



# Nashauonk Mittark™

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December 2014



DRUM BEAT

IN THE NEWS

DEPARTMENTS

COMMUNITY

## Chairman's Column



Dear Tribal Family,

What a year! As we approach the end of 2014, I am reminded of the fact that we have been living on this land for 12,000 years. That we are still here speaks volumes about our resilience as a people and to our ancient ties to this land.

I am thankful that - despite trials and tribulations - we have survived. But I am even more excited about all the work being done today to ensure we don't just survive, but thrive.

Yes, our history is filled with ups and downs. And while all times bring challenges, we are fortunate to be living through an up-period. Looking back on a busy year, I wanted to recap with you a few highlights.

As you know, in February we opened our magnificent Community and Government Center here in Mashpee. So many good things are happening here - from the effective administration of health, housing, elder, youth services and historic preservation departments to the responsibilities of our natural resource officers and the reclamation of our native tongue, which is now being transmitted to future generations.

For me, the most satisfying aspect of our Community and Government Center is to walk around and see the pride and smiles on the faces of our people. There is a profound sense of community and caring - a visible and vital presence - that breathes life into the building and helps bind us together.

And in the midst of it all, important work is being done.

It almost goes without saying that the vast duties and responsibilities that are a part

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Tribe Celebrates Annual Thanks Giving

Over 250 Tribal Members, family and friends came together for a day of traditions, prayer and great food at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's 5th Annual Native American Thanks Giving Celebration on Saturday, November 22. The celebration opened with a service at the Old Indian Meeting House; followed up by a meal prepared by Bernadine Pocknett and her daughter Sherry Pocknett at the Community and Government Center.

Prior to the service there was a collective effort to smudge and cleanse the Meeting House with sage by Jason Baird, Aquinah Wampanoag Medicine Man and husband of Vice Chairwoman jessie "little doe" baird, along with Lauren Fermino, and Tribal member David Weeden who continued to smudge throughout the program.



Spiritual Leader Wayne Jackson clearly felt the good medicine as he greeted everyone. "It's good to see so many young and beautiful faces," said Wayne. "We are all here to say thank you." Wayne also gave thanks for his wife and children, for the growing number of people that came together for the celebration, for his ancestors and for the meeting house.

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## Danna Jackson Elected Tribal Youth Council Chairwoman

The Mashpee Wampanoag Youth Council held its officer elections during the November 26 meeting at the Community and Government Center. At the meeting tribal youth in attendance elected Danna Jackson as Chairwoman; Douglas Pocknett, Jr. as Vice Chairman; Autumn Jackson as Co-Secretary; Chenoa Peters as Co-Secretary and Ciara Jackson as Treasurer. The Youth Council meetings are open to all Mashpee Wampanoag youth between the ages of 13 and 18 years old.

Vice Chairwoman jessie "little doe" baird praised the youth on the election and the work they have conducted. "If anyone has not seen these leaders conduct a meeting this year, you ought to. They have become one of the most effective and efficient councils that i have ever seen in action. They respect each other and always speak positively about those in their community and fellow councilors. They observe order and purpose. i am thankful for this. Thank you too Councilwoman Trish Keli'inui for saying 'yes'



to being their liaison to council and giving supportive and positive assistance to them," said vice chairwoman baird. "All of these youth come from families firmly rooted in Mashpee culture and tradition. All of them have been either students of the language, teach the language to little ones, or are involved with producing teaching materials for our language."

Also, congratulations to Danna Jackson and Attaquin Weeden-Machado for being elected as Female and Male Representatives of the Mashpee Wampanoag Youth Council for the National Youth Conferences.

