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From 'Encouraged' to 'Mandatory': Schools Must Teach Native History in Washington
Richard Walker

There are 29 federally recognized indigenous nations in Washington State. They have treaties with the United States—they have their own governments, jurisdictions, and economies. They have treaty rights and responsibilities in their historical territories.

Chances are, though, most students in Washington State don't know much about all that, which is about to change.

On May 8, Gov. Jay Inslee signed Senate Bill 5433 into law, making it mandatory for schools in his state to educate students about the history and governance of the indigenous nations in Washington. Previously, under HB 1495, which became law in 2005, schools were only “encouraged” to do so.

As part of HB 1495, the state's Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction worked with Native Nations to develop a curriculum, “[Since Time Immemorial: Tribal Sovereignty in Washington State](#),” which was made available for free to school districts. But as late as December 2014, state Sen. John McCoy, D-Tulalip, estimated that only 30 percent of school districts in Washington State had chosen to use the curriculum.

McCoy, a citizen of the Tulalip Tribes and author of SB 5433 and HB 1495, said he couldn't get support 10 years ago for mandatory instruction. The difference today: More understanding of the potential results from an accurate teaching of the state's history.

RELATED: [Bill Would Make Teaching Native History Mandatory In Washington](#)

McCoy and other supporters of SB 5433 say Native students will be more engaged in education. There will be more understanding and relationship-building between people of different cultures. And students who will go on to become leaders in their communities will understand sovereignty and the authority of the Native Nations with which they will engage.

“This is a tremendous opportunity to learn about the tribal people of the Northwest on a level that is unprecedented,” said Michael Vendiola, program supervisor in the state Superintendent of Public Instruction's Office of Native Education, and a citizen of the Swinomish Tribe. “What that opportunity brings is the ability to build relationships and understand more of the true history of Washington State. For tribal communities, it will be empowering in the educational system to have their culture, government, and history presented in the classroom.”

Proponents say SB 5433 will also give balance to history instruction, which has often ignored the state's indigenous history. It's not just a problem in Washington State. A two-year study by Sarah Shear, associate professor of social studies education at Pennsylvania State University in Altoona, revealed that most students in all 50 states are graduating from high school without even basic knowledge of contemporary Native challenges or cultures.

Students are taught “nothing about treaties, land rights, water rights, nothing about the fact that tribes are still fighting to be recognized and determine sovereignty,” Shear told ICTMN.

“[Since Time Immemorial](#),” is comprehensive yet flexible—it's designed so teachers can begin where they are most comfortable in their ability to teach the subject. The website provides

curriculum for elementary, middle and high school grades, resources, expected outcomes, and teacher-support documents and videos.

McCoy said some school districts may have hesitated in implementing the curriculum because they were wary of potential costs. The state Office of Financial Management laid those concerns to rest, reporting in its analysis of SB 5433 that there would be no financial impact. “This [bill] requires districts to use the curriculum developed and made available free of charge by OSPI,” the agency reported.

In addition to the curriculum being made available free online, the state’s Office of Native Education provides free training and at least two universities provide free training online.

The passage of SB 5433 is a sign of political progress as well. It had broad bipartisan support; it was approved 42-7 by the Republican-majority Senate and 76-22 by the Democratic-majority House. Of 16 co-sponsors, five were Republicans, including Senate President Pro Tem Pam Roach, R-Auburn.

“We do have a rich, solid history in the state,” McCoy said in an earlier interview. “And it should be taught.”

Matt Remle, Lakota, Native American liaison at Marysville-Pilchuck High School near Tulalip, said teachers in his district—which voluntarily adopted “Since Time Immemorial” in 2014—were “initially hesitant” about teaching the curriculum, “not because they didn’t want to teach it, but because they were afraid of getting something wrong. Now, I’m hearing from teachers about how easy and fun it is. They’re giving some anecdotal feedback—‘My students are more engaged, they are seeing themselves in the curriculum.’ That’s a good outcome.”

He added, “One teacher was talking about doing a unit on Celilo Falls, and some students had family from that area. They got excited about it. It prompted them to want to talk to their family about that history.”

Remle is seeing Native students who are more engaged, and teachers who are more confident in using the curriculum. “There’s a sense of pride too, that our district adopted this core curriculum before it [became mandatory]. The teachers are saying, ‘All right, we were able to get ahead of the curve.’”

