Title VI Grant Program (Indian Ed Coordinators)

Funded by Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), Title VI federal grant, the Youth Services Program intends to meet the specific academic and cultural needs of American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled in the school districts of the reservation; Athena-Weston School District, Pilot Rock School District, Pendleton School District and Nixyáawii Community School.

Eligibility Guidelines:
· The student must be enrolled in a publicly funded school in the outlying areas of the CTUIR. The student or biological parent or grandparent must be or must have been enrolled or recognized by an Indian tribe, federal, state, group or band.
· The parent or guardian of the student must complete a Federal 506 Form. The 506 Form may be obtained from the school, CTUIR Nixyáawii Education Center or from the Indian Education Coordinators.

The purpose of this program is to enhance the American Indian students’ academic performance and assist them to achieve the same state and district standards developed for all students by providing supplemental educational services to the existing programs of the schools and school districts.

Objectives: Address the culturally related academic needs of American Indian/Alaska Native Students and in particular provide academic support in Reading and Math and counseling referrals. Monitor the attendance of American Indian/Alaska Native students and provide referrals to the Tribes’ Truancy Program to improve attendance.

Indian Ed Staff

Wynema Thurman
PELC, 1st & 2nd Washington Elementary
(541)969–1247  email: wynemathurman@ctuir.org

Wynema Thurman is Osage/Chickasaw and has one son who will be freshman this fall. She’s the Indian Education Coordinator at PELC and Washington (1&2). She connects the services within the community and tribe to families. Don’t hesitate to contact her if you need anything. She looks forward to working with the students throughout the school year.
Rachel Guardipee  
**Washington Elementary, 3–5th Grade**  
(541)969–7864 email: rachelguardipee@ctuir.org

Rachel has been at Washington since September 2016. She is enrolled CTUIR member and is a mother of 4: Teata Ellenwood, Wilbur Oatman, Eva Oatman and Emilee Delgado. Rachel has one grandson with another one on the way.

Leighton Pennington  
**Sherwood & McKay Elementary**  
(541)969–1359 email: leightonpennington@ctuir.org

Leadership, innovation and hard work are values that Leighton strives to show our Indigenous youth as a role model. He brings over 5 years of experience from Warm Springs Indian Reservation in A&D Prevention working with tribal youth and families. He brings a well-rounded knowledge and dedication to his role as an Indian Education Coordinator. Leighton is an enrolled member of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe. An athlete by nature, he spends summers golfing and winters playing basketball. In his spare time, he enjoys traveling, fishing, hunting and time with his greatest natural resource – his elders.

Janet Maddern  
**Sunridge Middle School**  
(541)969–7885 email: janetmaddern@ctuir.org

Janet is an enrolled member of the CTUIR. She has 15 years of experience within the Education Department. She has been a coordinator in nearly every school the CTUIR serves. She has been married to “Coach” Jeremy Maddern for 20 years and she has 4 daughters. She enjoys coaching basketball, volleyball and softball. Her coaching experience spans 16 years. She also enjoys jewelry making and is a member of multiple running teams and has completed running challenges.
Kim Allen-Minthorn, CTUIR tribal member. She is a strong supporter of language and culture. She has 3 daughters, one son and one granddaughter. She's worked in several programs in Education for a number of years that include Recreation, Daycare and Title VI (formerly VII). She has served a lot of families through the programs and enjoyed every minute! She thanks those who she’s been allowed to assist with your educational, cultural and language endeavors!

Stephanie has worked with CTUIR for 5 years all within the Education Department. She enjoys camping, fishing and being outdoors in nature. Stephanie is married with 2 children and has one granddaughter. She is a strong advocate for students and families.

Wraparound Services

Brent Spencer, M. ED (UO & LC)
Education Specialist
(541)612–2046 email: brentspencer@ctuir.org

Brent fills the position of Education Specialist / Wrap Around Service Coordinator. Duties include; taking referrals to facilitate student and family support, connecting families to support services, advocating on behalf of families, collaborating with Title-VI to identify students in need of support and helping families navigate Tribal, School, City and State systems. Brent’s hobbies include; rodeo, the outdoors, and most of all, being a grandparent to his grandson.
Special Education Services

Katherine Palmer
Education Specialist
(541)215–5453 email: katherinepalmer@ctuir.org

She is available to visit with you anytime there is a question or concern related to your child’s development, IFSP (Individual Family Support Plan), or IEP (Individual Education Program). You know your son or daughter the best!! When time comes, your own IEP as a student. She is accessible to discuss your child’s needs, you’re not alone. A Special Education Facilitator since 2019, employee of CTUIR for four years, and is the mother of 3 sons, the youngest has intellectual / developmental disabilities.

Brandie Weaskus, MPA (TESC)
Interim Youth Services & Higher Education Manager
(541)429–7825 email: brandieweaskus@ctuir.org

Brandie is a CTUIR Tribal member who has been working for the tribe for fifteen years in September. She’s been serving as Interim Youth Services Manager for a year now.