## Events Calendar

### New Events

**December 6 – 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**  
Kids Shopping Spree, MWTCGC

**December 13 – 3:00 p.m.**  
Children’s Christmas Party, MWTCGC

**December 13 – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**  
Christmas Craft Fair, MWTCGC

**December 14 – 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
General Body Meeting, MWTCGC

**December 17 to 18 – 8:00 a.m.**  
Free OSHA Construction Training, MWTCGC

**December 27 to 28 – 10:00 a.m.**  
Youth Conference, MWTCGC

**January 7 – 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**  
FAFSA Night, MWTCGC

**January 11 – 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
General Body Meeting, MWTCGC

### Weekly Events

**Mondays – 5:30 p.m.**  
Recovery Group, Old Indian Burial Grounds

**Mondays – 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**  
Tribal Health Zumba with Natara, MWTCGC

**Tuesdays – 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**  
Elders Lunch & Learn, MWTCGC

**Tuesdays – 5:30 p.m.**  
Enrollment Committee, MWTCGC

**Tuesdays – 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**  
Coed Volleyball, MWTCGC

**Wednesdays – 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**  
& **5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**  
Tribal Health Yoga with Virginia and Kimma, MWTCGC

**Thursdays – 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**  
Elders Lunch & Learn, MWTCGC

**Thursdays – 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**  
Adult Math and Writing Workshops, MWTCGC

**Monthly – 6:00 p.m.**  
Housing Commission, MWTCGC,  
It is held the first Thursday and third Monday of each month.

**Monthly – 7:00 p.m.**  
Chiefs Circle, Old Indian Meeting House  
It is held the first Tuesday of the month.

**Monthly – 6:00 p.m.**  
Public Safety Commission, MWTCGC,  
It is held the third Tuesday of the month.



*Congratulations to Daycia Frye for achieving high academic honors. Daycia is in the 8th grade at Dennis Yarmouth High School. Daycia is the daughter of David Frye and granddaughter of Marie Frye and great granddaughter of Curtis Frye.*

## February Election

**General Election on Sunday, February 8**

**Voting Hours:** Enrolled, Registered Tribal Elders: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Enrolled, Registered Tribal Members: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Location:** Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center, 483 Great Neck Road South, Mashpee

**Six (6) Tribal Council Seats:**  
Tribal Council Member

**Candidate Packets are Available at the:** General Membership Meeting on December 14, 2014 2-4 p.m. and Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center during regular business hours

## Tribal Leaders Advocate in Washington for Improved Tribal Community Development

**A** delegation from our tribe led by Tribal Council Chairman Cedric Cromwell attended the White House Tribal Nations Conference Wednesday, December 3 to advocate on behalf of tribal community development.

“What an honor it was to be at the White House along with leaders from 566 other federally-recognized Native nations to advocate on behalf of the needs of our people in Mashpee and across Indian Country. Many of the issues we are dealing with in Mashpee – housing, health care, economic development, protecting tribal lands – are pressing issues for Native people throughout Indian Country,” Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council Chairman Cedric Cromwell said.

A range of Native issues were discussed during the conference that highlighted Native youth. Our very own Brian Weeden attended the conference, representing not only Mashpee tribal youth, but Native youth, as the United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) Executive Committee Co-President and the National Congress of American Indians Youth Commission Co-Vice President. Weeden participated in breakout sessions, panel discussions, and leadership development programs as part of the first ever White House Tribal Youth Gathering.

Councilwoman Cheryl Frye-Cromwell attended as a special guest of U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Burwell. Cheryl is a primary representative of the Secretary’s cabinet-level Tribal Advisory Committee representing 29 tribes east of the Mississippi River in health and human service issues.

However, of central concern were steps that could be taken to enhance tribal sovereignty, treaties and trust responsibilities, as well as the need for tribes to get better access to capital and credit.

On the latter, Chairman Cromwell was invited to brief Senate Finance Committee staff Tuesday (Dec. 2) afternoon on the need for legislative action so that a bigger share of existing tax credit programs and financing for community development flows into Indian Country.

“Indian Country needs better access to financing as we build our tribal economies. Right now, tribes are being left out and left behind when it comes to financing large capital initiatives,” Chairman Cromwell said.

Specifically, the Chairman urged the Senate Finance Committee to push for legislation that would expand tax credits for tribal Community Development Entities (CDEs) to help spur investments in tribal economic development projects.

He said that not enough of the new markets tax credit program - established by Congress in 2000 as an incentive for investors to locate projects in low-income communities - has gone to tribal communities, noting that in the last two funding cycles (2013 and 2014) no tax credit allocations went to tribal community development organizations.

“Because these issues are not well-known outside of Indian Country,” the Chairman concluded, “I am grateful for the opportunity to engage on these issues and to share our concerns. It is heartening to have been given such a responsive welcome from the White House and key Senate Finance Committee staff.”