RELATED: [Marysville School District Adopts Indigenous History Curriculum](#)

Read more at <http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2015/05/12/encouraged-mandatory-schools-must-teach-native-history-washington-160325>

[**How were 1.5 billion acres of land so rapidly stolen? – Claudio Saunt | Aeon Essays**](#)
[The story of Native American dispossession is too easily swept aside, but new visualisations should make it unforgettable](#)

[aeon.co](#)

”.....half convinced and half compelled they go to inhabit new deserts, where the importunate whites will not let them remain ten years in peace. In this manner the Americans obtain at

very low price whole provinces which the richest sovereign of Europe could not purchase.”

~~~~~*Alexis de Tocqueville*

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## **We Need to Stop the Legalized Theft of Public Land in the West**

**Mark Karlin, BuzzFlash at Truthout:** It should be of little surprise to find ALEC and the Koch brothers at the center of efforts to legally sell off federal land in the West to states, which would then put the land up for sale to the highest bidders.

[Read the BuzzFlash Commentary](#)

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Summer is on the way, and young people will soon be out of school and seeking access to positive summer experiences and opportunities, including employment and summer learning. This year, **HUD is excited to be partnering with the White House on the [2016 Summer Opportunity Project](#)**—a call to action to expand summer learning, nutrition, and job opportunities across the country. Tribal communities are an important part of this effort, and our goal is to connect more than 100 native youth, ages 16–24, to summer employment and job-readiness opportunities by July 1, 2016!

HUD recognizes that your tribe may already be offering young people employment and job-readiness experiences this summer. Many tribes have developed internships, job shadowing days, or coordinated educational opportunities to expose young community members to positive role models and real work experiences.

HUD wants to remind you that federal resources are available to help young people in your communities.

- [Youth.gov](#), the leading federal resource for preventing youth substance abuse and suicide, and providing federal funding opportunities for youth.
- [Youth Connections](#), an online learning destination for staff and partners who serve youth.
- [YouthBuild](#), a shared electronic space where grantees can exchange ideas, read and comment on blogs, and much more!
- [YouthCareer Connect](#), a place where grantees can find valuable resources and share ideas and best practices.
- [Reaching Tribal Youth](#) through [summer meal programs](#) from the USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service, bringing together Tribal Nations, stakeholders, and State agencies.



To highlight your efforts, I invite you to participate in the White House's *My First Job* social media campaign by sending [success stories](#) from youth in your community to [Lisette.Flores@hud.gov](mailto:Lisette.Flores@hud.gov), with the subject line: "My First Job: [Your Tribe's Name]". HUD looks forward to sharing your stories throughout the summer.



Thank you for all of your efforts. With much appreciation,  
Lourdes Castro  
Ramírez

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### **NVCRIS**

According to NRS 383.021 and the National Historic Preservation Act Section 101 (C)(1)(c), the State Historic Preservation Office must keep an inventory of the state's cultural resources to assist federal, state and local agencies in planning projects as to avoid impacts to important cultural resources.

The **Nevada Cultural Resource Information System (NVCRIS)** is a collection of online GIS database services which contain recorded archaeological and architectural resources and inventories for the state.

The NVCRIS archaeological service is available to those users who meet the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Archaeology. To request access to the archaeological service, or for more information on the architectural GIS, please contact Annie Hershey, NVCRIS data manager at [ahershey@shpo.nv.gov](mailto:ahershey@shpo.nv.gov) for application forms and subscription information.

For paper-based archaeological records, contact our two cultural resource archives.

#### Northern Counties

Nevada State Museum

**Maggie Brown**      775-687-4810 xt. 228 or 775-687-3002      [mbrown@nevadaculture.org](mailto:mbrown@nevadaculture.org)

#### Southern Counties (Clark, Esmeralda, Lincoln, Nye, White Pine)

Southern Nevada Archaeological Archive at DRI

Christina Callisto or Jeffrey Wedding      702-862-5352      [snaa@dri.edu](mailto:snaa@dri.edu)

For paper-based architectural records, contact Annie Hershey at [ahershey@shpo.nv.gov](mailto:ahershey@shpo.nv.gov).

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### **Portugal Ran Exclusively On Renewable Energy**

