



*What is Ethnomathematics? What isn't Ethnomathematics? How do we integrate Ethnomathematic lessons, units, theory into our classes? How do we ensure that all cultures and their mathematics are given equal respect (i.e, with no "tokenizing" of cultures)?*

<http://creatingbalanceconference.org>

## *Teachers make a Difference*

It's that time of year again and the American Indian Urban Teacher Program is proud to be graduating three more students. The Class of 2014 AIUTP Graduates, Cara Colclasure, Tsalagi, Cherokee, Gina Rentz, Grand Ronde, Oregon & Ashley Friedman, Suquamish Nation, will be inducted June 13, 7:30 PM, into the Indigenous Community of Learners.

AIUTP teacher graduates have been encouraged to practice within a community-based educational context in order to extend their power, knowledge, and agency to promote and

sustain reform initiatives within urban and rural indigenous communities. Our students have worked very hard with passion and caring, becoming an inspiration to their students and our community. In the words of Howard Rainer, "When one of us looks good, we all look good."

Please join us at the Induction and Salmon Feed as we honor our graduating Native teachers with a Pendleton blanket presentation and introduce them back into an Indigenous community of learners. A key piece in the induction of new teachers into the

community is a clear understanding of themselves and a clearer recognition that a racialized achievement gap cannot be closed without addressing race. We encourage our AIUTP students to learn about the culture and interests of each of their students, and to develop authentic relationships with them and their families.

We offer a special thank you to Regina Stanton who has been helping AIUTP students prepare themselves as professional educators. *(Above: Regina, Gina, Ashley, and Cara at an AIUTP Seminar.)*

Thank you for another wonderful year. Visit our blog for more updates about the program, our students, and resources: [teacherprogram.wordpress.com](http://teacherprogram.wordpress.com)

United Indian Students of Higher Education at PSU hosted their 2014 Naimuma Traditional Pow Wow for picture, and other events that AIUTP sponsors, please visit our website at [www.pdx.edu/aiutp](http://www.pdx.edu/aiutp). And for more information about UISHE, contact 503-725-5670 .



*Cara Colclasure, 2014 graduate*

## Cara Colclasure Tsalagi, Cherokee

Initial Teaching Licensure, Early Childhood/  
Elementary Education, 1-6th, Master of Education

"My mission will also include the power of giving Native children a window of opportunity and mindset for success by recognizing a Native person in the position of the educator. I would like to expand my service and experience in working with Native populations through education and expand my service to tribal peoples in schools and community outreach."



## Gina Kentz Grand Ronde

Initial Teaching Licensure, Early Childhood/  
Elementary Education, 1-6th, Master of Education



"One main motivator is having the opportunity to show the younger generation the value of perseverance in education. I feel that those under-represented children in the school system are at a disadvantage because teachers are not culturally sensitive and receptive to the needs for their personal growth."

## Ashley Friedman Suquamish Nation

Initial Secondary Licensure, English  
Endorsement, 6th - 12th, Master of  
Education,

"I absolutely feel that it is important for Natives to have a stronger presence in all institutions. Children especially need to unlearn the cultural stereotypes that still exist. Social change begins with education! I'm especially excited to reach out to Native students. I hope to allow them to feel a greater pride in ancestry as well as empowerment of self."



**Thank you to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which provided funding for AIUTP scholarship and Cultural Responsive Pedagogy Seminar.**



## *Outstanding Teaching Award*

Judy Bluehorse Skelton is the winner of John Elliot Allen (CLAS) Outstanding Teaching Award for 2014, representing the Indigenous Nations Studies Program. Judy has demonstrated excellence in teaching within CLAS in her first year of being a full-time instructor. She works closely with local organizations and leaders to involve her students in collaborative community projects like the Cully Park Tribal Gathering Garden providing real-world learning experiences that can be life changing.



## *Update on 2011-13 AIUTP Teachers*

**Terri Reed** is entering her second year at Ippolito Elementary School (Florida) teaching 4<sup>th</sup> graders. She worked with her students on the Awareness project, a way of showing students how to explore their cultural background. Some students shared their posters at the Black History Event this year.