## Free OSHA Training

**T**he Mashpee Wampanoag WIA Department will be hosting free Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) training for enrolled and unenrolled Tribal Members, family and spouses. The two-day program will be held on December 17 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and on December 18 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Space is limited and must be reserved. Please contact the Employment and Training office at (508) 477-0208 x161 to confirm your space prior to the training.

WIA, in conjunction with the American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) with support from OSHA, and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is offering this free safety course for individuals in the construction trades.

The roadway construction focused OSHA 10-hour training program includes prevention of safety and health hazards in the workplace, information regarding workers' rights and employer responsibilities.

Participants will also receive 3 hours of "Preventing Runovers and Backovers" a comprehensive training program designed to keep roadway construction workers safe from being struck by construction trucks and equipment.

This training helps give employees the information they need to be able to identify and correct hazards they may encounter in a construction environment by focusing on key safety issues, this interactive training will help sharpen participant skills and better prepare them for work in what can be a hazardous occupation.

DOL-OSHA course completion cards will be provided to participants upon graduation. For more information or to reserve a seat, please contact the Employment and Training office at (508) 477-0208 x161.

## FAFSA Night on January 7

**T**he education department will be hosting a FAFSA night on Wednesday, January 7 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Craft Room at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center. FAFSA night is an event aimed at helping high school seniors, college students and their parents complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) so that you can qualify for the most financial aid possible.

Our Education Department staff will be on hand to help you navigate the FAFSA process. To ensure you get the most out of this

event, please bring the following information:

- » Your Federal Student Aid PIN or FSA ID (to obtain your PIN go to [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov))
- » Student's/Parent's 2013 W-2 and Federal Income Tax Forms (1040, 1040A or 1040 EZ)
- » 2013 untaxed income (social security, disability, workman's comp, etc.)
- » Driver's license or state ID
- » Social Security number

For more information or to reserve time to meet with our staff, call the Education Department at (508) 477-0208 x151.

## Chairman's Column (continued)

of governance in a modern age, requires a staff able to meet the needs to tribal citizens. Right now, we employ 80 people, 94 percent of which are tribe members.

It is true there are many more things that need to be done to better serve our people. And to do that requires two things: sovereign tribal lands and an economic engine that can finance our growth, supply our essential needs, and empower our efforts toward full self-determination.

Getting land-into-trust is a complex and challenging undertaking. It has taken some tribes a decade to get a favorable decision on their application. In less than two years, we completed the most time-consuming part of the application process: the Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA) Federal Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Just last month, our attorney Arlinda Locklear, an expert on land-into-trust applications, gave a presentation at our general membership meeting explaining in detail how we are heading into the home stretch of the application phase.

The second requirement I referred to was about building an engine of economic growth for our tribe. The biggest piece of that is our First Light Destination and Resort Casino in Taunton. Once we get land into trust and complete our environmental review with the state, which we are close to wrapping up, we will be ready to embark on building what will ultimately be a huge source of revenue that we can then use to re-invest in our people.

It should also be noted that this past year our Economic Development Committee started to think about ways to create a more diverse approach to economic development through other possible tribal business ventures, apart from a casino.

Last, I wanted to inform you of

what happened at the 70th Annual Convention of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), held in October this year in Atlanta. As the oldest, largest, and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native organization advocating on behalf of a shared vision for Indian Country, I am thrilled to report that Brian Weeden and I were elected to leadership positions within NCAI. I was elected to serve as NCAI's Northeast Region Alternate Vice-President and, after a powerful speech given to delegates at the convention, Brian Weeden was chosen to serve as Co-Vice President of the NCAI's Youth Commission.

These are just a few highlights of the year and evidence of the tremendous growth and progress we have made both here at home and in making our presence felt across the country.

But, as important as it is to reflect on all that was accomplished over the past year, it's more important to look to the future. On the immediate horizon, are two important items - the presentation of our annual budget for tribal membership review, and the six Tribal Council seats up for election in February. Election packets are available now and are due by the 2nd Sunday in January.

As we look to the future, even as exact certainty will always lie beyond our reach, we do know that 2015 will be a momentous year for the Mashpee Wampanoag. Let us face the New Year with a resolve to finish what we've started and to position ourselves to thrive on this land for generations to come.