In a milestone for Mother Earth and her allies, the entire country of Portugal managed to run on renewable energy for [a record four days straight](#). The country got by on wind, solar and hydro-generated electricity for 107 hours without turning into a bunch of hippies about it. And they aren't the only ones! Germany also reported that clean energy had powered almost all its



electricity needs on Sunday. The transition process to renewable energy is clearly gaining momentum in Europe. "What seems extraordinary today will be commonplace in Europe in just a few years," predicted James Watson, CEO of SolarPower Europe.

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**Hoopaa tribe to sue feds over Klamath River salmon protection** Eureka Times Standard

Range: North Pacific Ocean from central *California* to Point Hope, Alaska, through the ... "We've got to realize that there needs to be an adequate *water* supply to .

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**Review: Sebastian Junger's 'Tribe' Examines Disbanded Brothers Returning to a Divided Country**  
By JENNIFER SENIOR

"Tribe" examines the benefits of small societies, citing Native American cultures and military outposts, among others, as examples.

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**REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AT CEREMONY HONORING THE RECIPIENTS  
OF THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF SCIENCE, AND THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF  
TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you so much. Thank you. (Applause.) Thank you, everybody. Please have a seat. Welcome to the White House. Today, I have the privilege to present our nation's highest honor for scientific and technological achievement — the National Medals of Science, and the National Medals of Technology and Innovation.

The amount of brainpower in this room right now is astonishing. (Laughter.) But when you talk to these brilliant men and women, it's clear the honor has not yet gone to their heads. They still put their lab coats [on] one arm at a time. (Laughter.)

Joining us to celebrate these achievements are members of Congress; Secretary of Energy Ernie Moniz -- a pretty good scientist himself -- my Science Advisor, John Holdren; the Director of the National Science Foundation, France Córdova; the Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Michelle Lee; and Jim Rathmann from the National Medals of Science and Technology Foundation. I want to thank them for all the work that they do each year to help us organize and honor the scientists and innovators in this great nation of ours.

Now, we are engaging in a lot of science and tinkering here at the White House. We've got Astronomy Night. We got Hack-a-thons. We got Code-a-thons. We have Science Fairs, Maker Faires. It is fun. I love this stuff. I get to test out some of the cool stuff that ends up here in the White House. At this year's Science Fair, one nine-year-old, named Jacob Leggette, turned the tables on me and suggested that we needed to start a kids' advisory group -- (laughter) -- so that young people can help us understand what's interesting to them when it comes to STEM education, which I thought was a pretty good idea. (Laughter.)

So, today, I can announce that we are launching a "Kid Science Advisors" campaign for young scientists and innovators to send in their suggestions for what we should be doing to support science and technology, and inspire the next generation of scientists and innovators. So

those young people out there who are listening, go to our website -- we're going to be looking for some advisors, some advice. (Laughter.)



The real reason we do this, as I've said before, is to teach our young people that it's not just the winner of the Super Bowl or the NCAA tournament that deserves a celebration; that we want the winners of science fairs, we want those who have invented the products and lifesaving medicines and are engineering our future to be celebrated as well. Because immersing young people in science, math, engineering -- that's what's going to carry the American spirit of innovation through the 21st century and beyond.

That's what the honorees who are here today represent. Many of them came from humble or ordinary beginnings, but along the way, someone or something sparked their curiosity. Someone bought

them their first computer. Someone introduced them to a lab. A child in their lives needed specialized medical help. And because they lived in an America that fosters curiosity, and invests in education, and values science as important to our progress, they were able to find their calling and do extraordinary things. So there are few better examples for our young people to follow than the Americans that we honor today.

Just to take a couple of examples: Shirley Ann Jackson, who is part of my science advisory group, grew up right here in Washington, D.C. Hers was a quiet childhood. Her first homemade experiment involved, I understand, collecting and cataloging bumblebees in her backyard. (Laughter.) Two events happened that would not only change our country's course, but Shirley's. In *Brown v. Board of Education*, the Supreme Court handed down a landmark decision that separate educational facilities are inherently unequal, and the Soviets launched Sputnik up in the sky, sparking a space race. As Shirley put it, "Those two events in history changed my life for good."