**Amanda Bryant** has a class of 19-second graders in Hoopa Bay, Alaska. "I am doing great! Last 3 days of school and enjoying my last days with my kids. All of my students have made good progress."

**Monty Catabay** is teaching middle school Health at Benson High School. "Benson teachers have redesigned their PE/Health curriculum with pound-shedding and academic-performance-enhancing results for students ([pps.k12.or.us](http://pps.k12.or.us))."

**Deborah J Troyer** will begin her second year at Salem-Keizer School District where she teaches 5th grade ESOL, Weddle Elementary. "I'm very fortunate to have gotten a permanent full time position, not only in the district of my choice, but with an amazing school that is 5 miles from my home." Deborah completed her ESOL endorsement and will be doing a practicum in her own classroom this fall. "I'm glad to have survived my first year of teaching and I'm looking forward to many more years to come."

**Shani Johnson** is completing her first year of teaching Kindergarten at Vernon Elementary, PPSD. She had a great year with students and families, and with colleagues taught 6 International Baccalaureate units.

**Gillian Murr** is teaching 7th -8th grade Language Arts, and works with a middle school team at Marysville K8 in SE Portland with a great academic coach. The principal has asked Gillian to be on the Common Core Professional Development Team for next year. "I feel very lucky and blessed to be where I am today. I feel respected as a professional. So many stories, but I will say that more than 70% of my students passed their OAKS reading test."

**Joanthan Belgarde** is currently teaching at Kingspoint Christian School in Pasco, Washington. He is teaching all of the 6th grade subjects except English. "I am also the school's Athletic Director. And my wife is pregnant with our third child due the week of Christmas and New Year's."

**Carrie Green** is teaching in an Applegate School Head Start classroom, which is a collaboration between the Native American Youth and Family Center and Portland Public Schools. "We prepare children for school by focusing on early childhood care and education and teacher development ([nayapdx.org](http://nayapdx.org))."

**Erica Spainhower** is substitute teaching at Portland Public Schools.

The President's Diversity Action Council at Portland State University (PSU) recognized **Grace Dillon with the award of 2013-2014 Teacher of the Year.** Grace Dillon, Ph.D., Anishinaabe, is an Associate Professor, Indigenous Nations Studies, Liberal Arts and Science, and Affiliated faculty, in the English Department, and Popular Culture Cluster Coordinator.

"My families are from both Garden River and Bay Mills Nations with an ongoing interest in promoting Indigenous Futurisms, Indigenous Cinema, New Media, art and music connected to Indigenous Futurisms, science fiction, the fantastic, and horror along with re-centering Indigenous influences pre-contact, initial contact and post-contact with our writings, traditional plant knowledge and sciences."

*Photo: Professor Dillon (center) with UISHE students, Karly Foster and Stevie Lemkie.  
Photo Credit: Marilyn Quintero.*

## Teacher of the Year



## Faces behind the scenes



### Micki Caskey Ph.D.

Associate Dean, Graduate School of Education, draws on more than 20 years of teaching inner-city adolescents in middle and high schools. Her areas of specialization include middle grades education, content area literacy, action research, learning strategies and content enhancements, and teacher education (pdx.edu).



### Katy Holland

a member of the AIUTP Advisory Council, is enrolled in the Confederated Tribes of Siletz and heads up the Portland Area office of the Siletz Nation. She is very involved in the community, and makes sure she connects youth with PSU campus, scholarships, and events.



### Jilma Meneses

currently serves as Portland State University's (PSU) Chief Diversity Officer and has over twenty years of administrative, legal, and business experience, including ten years at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) and eight years at Tri-Met.



### Regina Stanton,

is Recruitment Specialist Portland Public Schools. Regina and her staff have been very helpful in providing AIUTP students with hiring and interview, tips, and including students in CARE workshops.

## Walking On....

**Jackie Leno Grant**, Director of the Native American Program at Eastern Oregon University for a number of years, passed away April, 2014, after an illness which hospitalized her here in Portland. Jackie, a member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, was a highly respected and well-loved member of our Indigenous Academy of Learners. We will miss her.