Kutâputunumuw;

Cedric Cromwell Qaqemasq  
(Running Bear)

## Children's Christmas Party Dec. 13

Celebrate the holidays with Santa Claus; make Christmas crafts, play games and have dinner (potluck style) while waiting for the arrival of Santa Claus! Tribal Members received invitations in the mail in November with RSVP form.

Volunteers, donations and/or a food dish are welcome. Please contact Joanne, Latoya or Laverne at (508) 477-0208 x140 or x180 for more information.

## New Exhibit Makes an Historic Footnote

An exhibit recounting the dramatic story of 27 Wampanoag men taken 400 years ago to be sold as slaves in Spain is now on display at the Plymouth Public Library. More than 100 people attended an opening reception on November 13 for the dramatic multi-media display featuring contemporary Wampanoag in compelling photos, video and song.

"This is our story, told by our people in our voice," said Paula Peters who produced the exhibit on behalf of the Indian Spiritual and Cultural Training Center Inc. Paula brought the idea to Plymouth 400 Inc., a non-profit group charged with organizing events around the commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower landing in 2020, a period in history that cannot be authentically represented without including the Wampanoag.

Produced and directed by Wampanoag professionals with full editorial and content control "Captured 1614" is the initial installation of a series of "Our" Story exhibits designed to travel and grow exponentially each year in November through 2020. Plymouth 400 provided all of the funding for the production of the exhibit.

"Everyone knows the story of Squanto, but few know what he endured before he became an emissary to the English or what his people sacrificed in order for Patuxet to become Plymouth. This exhibit tells a story that answers the obvious, yet unasked question of how Squanto and Samoset were so well-versed in the English language that they were able to communicate with and help the Pilgrims survive," said Paula who is co-owner of SmokeSignals Communications the



Wampanoag owned company that managed the production. "This is a critical piece of the history of Plymouth that can't be told accurately without a Wampanoag voice and I'm excited for this opportunity to tell our story on an international platform. For the Wampanoag, 400 years starts now."

This devastating event in Wampanoag history, while well documented, has remained a footnote until now. Since opening the exhibit has been featured locally and in international media including the Cape Cod Times, New York Times, National Public Radio, British Broadcasting Company, and Al Jazeera America.

Captured 1614 will be on display at the Plymouth Public Library through March 15, 2015. It will be at the Pilgrim Monument and Provincetown Museum from April 1 through June 30, 2015 after which it will be displayed in Mashpee and Aquinnah on the island of Martha's Vineyard in the summer of 2015.

A link to Captured 1614 web page including historic context and video can be found at [www.PlymouthMa400.org](http://www.PlymouthMa400.org). Venue recommendations for the exhibit may be sent to [paula@smokesignals.com](mailto:paula@smokesignals.com).

## Thanks Giving Celebration *(continued)*

Wayne opened the floor after giving thanks for others to offer thanks. Elders, parents and youth reflected and shared with the community what they are thankful for. People gave thanks for family, the Wampanoag language, having food to eat and roof to sleep under, for the Creator, for God and the preservation of the Tribe in the face of so many hardships.

The morning ceremony also included a greeting from Chairman Cromwell and Anita Peters recital of a poem written by Mabel Pocknett Avant. Vicky Wabanako along with her mother Natalie Costa and family reciting and signing the Lords Prayer during the ceremony and Jessie "little doe" Baird led the crowd in a traditional Wampanoag Thanks Giving prayer. The ceremony closed with drumming by the Mashpee Singers.

Immediately following the service about 250 people gathered at the Community and Government Center for a traditional Native American feast. Bernadine Pocknett and Sherry Pocknett prepared an amazing meal that included venison stew, cranberry sauce, local oysters, corn dumplings, raccoon, turkey, quahogs, wild rice, baked beans and squash.



Bernadine and Sherry pride themselves on preparing traditional dishes using local, fresh ingredients. "Everything comes from the garden or from the region," said Bernadine. The cranberries were from Sandwich, the oysters came from Mashpee and the raccoon was hunted in the woods of Falmouth.