She went on to become the first African American to earn a doctorate in physics from MIT, the second woman to do so anywhere in America. And over the years, Dr. Jackson has revolutionized the way science informs public policy from rethinking safety at our nuclear plants to training a new generation of scientists and engineers that looks more like the diverse and inclusive America she loves.

Then you have Mark Humayan, who immigrated to the United States with his family when he was nine years old. When his diabetic grandmother lost her vision, he began studying

to become an ophthalmologist, hoping he could save the sight of others. Mark helped create the “Argus II,” a “bionic eye” that has restored vision to patients who’ve been blind for up to 50 years. He says the moment when he witnessed someone seeing light and shapes, someone experiencing the miracle of sight for the first time in decades -- those moments have been some of the happiest and most rewarding of his professional career. In his words -- and I think no pun is intended -- “There wasn’t a dry eye in the operating room.” (Laughter.)

Growing up in Chicago, Mary-Claire King’s dad would sit with her in front of the TV for Cubs and White Sox games -- (laughter) -- and make up story problems for her to solve about the players on the field. She just thought that’s how everyone watched baseball -- which explains why, when a college advisor encouraged her to take a genetics course, she said, “I couldn’t believe anything could be so fun.”

But every single American should be grateful for Mary-Claire King’s path. We’re glad that she thought it was fun because, at a time when most scientists believed that cancer was caused by viruses, she relentlessly pursued her hunch that certain cancers were linked to inherited genetic mutations. This self-described “stubborn” scientist kept going until she proved herself right. Seventeen years of work later, Mary-Claire discovered a single gene that predisposes women to breast cancer. And that discovery has empowered women and their doctors with science to better understand the choices that they make when it comes to their health and their future.

So these are just three examples of the remarkable stories that are represented here today. They illustrate why this is such an extraordinary moment to be a scientist in this country. America’s progress in science and technology has countless revolutionary discoveries within our reach. New materials designed atom by atom. New forms of clean energy. New breakthroughs in treating cancer and ending the wait for organ transplants. Private space flights, a planned human mission to Mars, a NASA probe that broke free from the Solar System three years ago and just kept on going. That’s some of what America can do.

That’s why we’re constantly pushing Congress to fund the work of our scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs and dreamers to keep America on the cutting-edge.

As President, I’m proud to honor each of you for your contributions to our nations. As an American, I’m proud of everything that you’ve done to contribute to that fearless spirit of innovation that’s made us who we are, and that doesn’t just benefit our citizens but benefits the world. We’re very proud of what you’ve done. So congratulations to all of you.

With that, let’s read the citations and present the awards. (Applause.)  
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### **Detection of Possible Mega-tsunami Deposits on Mars Revives Ancient Ocean Hypothesis | Planetary...**

Tucson, Ariz. – New geologic mapping in the Martian northern plains reveals vast sedimentary deposits that were likely emplaced by two mega-tsunamis, according... psi.edu

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*And what is your tribe’s sustainability plan?*



The standard of living in both developing and developed countries is at risk as the [rate of damage to water supplies and other natural resources increases globally](#), according to an extensive study released by the United Nations Environment Programme. Achim Steiner, UNEP's executive director, warned "If current trends continue, and the world fails to enact solutions that improve patterns of production and consumption, if we fail to use natural resources sustainably, then the state of the world's environment will continue to decline." *Guardian*

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### ***Drought be Dammed*      ProPublica -**

In 1922 seven states — *California*, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado and Wyoming — signed a compact agreement dividing the Colorado between

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### **MGM RESORTS TO LEAVE NEVADA POWER, PAY \$86.9M EXIT FEE**

