ENDURING SPIRIT HONOREE BIOGRAPHIES

Cheryl Crazy Bull, Wacinyanpi Win (They Depend on Her) Sicangu Lakota from the Rosebud Reservation, serves as the third President and first woman President of Northwest Indian College, a regional tribally chartered institution of the Lummi Nation serving tribes in the Pacific Northwest. She has been in this role since October 1, 2002.

Among the accomplishments of the College since her arrival are the accreditation of NWIC as a four year degree granting institution and the refinement of the College’s strategic planning process and reporting of its accomplishments. The College’s emphasis on student learning and its deep commitment to cultural programming and curriculum development has reaffirmed the College’s tribal mission. From 2004-2009, the NWIC Strategic Plan emphasized resource development and strengthening of institutional structures and community partnerships. This included development of a capacity building resources for program expansion including tribal language preservation, native science and improved services to first year and first generation Native students. The current plan (2010-2017) emphasizes student success and the expansion of the College’s community outreach and services.

Since her arrival the College has embarked on a $40.2 million capital campaign and has built student housing, an Early Learning Center, three classroom/office buildings including one at the Swinomish site and a Center for Student Success. Currently under construction or design are an Outreach/Extension building, science research lab, library and Coast Salish Institute as well as a new Workforce Training Facility.

President Crazy Bull is serving as member-at-large of the Executive Committee of American Indian Higher Education (AIHEC) Board, the Consortium of Tribal Colleges in the United States and Canada, having served four years as Chair.

She is an experienced public speaker on behalf of tribal education, cultural knowledge preservation and revitalization and community development. Her public service includes arts and economic development committees and boards. She has been on the Advisory Board of the National Congress of American Indians Policy Research Center, National Museum of the American Indians and the American Indian College Fund. She is currently in the board of Whatcom County United Way and is a member of the Rotary Club of Bellingham. Cheryl is also a published researcher and writer with an emphasis on cultural learning and education as well as community based research and creative writing.

Dr. Crazy Bull has been recognized by the Lannan Foundation through an Indigenous Leadership Award in 1995, as an outstanding alumnus from the
College of Education at her alma mater, South Dakota State University in 1999 and is the recipient of honorary doctorates from Sinte Gleska University in 2005 and from Seattle University in 2010. Her outstanding achievements have been honored by the Rosebud Sioux Tribe and by her NWIC employees who voted her Employee of the Year in 2003.

Cheryl is a graduate of the University of South Dakota College of Business with a degree in business administration/management and South Dakota State University with a Masters in Educational Leadership. Her prior experience includes over 17 years of service with Sinte Gleska University, a tribal college on her home reservation in South Dakota and over 4 years as the Chief Educational Officer of St. Francis Indian School, a tribally chartered K-12 school also located on the Rosebud Reservation. In addition to education, Dr. Crazy Bull has expertise in economic development and planning, micro-enterprise development, cultural arts promotion and preservation and with the development of Native Studies as an academic discipline and institutional development practice.

Her personal interests include sewing especially quilt making, reading diverse literature and keeping track of the birthdays and special events of her many grandchildren. She is currently writing personal memoirs focused on tribal story telling and her life in Indian education.

Mary A. Miller Marchand (Member of the Colville Confederated Tribes) was born in 1927 and raised on the Iswald Allotment on the Columbia River north of Wenatchee. Mary’s people were from the Wenatchee, Entiat, Chelan, Methow, Moses Columbia, and San Poil Tribes. Mary works for the Colville Confederated Tribe as the Repatriation Specialist in the History/Archaeology Program. Mary was taught traditional ways by her great grandmother. She learned to speak several dialects of the Indian language. Mary, and her father Jerome Miller, worked with linguist Dr. M. Dale Kinkade for over five years assisting Dr. Kinkade in documenting the Moses Columbia language. Their collaborative work resulted in an all important Moses-Columbia language dictionary. Mary studied the International Phonetic Alphabet in order to record her language. Mary records tribal elders’ recollections about their lives along the Columbia River and its tributaries. Mary has conducted over 120 interviews and she has worked on dozens of projects assisting History/Archaeology staff in documenting traditional cultural properties, prehistoric and historic sites, and oral traditions. Due to her training in linguistics, Mary also transcribes older interviews, recording and translating native words. The results of these studies is incorporated into documents that not only allow local, state, and federal agencies to protect cultural resource laws, but allow greater understanding of past and present native culture.

Pearl Capoeman Baller
Pearl got her start in the political arena as a founding member of the Quinault Teen Council in the late 1960’s. They held their own elections, were given seed
money, and developed policies and By-laws that governed their actions. Pearl finished High School, attended Grays Harbor College and then took a job as a Social Services Secretary for the Nation. At the age of 19 Pearl was elected to serve on the Quinault Tribal Council. Since then she has also served as the Assistant Director of Administration, Director of Administration, Executive Director and now as the Assistant Director for Community Services.

Pearl Capoeman-Baller, Quinault Tribe, Taholah, WA President, Vice-President & Secretary – 1974-2006 (32 years on the Quinault Tribal Council) Executive Director of Administration Pearl Capoeman-Baller, Quinault Tribal member, served on the Quinault Tribal Council for 32 years.

She has been married to John for 38 years, has two sons, Nikolas and Christopher, one red-headed granddaughter-Chase Mackenzie, two grandsons-Tute'sum and Cody. Pearl and her husband reside on the Quinault reservation.

Ms. Capoeman-Baller grew up in an extended family environment. She was born into a family of eleven, with Pearl being number ten. Her Mother died of Cancer when Pearl was 5 and her father was highly involved in the political arena. As a result, though Pearl saw her Father almost daily, she was raised mostly by older family members, grandparents and great Uncles and Aunts. From each, Pearl believes that she was given something that helps her to lead her people. Her Father also died of Cancer; this was one of the reasons that Pearl became so interested in Native Health Issues.

Verna Bartlett
Verna shares from her experience as a strong Native woman. In the early years she was single mother of 6. After hearing Billy Mills speak in 1972 she did not know how or where, but she was determined to go to college. She’s been a lifelong advocate of children’s issues. In June 2010 Verna received her Ph.D from the Union Institute and University. Her dissertation focus was on Native Studies, with an emphasis on Child sexual abuse. Please welcome Dr. Verna Barlett.