The Meeting House Committee organized the annual celebration. The committee includes Chairperson Carol Lopez, Secretary Pauline Peters, Treasurer Anne Foxx, Norman Dias, Anita Peters, Jeanne Peters, Shirlee Oakley, Emeritus Ellen Hendricks and Tribal Council Liaison Charles Foster. Thank you to all that attended, volunteered, organized, cooked, drummed, danced, shared stories and had a good time. The committee looks forward to seeing you at the event next year.

## Unity in Our Community: Mashpee Wampanoag Youth Conference

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Youth Council will be hosting a two-day youth conference on Saturday, December 27 and Sunday, December 28 at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center. The conference will open at 10:00 a.m. each day and is open to any Mashpee Wampanoag tribal youth between the ages of 13 and 18 that are looking to gain leadership skills, learn tribal traditions and have fun doing it.

In July several of our Tribal Youth leaders attended the United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) conference and addressed the theme "Healing and Empowering Aspiring Leaders with Tradition and

Heritage". The topics, activities and workshops from the national conference provided our youth with a frame and tools to develop a successful youth conference that's tailored for their Tribe.

Food will be provided and there are host homes for youth that would like to attend and do not live in the area. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Joanne Frye at [jfrye@mwtribe.com](mailto:jfrye@mwtribe.com) or call (508) 477-0208 x140 with your name, age, phone number and if you will be attending both days or only one day of the conference. Also, please make sure to let Joanne know if you need a host home.

## Brian Weeden Tackles Difficult Topic in MTV.com Interview

**H**ow do Native Americans really feel about Thanksgiving? It's the opening to a long overdue conversation that Danica Davidson, reporter for MTV.com, had with Brian Weeden, Male Co-President of the United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) and member of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Enrollment Committee and Youth Advisory Committee just before Thanksgiving. Below is a copy of the article as it appeared on MTV.

We've all heard the story of the first Thanksgiving, but how much of what we've been told is true and how much of it has turned to legend over the years? And while the original Thanksgiving is supposed to be about a meal between the Pilgrims and the Wampanoags, Thanksgiving now rarely puts any attention on the Native Americans involved or how Natives view Thanksgiving today.

To get a Native perspective, I spoke with Brian Moskwetah Weeden, a member of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. He is the Male Co-President of the United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY), a member of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribes Enrollment Committee and Youth Advisory Committee and a Chairman to the 2014 Pow Wow Committee.

For starters, he was able to clear up some myths about the first Thanksgiving.

"It wasn't a big, happy get-together where the Pilgrims and the Wampanoags, our ancestors, came and sat down and broke bread," he explained. "We had an agreement with them that if they were under attack, we'd come to their aid and if we were under attack, they'd come to our aid. This was the first time we'd seen guns, and their muskets were an advantage to us because the Narragansetts were about to come into our territory and go to war with us. We looked at them [the European settlers] as our allies."

After the Pilgrims had great success with their harvest, they began to shoot their muskets.

"Massasoit, who was the great sachem [leader] at the time, showed up with ninety of his men," he said. "That's how we know we weren't invited there - they came with ninety men and no women and children at that first Thanksgiving. Now, if it were a celebration and we were invited, obviously we would have brought our families to partake. Once we were there, we set up camp for three days and took part in their celebration, and that's when Massasoit sent out his men to get deer."

This allied relationship did not last long and what happened next is often glossed over in the history books: war, land theft, forced migrations and genocide for Native



Americans. Weeden says he has conflicted feelings about Thanksgiving, and that this is the general consensus of his tribe. He recalled some not-so-accurate teachings about Native Americans he received in elementary school about Thanksgiving - and how his family was not happy with it.

"At third grade in school, I was required to learn about the Wampanoags and we had some crazy assignments," he said. "One of those assignments was to go home and come up with a Native American name. I remember my parents were pretty livid about it. They said, 'Well, my kid already has a Native name and I don't think you should be exploiting our culture.' We had to do a presentation and kids were dressed up in potato sacks and colorful headdresses and the other class was Pilgrims and they had their top hats on. They made us do this choreographed dance to 'Pocahontas' and my dad was pretty mad. He's a big activist in our tribe. His name is Annawon Weeden; he's been in a couple documentaries. He went to the school and talked to the principal. Sure enough, when he talked to the principal, the principal said, 'Well, I'm sorry, Mr. Weeden. We won't have this happen again.' And as he was saying that, my cousin was walking down the hallway and he was a Pilgrim and this was a Wamponoag student. We still see things like that. But the biggest picture here is trying to correct history and pointing out stories like my story."

