

Indian education dates back to a time when all children were identified as gifted and talented. Each child had a skill and ability that would contribute to the health and vitality of the community. Everyone in the community helped to identify and cultivate these skills and abilities. The elders were entrusted to oversee this sacred act of knowledge being shared. That is still our vision for Indian education today.

[From Where the Sun Rises: Addressing the Educational Achievement of Native Americans in Washington State \(2008\)](#)

OSPI Office of Native Education webpage: [Native Education | OSPI \(www.k12.wa.us\)](#)

The Office of Native Education (ONE) provides assistance to school districts, ESD's in meeting the educational needs of American Indian and Alaskan Native (AI/AN) students. ONE serves as a liaison between OSPI and school districts, tribal governments, State-Tribal Education Compact schools (STECs), tribal schools, Native communities, parents/guardians of Native children, and other groups and individuals. [RCW 28A.300.105](#) places the Office of Native Education into statute.

Meet the OSPI Office of Native Education Team



Henry Strom, Executive Director

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Supports:

- Initiatives and work of ONE in collaboration with ONE team, tribes, tribal and non-tribal education partners, and Native families.
- Legislative policy and processes
- Federal Trustee



Willard Bill Jr (Muckleshoot), Assistant Director

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Supports:

- Tribes
- Native Education Programming
- STI Curriculum
- STECs



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Administrative Program Specialist, I (vacant)

Supports:

- Office of Native Education team, tribes, Native education organizations
- State-tribal education compact schools - [State-Tribal Education Compact Schools \(STECs\) | OSPI \(www.k12.wa.us\)](#)
- Since Time Immemorial



Kari Tally, Administrative Assistant

Kari.Tally@k12.wa.us

Supports:

- Executive Director
- Office of Native Education
- WSNAEAC as Executive Secretary

Administrative Assistant (vacant)

Supports:

- Tribal Consultation Program Supervisor
- Tribal consultation training
- Office of Native Education



Shandy Abrahamson (Sinisxt of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Spokane Tribe), Career Connect Learning Tribal Engagement Specialist

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Supports:

- Tribal career and technical connected learning opportunities
- Tribal early learning
- ONE Region 16 Comprehensive Center representative
- Governor's STEM Alliance



Mona Halcomb (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation), Native Student Success Program Supervisor

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Supports:

- AI/AN dropout prevention, intervention, and reengagement programs
- Native family engagement

- ONE ESSER projects
- Indigenous Educators State Leaders Network



Rebecca Purser (Suquamish Tribe), Native Educator Cultivation Program Supervisor

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Supports:

- Native educator cultivation programs and initiatives
- Native educator cultivation research advisory/Tribal Governed Teacher Cultivation and Preparation workgroup
- Statewide educator community listening sessions
- Native educator PLC
- Seek funding for future Native educator grants



Kayla Guyett (Jicarilla Apache), Tribal Language Liaison

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Supports:

- Tribal language grants
- Tribal language professional learning communities
- Native Voices Arts Academy Project
- First Peoples' Language, Culture and Oral Tradition Committee and Certification
- Title III AI/AN Literacy Support



Maxine Alex (Diné), Tribal Consultation Program Supervisor

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Supports:

- ESEA/ESSA Federally required and other areas of Tribal Consultation.
- Strengthening Tribal Consultation for School Directors curriculum and training.
- School Administrator Government-to-Government Relationships mandatory Training for Administrator recertification curriculum and training.