Las Vegas gaming giant MGM Resorts International told state regulators on Thursday that it will exercise its option to exit as a customer of Nevada Power and purchase its own electricity on the wholesale market.

<http://erj.reviewjournal.com/ct/uz3688753Biz29008172>

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### ***Inside The Looming Disaster Of The Salton Sea*      ThinkProgress**

Dead tilapia lines the shores of the Salton Sea, *California's* largest lake. ... *California* promised it would provide when Imperial pledged to transfer *water* that ..

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### **Occupied Canada: Indigenous and Black Lives Matter Activists Unite to Protest Violence and Neglect**

**Amy Goodman, Democracy Now!:** Last month, First Nations people occupied the offices of Canada's Indigenous affairs department to demand action over suicides as well as water and housing crises in their communities. The protests came after the Cree community of Attawapiskat declared a state of emergency over attempted suicides.

[Watch the Video and Read the Transcript](#)

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### **\$500K APPROVED TO HELP TRAIN STUDENTS IN MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY**

The Governor's Office of Economic Development board on Thursday approved spending up to \$500,000 for equipment that will help train high school and College of Southern Nevada students in manufacturing technology.

<http://erj.reviewjournal.com/ct/uz3688753Biz29008170>

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### **Youth Mural Project at Pooha-Bah      About this project**

Poohabah Traditional Native American Healing Center was founded by Western Shoshone Spiritual leader Corbin Harney to heal the land and the people. Pooha-Bah is Shoshone and means Doctor Water. The mural is important to Pooha-Bah because art is enduring and a visible message of the traditional custom of the Western Shoshone people relating to the context of the Great Basin and is why we have chosen a Western Shoshone artist. The Native American Youth Mural at Pooha-Bah seeks collaboration with tribal communities to produce the mural at Pooha-Bah Traditional Native American Healing Center. The location of the mural is on the side of the

guest rooms and will be seen by all travelers passing by and guests staying at Pooha-bah. Western Shoshone artist Jack Malotte has produced murals in tribal communities and will teach Native American youth to paint murals by demonstrating his techniques painting the mural at Pooha-Bah Traditional Native American Healing Center. We have many walls and want to give the youth their own connection to Pooha-Bah while teaching them our traditional custom of:

- 1) giving away their first piece;
- 2) art is enduring;
- 3) that when faded or gone as may be the case, and artisan continues to make more art...it is the reason they continue to make art, and not a loss.



reason they continue to make art, and not a loss.

Pooha-bah will provide in-kind lodging for the artist Jack Malotte and the youth participants. Funding is for travel of the Artist Jack Malotte, and youth participants, paint and materials (youth will leave with a basic materials), preparation of the wall the mural is to be painted on, outreach to tribal communities and youth travel in case of hardships.

**Risks and challenges**  
The risk is the distance for the artist and the youth to come to Pooha-bah. Timing

the teaching will be important. We will have another event hosted at Pooha-bah and make our 16 person bunkhouse available to the youth and chaperons. We also have 4 guest rooms and a big house for everyone to use for the mural project.

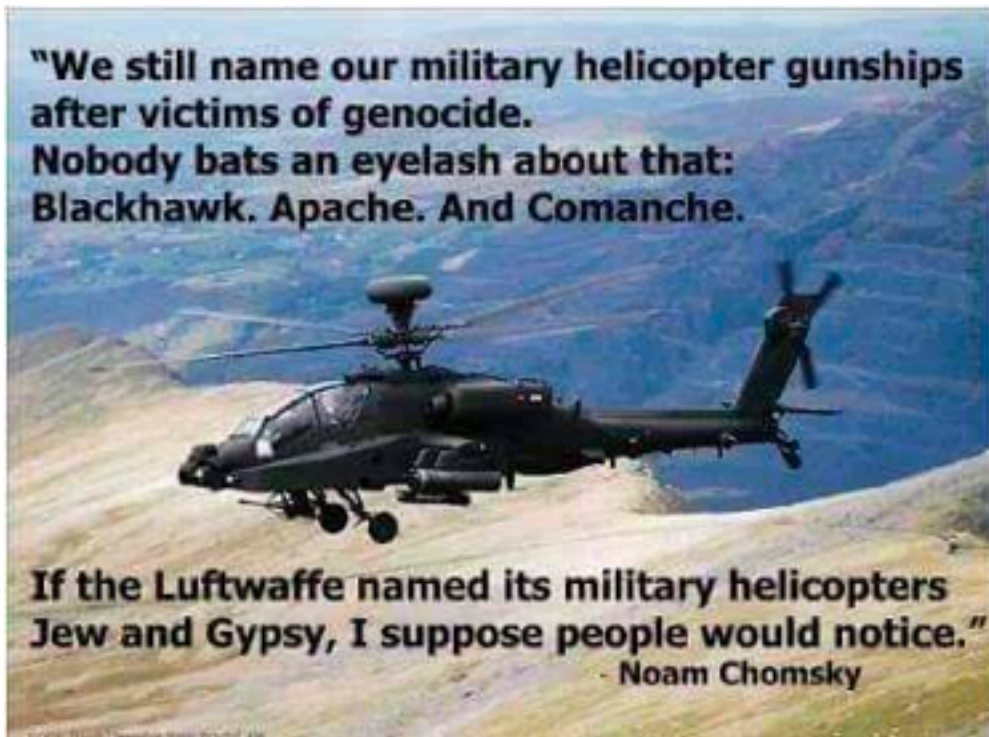
[Learn about accountability on](#)

[Kickstarter](#)

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**Houska: Regardless of WaPo Poll, Native Mascots Hurt Our Youth**

A Washington Post poll claims 9 out of 10 Native Americans have no problem with the name of the Washington football team. But it ignores the harm.  
indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com



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**He killed two FBI agents. Or he was framed. After 40 years, will Obama free Leonard Peltier?**

He's an international symbol of the mistreatment of Native Americans in the...motherjones.com  
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**Amherst voters approve Columbus Day name change to Indigenous Peoples Day**

Columbus Day in Amherst will now be called Indigenous Peoples Day.  
westernmassnews.com|By Jeff Cramer, Jamie Leslie

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**Resources**

**Environmental Resources** <http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/ih/codetalk/resources/env.cfm>

**National Resource Database for Tribal Water System Operators:**

[www.smallwatersupply.org](http://www.smallwatersupply.org)

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A Memorial Service for **Margo Kinerson** was held Saturday, May 21, 2016 at 11:00 am at the Barlow Lane Gym (390 North Barlow Lane) in Bishop CA. Condolences to JR.