

Washington State Indian Education Association

Annual Merit Awards & Recognition 2025 Due 2/14/25



The Washington State Indian Education Association (WSIEA) takes an opportunity each year during our annual conference to acknowledge accomplishments of Native individuals who have contributed significantly to the education of Native people and of excellent Native Students. These awards include:

- Indian Educator of the Year
- Indian Elder of the Year
- Indian Parent of the Year
- Higher Education Indian Student of the Year
- High School Indian Student of the Year

WSIEA honors one high school senior and one higher education student who will receive a monetary merit award (\$800 for high school seniors and \$1,000 for current college students). Award recipients will be announced at the WSIEA Awards Banquet at the 40th Annual WSIEA Conference happening April 1-3, 2025, at the Northern Quest Hotel/Casino, Airway Heights. Nominations only need to be made for the Indian Educator of the Year, Elder of the Year, and Outstanding Indian Parent of the Year. ***Applications/ nominations must be postmarked on or before Friday, February 14.***

Nomination and application forms and guidelines for the recognition or student merit awards immediately follow in this packet. **Please only submit the portion of the packet for which you are applying.** For questions or more information, please contact Rachael Barger at rbarger@bethelsd.org or Joan Banker at joan.banker553@gmail.com.

WASHINGTON STATE INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

NOMINATION FOR RECOGNITION INFORMATION -- 2025

Association Background

The Washington State Indian Education Association was formally established in 1983. The purpose of WSIEA is to promote educational excellence for all Native American students through effectively influencing educational policy developments and implementation at state, regional and national levels in cooperation with other educators and educational institutions. WSIEA membership includes Indian educators, parents, and others who are dedicated to improving the quality of education for American Indian/Alaska Native learners. Each year the WSIEA recognizes members who have made significant contributions to the field of Indian education, specifically in the following areas:

- Indian Elder of the Year
- Indian Educator of the Year
- Indian Parent of the Year

All applicants shall be evaluated and verified by the WSIEA Recognition Award Committee (the awards committee is comprised of current WSIEA Board members in good standing). The award recipient shall be announced during the WSIEA Conference Recognition and Awards Banquet taking place Wednesday evening, April 2 at the Northern Quest Hotel/Casino, Airway Heights. Conference registration for the award recipient and an award banquet ticket for recipient and a guest will be provided by WSIEA.

Eligibility:

1. Nominations may be made by any individual WSIEA member who is in good standing. The nominee *does not have to be a current WSIEA member*.
2. You can nominate more than one person for each category. Submit one form for each nomination.
3. Nominees are required to submit verification of either: (1) membership in tribe, band or other organized group of Indians, including those tribes, bands or groups terminated since 1940 and those recognized by the state in which tribes, bands or organized groups reside; or (2) that they are a descendant in the first or second degree; or (3) that they are an Eskimo, Aleut or other Alaskan Native. United States- and Canadian-recognized tribes, bands, or First Nations are also considered eligible.
4. Attach the supporting material in an orderly fashion: a brief narrative biography, tribal affiliation documents (enrollment card or proof of descent), and a recent photo is desirable, but not required. Other materials *may* include recommendations, copies of achievements, lists of honors, and citations showing year received.
5. Nominations need to be postmarked on or before Friday, February 14, 2025. Please mail your nominations to :

Rachael Barger
22508 North Clear Lake Blvd. SE
Yelm, WA 98597

WASHINGTON STATE INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

2025 NOMINATION FOR RECOGNITION APPLICATION

To be filled out by nominator and nominee

NOMINEE NAME: _____

Indicate category for which the nomination is being made:

- () Indian Educator of the Year
- () Indian Elder of the Year
- () Indian Parent of the Year

Why should this person be recognized? _____

Experience: _____

Contributions/Achievements: _____

Please feel free to add up to two additional typed pages.

Nominee Name: _____ Nominator Name: _____

Tribal Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Email Address: _____

Phone: _____ Phone: _____

If selected, are you able to attend the Merit Awards & Recognition Banquet either Wednesday evening, April 2, at the 40th annual WSIEA conference taking place at the Northern Quest Hotel/Casino?

Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

PUBLIC STATEMENT: Should I receive the award that I am nominated for, the WSIEA has my permission for publicity purposes to use the information from the attached documentation and/or any audio/visual materials developed from my receipt of the award.

Signature of Nominee

Date

WASHINGTON STATE INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

HIGH SCHOOL MERIT AWARD APPLICATION INFORMATION—2025

Association Background

The Washington State Indian Education Association was formally established in 1983. The purpose of WSIEA is to promote educational excellence for all Native American students through effectively influencing educational policy developments and implementation at state, regional and national levels in cooperation with other educators and educational institutions. WSIEA membership includes Indian educators, parents, and others who are dedicated to improving the quality of education for American Indian/Alaska Native learners.

Eligibility

1. Applicants are required to submit verification of either: (1) membership in tribe, band or other organized group of Indians, including those tribes, bands or groups terminated since 1940 and those recognized by the state in which tribes, bands or organized groups reside; or (2) that they are a descendant in the first or second degree; or (3) that they are an Eskimo, Aleut or other Alaskan Native. United States- and Canadian-recognized tribes, bands, or First Nations are also considered eligible.
2. Applicant must be a graduating senior in high school for the 2024-25 school year.
3. Applicant must be a Washington State resident.

Application Period

Applications must be postmarked on or before Friday, February 14, 2025, and sent to:

Rachael Barger
22508 North Clear Lake Blvd. SE
Yelm, WA 98597

No applications will be accepted after the aforementioned deadline.