Speaking about other members of his tribe, he said, "There are a lot of mixed feelings [over Thanksgiving]. You have the Day of Mourning, which is where a bunch of tribal members will go up to the hill at Plymouth and go protest and march around the town. But then you'll have them partake in Thanksgiving and cook dinners with their families. Our people around this time would harvest and get together and celebrate, so I think it's more of a family celebration as opposed to a celebration of what happened to our people."

Asked what important Native issues he thinks need more attention and understanding in school and in the media, he had a very precise answer: ending stereotypes. "I worked at Plymouth Plantation and you'd get people coming through there and ask, 'Did you guys have wizards?'" They'll also make war whoops at him. "That's just because of what everyone's been taught. A lot of people seem to think there are no Indians East of the Mississippi. They don't think we're here anymore."

In the midst of all this, Weeden is doing what he can to keep his culture alive and encourage and inspire Native youth. Speaking about his involvement with the United National Indian Tribal Youth, he said, "It is one of the largest and oldest Native youth-led organizations. It's been in existence for about 38 years. There are 135 youth councils in 35 states. All the youth councils from Indian country go to a national convention and while we're there, we'll talk about issues that face Native youth, like suicide and alcohol. There's an executive committee, which consists of area representatives. My sister, who is the Princess Sassamin Weeden, is the Northeast Area representative and vice president of the executive committee. Out of that, the regional representatives and the whole youth will elect a co-president and I have the honor and privilege of being this year's Male Co-President." He has some very specific ideas in mind for his goals, including more suicide prevention work on reservations.

He's also one of the teachers at the Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project. "I'm a language teacher for the project," he said. "I studied the language under Jessie Little Doe Baird, who is the vice chairperson of our tribe and also the linguist who revised the language through documents. We have a team of nine people and I work with the younger kids. We're trying to open up a charter school. There are a handful of us who speak the language, but if we don't pass it on to our next generation, we're going to lose it."

### Open Seat on Election Committee

The Election Committee currently has an open seat and is searching for a new committee member to assist with the election process. Tribal Members interested in serving on the Election Committee may contact Committee Chairwoman Kim Frye at [kfrye@mwtribe.com](mailto:kfrye@mwtribe.com) or call (774) 238-2129.



## Finish Your Degree with College Unbound

The Mashpee Wampanoag WIA department and the Rhode Island Indian Council have partnered with Charter Oak State College to provide Tribal Members with a great way to complete their degree through a tailored online bachelor's program. The program, College Unbound, is designed as a pathway to obtaining a bachelor's degree that was put on hold at another college or university. An informational session will be held on December 12 at 3:30 at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center for anyone that is interested.

College Unbound is an accredited bachelor's degree program in Individualized Studies granted by Charter Oak State College. The program is best suited for adults that started a degree program, but were unable to finish. As adults, you've learned to manage work, community, partners, children and life and you will be able to draw on these experiences to succeed in this program.

The curriculum is flexible in tone, delivery and support. It is personalized around the unique skills, knowledge, and needs of Tribal Members - acknowledging that students have different goals and are at different places in their lives. Specific bachelor's program concentrations are tailored to meet your needs. Coursework is not separate from the student's life - something they get to in the evenings after a full day at work when the kids have gone to bed. Instead, the learning is woven throughout the student's day and takes advantage of the opportunities that provides.

The College Unbound curriculum is not "instead of" a traditional college curriculum; it is a curriculum with its own integrity, designed to be relevant to you, the times, and the economy.

Students in this program create personal learning plans using interests, strengths and identified knowledge and skills gaps to chart a path to earning a bachelor's degree. Prior learning experience is honored and credited. Students work their plans by engaging with a variety of online resources, courses and discussions, participating in workplace learning experiences, and designed and completing high-interest projects.

Students maintain online portfolios of their work, and twice per semester demonstrate knowledge and skills through public analysis of their work. Credit is awarded when students demonstrate competencies in skills and knowledge.

