

A blue-tinted photograph of the Seattle skyline, featuring the Space Needle prominently on the left. The city's skyscrapers and surrounding greenery are visible under a clear sky.

Serving Native Students – and Other Marginalized Populations – in Higher Education

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Tania Sanchez & Cree Rose Dueker
February 16, 11:00 - 12:00 p.m.

experience:LIAISON 

SEATTLE | FEBRUARY 15-16, 2023

Who We Are



Tania Sanchez

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Recruitment & Outreach and Special
Assistant to the Vice President*



Cree Rose Dueker

*Chippewa Cree Citizen
Program Coordinator at Native Governance Center,
Former Admissions Counselor*



- PSU located in Portland, Oregon
- 23,177 total undergraduate and graduate enrollment
- Half from diverse backgrounds
- 37% first-generation

Agenda



- Icebreaker
- Language to use
- Identifying Native students
- Challenges + barriers
- Success + support
- Q&A



Icebreaker

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With the folx next to you, in pairs or groups of 3, take the next 5 minutes to discuss the following:

- What are some of the Native nations in your community, area, or region?
- What do you know about them?
- If you weren't able to name a nation in your area, why might this be?



Language Matters- Talking About Native Nations and Students



- Use Nation instead of Tribe
- Don't conflate Native nations with reservations or casinos
- Don't mash together several signifiers for Native nations
- Avoid possessive language when talking about geography
- Some Native nations have multiple names, why?
- Talking about individuals vs. talking about groups
- Capitalization rules



Identifying Native Students



- How do you identify which of your students are Native? Ask!
 - Self-identification vs. tribal enrollment verification
- When and how to ask?
 - PSU example - admissions application

Challenges + Barriers



- Mistrust in education system
 - History in US and Canada of Indian Boarding/Residential Schools
 - Current low enrollment + retention of Native students nationwide
- Accurate data
 - Self-identification vs. tribal enrollment verification
 - Many Native students lost in data because of “mixed/multiracial” category
 - Get specific!
- Family or tribal responsibilities
 - Ceremony times, funerals, etc.
- Cultural barriers in predominantly white institutions

Success Stories of Support Services for Students and Community

- Partnerships
 - Internal + external
- Campus engagement
- Campus support services
- Campus spaces + visibility
- Scholarships
- Dedicated staff



Additional Resources



- How to Talk about Native Nations [guide](#) + [explainer video](#)
- Beyond Land Acknowledgment [guide](#) + [explainer video](#)
- Beyond the Land Acknowledgement: College "LAND BACK" or Free Tuition for Native Students [policy brief](#)
- Learn more about [Land Grab \(land grant\) Universities](#)



Questions?



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Thank You



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