Selection and Announcement

All applicants shall be evaluated and verified by the WSIEA Merit Awards Committee. The award recipient shall be announced during the WSIEA Conference Awards Banquet taking place Wednesday evening, April 2, at the Northern Quest Hotel/Casino. You and a guest will be provided with dinner tickets.

Awards

The WSIEA honorarium is a one-time \$800 merit award given directly to the student upon verification of credits toward high school graduation. ***The purpose of this award is to help a deserving senior with her/ his graduation expenses such as cap, gown, senior pictures, application fees etc.***

WASHINGTON STATE INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

HIGH SCHOOL MERIT AWARD APPLICATION 2025

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____
PO Box or Street Address City Zip

Email Address: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Tribal Affiliation: _____

Enrollment # (of student or of enrolled parent/ grandparent): _____

Anticipated date of high school graduation: _____
Month Year

Anticipated College/University of Attendance in the 2025-26 academic year:

Have you already been accepted to the aforementioned college/university? Yes ___ No ___

If selected, are you able to attend the Merit Awards & Recognition Banquet Wednesday evening, April 2, at the 40th Annual WSIEA Conference? Yes ___ No ___

Extracurricular Involvement (please feel free to submit up to two additional pages for this section)

1. Personal Interests/Hobbies: _____
2. Honors and Awards: _____
3. Participation in Community: _____
4. Extracurricular Activities: _____

In addition to the above, application must include the following:

- Copy of an official transcript AND a statement from a counselor or school official stating your graduation date
- Copy of tribal affiliation documents
- Two letters of recommendation from individuals such as teachers, mentors, advisors, counselors, community leaders, or others who know you personally and can confirm your abilities and leadership qualities
- A personal statement describing your educational and future career goals after high school and how you plan to use the award money

PUBLIC STATEMENT: Should I receive the award that I am nominated for, the WSIEA has my permission for publicity purposes to use the information from the attached documentation and/or any audio/visual materials developed from my receipt of the award.

Signature of Applicant or Parent/Guardian if under 18

Date

WASHINGTON STATE INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

HIGHER EDUCATION MERIT AWARD APPLICATION INFORMATION--2025

Association Background

The Washington State Indian Education Association was formally established in 1983. The purpose of WSIEA is to promote educational excellence for all Native American students through effectively influencing educational policy developments and implementation at state, regional and national levels in cooperation with other educators and educational institutions. WSIEA membership includes Indian educators, parents, and others who are dedicated to improving the quality of education for American Indian/Alaska Native learners.

Eligibility

1. Applicants are required to submit verification of either: (1) membership in tribe, band or other organized group of Indians, including those tribes, bands or groups terminated since 1940 and those recognized by the state in which tribes, bands or organized groups reside; or (2) that they are a descendant in the first or second degree; or (3) that they are an Eskimo, Aleut or other Alaskan Native. Both United States and Canadian recognized nations, tribes, or bands are considered eligible.
2. Applicant must be a current college student.
3. Applicant must be a Washington State resident.

Application Period

All applications must be postmarked on or before Friday, February 14, 2024, and sent to:

Rachael Barger
22508 North Clear Lake Blvd. SE
Yelm, WA 98597

No applications will be accepted postmarked after the aforementioned deadline.

Selection and Announcement

All applicants shall be evaluated and verified by the WSIEA Merit Awards Committee. The award recipient shall be announced during the WSIEA Conference Awards Banquet taking place Wednesday evening, April 2, at the Northern Quest Hotel/Casino. You and a guest will be provided with dinner tickets.

Awards

The WSIEA Higher Education Merit Award is a one-time \$1,000 merit award given directly to the student upon verification of college enrollment and, therefore, does not need to be declared to other financial aid programs such as Bureau of Indian Education and Pell.

WASHINGTON STATE INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

HIGHER EDUCATION MERIT AWARD APPLICATION 2025

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____
PO Box or Street Address City Zip

Email Address: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Tribal Affiliation: _____

Enrollment # (of student or of enrolled parent/ grandparent): _____

If selected, are you able to attend the Merit Awards & Recognition Banquet Wednesday evening, April 2, at the Northern Quest Hotel/Casino? Yes ___ No ___ Maybe ___

Please describe in detail (in less than 100 words) an act of meaningful service, in a personal, cultural, communal, or academic context, in which you have participated during your educational journey (this can be as a high school student or during college). This can be anything from serving in a leadership capacity in a student organization/association, participation in a culture group, fulfilling cultural/ceremonial obligations, etc., tutoring, mentoring, being a teacher’s assistant, interning at a non-profit, doing work study, serving elders, volunteering at a community center, youth program or food bank, etc., or taking care of family members/relatives.

NOTE: Though it is not required, applicants are also “strongly” encouraged to submit photos, videos, or other documentation of work in the community.

Extracurricular Involvement

1. Personal Interests/Hobbies: _____
2. Honors and Awards: _____
3. Participation in Community: _____
4. Extracurricular Activities: _____

Education

College, vocational, or business school you attend, area of study, and what year you are (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th year, etc.): _____

In addition to the above, application must include the following:

- Copy of transcript from your college/university (most current)
- Copy of tribal affiliation documents
- Two letters of recommendation from individuals such as professors, community leaders, or others who know you personally and can confirm your abilities and leadership qualities

WASHINGTON STATE INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

- A personal statement describing educational and future career goals and reasons for choosing your particular personal/academic/professional pathway

PUBLIC STATEMENT: Should I receive the award that I am nominated for, the WSIEA has my permission for publicity purposes to use the information from the attached documentation and/or any audio/visual materials developed from my receipt of the award.

Signature of Applicant

Date