The WIA staff and director Yvonne Marie Tobey are dedicated to providing its members with the tools they need to become self-sufficient and self-reliant through gainful employment. The department accomplishes this by partnering with the Cape and Islands Workforce Investment board and the Career Opportunities program. In addition, the Mashpee WIA department assists adults with obtaining basic skills instruction and GED preparation. For more information about WIA and its programs, please visit [www.mashpeewampanoagtribe.com](http://www.mashpeewampanoagtribe.com) or call the department at (508) 477-0208 x 170.

## Open Enrollment for Health Connector

If you are enrolled in a Health Connector plan or have temporary MassHealth coverage, your coverage is ending soon. You must re-apply for coverage during the open enrollment period, November 15 through February 15, 2015. If you are not sure when your coverage is ending and when you need to enroll, please visit [www.MAHealthConnector.org](http://www.MAHealthConnector.org).

Sign up early and save! Your 2015 plan might save you money. Enroll by December 23 for a full year of savings.

If you have questions about enrolling for the first time, your current plan or making a change during open enrollment, you can get free in-person help from an Enrollment Assistant in your area. These are people who have been trained and certified to answer your questions and to help you complete your application.

Visit [www.MAHealthConnector.org](http://www.MAHealthConnector.org) to find Enrollment Assistants in your area.

For more information about Health Connector, please Visit [www.MAHealthConnector.org](http://www.MAHealthConnector.org) for answers to Frequently Asked Questions about open enrollment or contact Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Health at (508) 477-0208.

## Loss and Grief Support at Health Services

Have you recently felt like life is not worth living?

- » Wish you had died instead of having to emotionally suffer through a loss?
- » Feeling numb or disconnected from others?
- » Having difficulty performing daily activities?
- » Feeling anxious, nervous, or fearful?
- » Feeling guilt or remorse?
- » Feelings of irritability?

How does one deal with loss and grief? Grieving is an individual experience. How one grieves depends on factors to include your life experiences, your faith, your personality, how you cope and the nature of the loss.

Many different types of losses can cause grief, some are:

- » Death of a loved one
- » Divorce
- » Relationship breakup
- » Miscarriage
- » Loss of health

You may feel like the excruciating emotional pain felt will remain for a lifetime. But in time healing will happen and your spirit will be renewed.

Professional help is available: Contact the Mashpee Wampanoag Health Service Unit and make an appointment with a Clinical Therapist today. (508-477-6967)

"Only people who are capable of loving strongly can also suffer great sorrow, but this same necessity of loving serves to counteract their grief and heals them." - Leo Tolstoy

## Avimco Partners with Tribe

Alicia Imhof, CEO and owner of Avimco, a Native American and small disadvantaged business, has partnered with the Tribe to assist with a variety of projects. The company offers global and local solutions by providing technical services, program support and information solutions to its clients. Imhof said that the company's overall mission is to "provide world class technical services."

"Under Avimco's umbrella of expertise, we provide program support and information solutions to our clients around the globe," Imhof said. "Our plan as we work alongside the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe to execute a multi-pronged approach, which will include a donation program, training development, and scholarship options. By ensuring community development, we can remain dedicated to the Tribe."

## Education Department Makes it Easy to Apply for Scholarships

**T**he Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Education Department have posted applications on the Tribe's website at [www.mashpeewampanoagtribe.com](http://www.mashpeewampanoagtribe.com) for the 2014-2015 academic year. Students accepted into or currently enrolled in a graduate or undergraduate degree program are encouraged to visit the website and start applying as soon as possible. Below is a quick overview of some of the opportunities available to our students. If you have any questions, please contact the Education Department at (508) 477-0208 x151 or send an email to [education@mwtribe.com](mailto:education@mwtribe.com).

### Spring 2014-2015 Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Scholarship

Open to enrolled members of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe that are enrolled or accepted into an undergraduate or graduate program. Applications are due Tuesday, January 27 by 4:30 p.m. Scholarships will be up to a maximum of \$1,000 each semester for undergraduate and \$1,500 for graduate studies.

