community partners undertaking humanities research in American Indian and Indigenous Studies.

Core Elements:

- Introduces students to Indigenous research methodologies
- Provides examples of Indigenous approaches in the humanities
- Facilitates students' independent research
- Provides research presentation experience

Funding Supports:

- Co-facilitator summer salary
- Research stipends for undergraduate students
- Speaker honorarium and other research costs
- Food and travel



Summer Institute on Global Indigeneities

SIGI is a collaboration of scholars from the University of Washington, British Columbia, California, Hawai'i, Minnesota, Oregon and Utah focused on professionalization in Indigenous studies during a week-long intensive graduate seminar.

Core Elements:

- Offers graduate students mentorship in Indigenous studies
- Supports graduate students to create ways to make their interdisciplinary and Indigenous research legible to conventional academic disciplines
- Creates multi-institution network for Indigenous graduate students

Funding Supports:

- Faculty and graduate student summer salary
- Research stipends
- Food and lodging





In partnership with the University of Washington Tacoma Chancellor's Office and Mellon funding targeted specifically for UWT, CAIS is excited to be expanding their UWT offerings to support the unique opportunities UWT offers:

- Native Family Lunches
- Graduate Teaching Fellowship
- Community College Pathways
- Native Knowledge Lecturer grants
- Summer Institute in Indigenous Humanities
- Native Graduation Ceremony

Knowledge Families

The Knowledge Family Experience is a year-long cohort of undergraduate students who work closely with faculty, professional staff, Indigenous community members, post-doc and/or graduate student Knowledge Facilitators to conduct collaborative and community-based projects in American Indian and Indigenous Studies.

Core Elements:

- Supports faculty, staff and students in their research/career development
- Connects undergraduate students with Native knowledge mentors
- Provides leadership opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students
- Reflects an intergenerational approach to cohort-building and learning
- Facilitates learning through Indigenous material culture, knowledge systems, archives, and/or Elders

Funding Supports:

- Stipends for peer mentors
- Speaker honorarium and other research needs

Indigenous Food Family: One of our Knowledge Families, the Indigenous Food Family, centers the reclamation of traditional foods and the importance of community and intergenerational relationships. Burke Museum Director of DEAI & Decolonization / Tribal Liaison Polly Olsen (Yakama Nation) brings together students and traditional food Knowledge Keepers to collect foods such as wapato, huckleberries, clams and mushrooms. Participants form relationships with Elders, professionals and each other through this three-quarter seasonal experience. Participants then learn food preservation from Tribal Knowledge Keepers. The Knowledge Family also attends talks from community members specializing in traditional foods and healing. The experience culminates in a community dinner to gather and share their foods and gifts they created with their Knowledge Keepers.



Native Organization of Indigenous Scholars

NOIS brings together University of Washington Native and Indigenous graduate and professional students by building a supportive community in which to network and socialize. Through an Indigenous lens NOIS creates spaces to share stories, theories, culture, knowledge, and power.

Core Elements:

- Supports American Indian graduate students in building community
- Provides workshops and mentorship on succeeding in higher education

Funding Supports:

- Dedicated graduate student to host the meetings
- Food and books for meetings

Our Indigenous Family Lunches

As part of the NUW Scholars program, once a month our Native community gathers for "Our Indigenous Family Lunch" at wəłəbʔaltxʷ (the Intellectual House). Students, staff, faculty, and community members across campus come together to build community and share a meal. This gathering brings together our Native community to create a supportive Indigenous space on campus.

AIS Scholars

A monthly workshop for faculty and graduate students, with the goal of supporting scholars to complete research projects that are key to their professional advancement. We fund eight AIS scholars every year—four faculty and four graduate students.

Core Elements:

- Monthly gathering for AIS scholars to discuss Indigenous methods and theory
- A space for scholars to workshop their AIS project in a supportive and knowledgeable community
- Research funds to support the growth of AIS projects

Funding Supports:

- \$10,000 a year in research stipends
- Food for the meetings



UW Canoe Family

The Canoe Family developed synergistically from the guidance of our Native Knowledge Coordinator, Philip Red Eagle (Dakota/Steilacoom), the donation of a canoe by Marilyn Oliver-Bard (Quinault/Isleta-Pueblo), and the connections our Program Manager created between students, faculty, staff, alumni and local tribal communities. Canoe Family is where participants from all of CAIS programming gather to learn, support each other, and expand their communities within CAIS programs and beyond. This centering of local Native Knowledge within grounded community building offers an innovative approach to recruitment and retention.



Native Knowledge-in-Residence Program

The Native Knowledge-in-Residence Program Coordinator supports Indigenous knowledge initiatives across our campuses. Each coordinator develops their own unique programming based on their background, knowledge and experience. These programs create space for forms of knowing that have long histories in the lands where the UW exists, but have not been part of extant curricular offerings.

Core Elements:

- Weekly knowledge tables, workshops and/or classes
- Supervising research projects with archives, libraries, museums, and tribes
- Curriculum building: course resources for teaching Indigenous knowledge
- Consultations, guest lectures and workshops with other programs

Funding Supports:

- Salary and benefits for a part-time Native Knowledge-in-Residence Coordinator position
- Tools and materials for workshops

Native Knowledge at UW

This funding opportunity can be used for a range of activities, from bringing a guest speaker to a class to hosting a larger event.

Core Elements:

- Supports visiting Native Knowledge experts to meet with UW community members through workshops, and/or as speakers
- Creates more opportunities for Native knowledge to be incorporated across UW's courses, departments, colleges, and campuses

Funding Supports:

- Travel expenses, lodging and per diem
- Catering for meetings
- Workshop supplies
- Speaker honorarium
- Salary and benefits for temporary Part-time Lecturers

Native Knowledge Lecturer Grants

Expanding on Native Knowledge at UW, CAIS offers grants to hire Temporary Part-time Lecturers to center Native knowledges in classrooms crossing disciplinary and institutional boundaries.

Classes offered include:

- Introduction to Canoe Journeys
- Eco-Poetry
- American Indian Storytelling
- Indigenous Rhetorics



qacag^wac Awards

qacag^wac is a flexible award available to American Indian and Indigenous studies faculty, staff, and students to help them thrive at the UW.

Core Elements:

- Supports a range of activities related to our community's research, scholarship, professional development and creative activities.

Funding Supports:

- Travel costs for attending academic conferences
- Research needs in Indigenous studies that are often overlooked in non-Indigenous disciplines