### Academic Enrichment Scholarship from the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Education Department will be setting aside funding through the scholarship fund to address the needs of Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal members seeking to attend an Academic Enrichment Program, such as class trips, study abroad, educational prep-programs and conferences. The purpose of this scholarship is to give tribal members the opportunity to reach and achieve their educational goals. Applications are accepted August 1 to July 31 and provide up to \$1,000 for grade school, \$2,000 for undergraduate and up to \$3,000 for graduate students.

### Udall Foundation Native American Undergraduate Scholarship

Open to American Indians and Alaska Natives pursuing a undergraduate degree in Tribal Policy, Native Health Care and Environmental studies. Applications are due by March 3 and scholarships are up to \$5,000.

### United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) Scholarship

Open to all graduate and undergraduate students from a USET member Tribe, including the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. Applications are due April 30 and range from no less than \$750 for undergraduate and \$1,000 for graduate students.

### Connecticut Native Inter Tribal Urban Council

Open to Native American students that live in and attend a college or university in Massa-

chusetts, Connecticut, or Rhode Island and are enrolled in a nursing or pharmacy program. The application deadline is typically April 30 but has not been announced.

### The One Native Nation Foundation Scholarship

Open to all undergraduate and graduate Native American students. The application deadline is January 31 and the scholarship amount is determined after the January 31 deadline and prior to March 1.

### One Native Nation Catching the Dream Scholarship

Open to all undergraduate and graduate students from a federally recognized tribe and that are attending a college or university in the U.S. on a full-time basis. Applications for summer school are due March 15 and Applications for the fall are due April 15. Scholarship amounts range from \$500 to \$5,000.

### Association of American Indian Affairs Scholarship

Open to undergraduate students from a federally recognized tribe. Application process opens on March 1. Additional details will be available after March 1.

### Association of American Indian Affairs Displaced Homemaker Scholarship

Open to undergraduate, adult students who are attending school for the first time or put off completing their undergraduate studies to raise a family. The scholarship amount is \$1,500 per academic year.

### Association of American Indian Affairs Elizabeth and Sherman Asche Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship is for undergraduate and graduate students who are enrolled in federally recognized tribes and who are seeking a degree in health or science curriculums. Each award is \$1,500 per school year.

### Naval SEA Systems Command and Strategic Systems Program Scholarship

Open to all Native American, Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian that are enrolled or accepted as a freshmen that is seeking a degree in Navy-relevant Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (STEM). The application deadline is October 15 and is a one-time award of \$10,000 and an opportunity to apply for summer employment.

### American Indian College Fund Full Circle Scholarship

Open to all Native Americans attending a public or private college or university. Appli-

cations open January 1 and closes May 31.

### American Indian College Fund Graduate Students-All Colleges Scholarship

Open to all Native Americans attending a graduate program at any public or private college or university. Applications open January 1 and closes May 31.

### The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development Scholarship

Open to all Native American undergraduate and graduate students that are enrolled in or have been accepted into a full-time program and are pursuing a business degree. Applications are due September 15.

### Association of American Indian Affairs Graduate Scholarships

AAIA provides a variety of graduate scholarships that are open to all Native American students seeking a Master's or PhD in any curriculum as well as those seeking their law or medical degree. Applications are due March 1. The scholarship amount is \$1,500 per academic year.

In addition there are a variety of scholarship opportunities available to minority undergraduate and graduate students. A complete list can be accessed on the Education Department page of the Tribe's website at [www.mashpeewampanoagtribe.com](http://www.mashpeewampanoagtribe.com) along with application links.

## Resorts World Boosts Fundraising



Michael Speller, president of Resorts World of Massachusetts, presented Carol Lopez with a significant donation toward the Alice May Lopez Memorial Statue Fund during the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe weekly Gaming Authority meeting.

## Annual Potluck Brings Season Cheer

**T**he sounds of an intertribal social – drumming, singing, round dancing and the hum of conversation – along with the smell of home cooked dishes filled the gymnasium on Saturday, November 29. Drummers at the social included Mashpee Singers, Urban Thunder and Mystic River. There were also a variety of vendors and a fundraising table for the Alice May Lopez Me-

morial Fund with items that are going to be raffled off.

There was also a very special trip for the youth that was organized by Joanne Frye, Latoya Greene and members of our Youth Council. Thanks to their hard work, over 130 kids and family members were able to take a trip on the Polar Express along the Cape Cod Central Railroad.

