

# NYCP NEWSLETTER

My name is Josephine Mullen Atiemo, and I am excited to be one of the new Tribal Youth Advocacy Specialist for the Washoe County School District. It is an honor to join this community and work alongside you to support the growth and success of my students. I am committed to fostering an environment where each student feels safe, valued, and respected.

I worked as a Safe School Professional (SSP), in my previous role at the Washoe County School District. I assisted students and their families in utilizing school and community resources, advocating for students' needs and building healthy relationships with students and their families.

I have been fortunate to work with diverse groups of children, youth, and adolescents. I have 18 years of experience in teaching and mentoring students to become well-rounded, confident, and responsible citizens of their communities. I am compassionate, empathetic, kind, and respectful. I believe every child should have the opportunity to develop and reach their full potential.

I was born in Ghana and moved to the United States with my family in 2002. I attended Idaho State University and Walden University, majoring in Education and Child/Adolescent Psychology. My husband and I have two children. Our son is 19 years old and studying Electrical Engineering/Computer Science at Oregon State University. Our daughter is 13 years old and attends Depoali Middle School, Reno, Nevada.

I love to travel, read, cook, dance, and enjoy spending time with family and friends.

This month we are excited to welcome our two new TYAS. Josephine is working with Monica's schools in her absence and Delina is in for Lauren.

Tansi/How Uu/Hello,

My name is Delina Trottier and I am a Nehiyaw-Skwew (Cree Woman). I grew up on the Onion Lake Cree Nation located on the Treaty Six Territories (modern day Saskatchewan) but I have made my home here in Pyramid Lake, Nevada for the last 11 years. I am a mother of 2 amazing kids, my son is 15 and my daughter is 8 years old.

I am very excited to be working for the Family Schools Partnership program as a Tribal Youth Advocacy Specialist. I completed my Associates of Arts degree in 2021 at TMCC. Currently, I am enrolled at UNR and very close to completing my bachelor's degree where I am majoring in Psychology. My degree choice coincides with my goal of coming back to serve and work with and for our Native American community.

Having said that, I am looking forward to my time here supporting our native youth reach their educational goals and milestones.

Kinanaskomitin (I am thankful) /Pesa Uu,  
Delina Trottier

# EXCITING NEWS ABOUT THE EXPANSION OF PAIUTE LANGUAGE IN WCSD!

WCSD Receives a Native American Language (NAL) Grant from Office of Indian Education (OIE) to begin October 2024

Washoe County School District's (WCSD) Young Mustangs-Strong Futures Project (YMSF) goal is to revitalize the Numu (northern Paiute) language and indigenous knowledge in northern Nevada for more than 130 PreK through 5th grade students currently enrolled at Natchez Elementary School (Natchez ES) located in Wadsworth, NV. Natchez ES is a WCSD public school located on the sovereign lands of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe (PLPT). A historic agreement executed 40 years ago created an opportunity to leverage the resources of the nation's 56th largest school district to support a public school on tribal lands with 98% of the current students federally recognized tribal members. In the past, Natchez ES was led by a system that supported learning through dominant white cultural practices with the cultural practices of the Numu People on the fringes. Until now, the dreams of educational success have not been realized. The YMSF project intends to change this dynamic through three objectives:

Center Numu language and cultural practices in instruction in PreK through 5th grade through multi-disciplinary, culturally relevant instructional units and project-based learning; Increased student well-being through engagement, love of learning, awareness of cultural and linguistic identity; and Expand student and family engagement in culture, language and traditional ways of knowing and being.



## Seal of Biliteracy

Washoe County School District is proud to be part of a team working with the State of Nevada to create a pathway for the Great Basin Languages to be included in the state's Seal of Biliteracy program. The seal that goes on a student's diploma indicates a high proficiency in the language and provides greater educational and vocational opportunities for students.

Community members from across the state, Elders, WCSD staff and State of Nevada DOE staff convened this summer to begin outlining this work.

We are excited to see the progress coming!



# ORANGE SHIRT DAY MONDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

Orange Shirt Day originated in Canada (Williams Lake, British Columbia) in the Spring of 2013. At the age of 6, Phyllis Webstad (Northern Secwepemc (Shuswap) from the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation) attended her first day at the St. Joseph Mission Residential School. Upon arrival, she was stripped of all her clothes, including her orange shirt that been gifted to her by her grandmother. Phyllis's story reflects that of many Residential School survivors who report countless acts of physical, sexual, emotional, and spiritual abuse which they experienced while being forced to attend these Residential Schools. The St. Joseph Mission Residential School operated from 1891 until 1981. Phyllis's mother and grandmother were also survivors of Residential Schools. The tradition of Orange Shirt Day was created in recognition of the untold experiences and traumas that children faced after being separated from their families.

Orange Shirt Day is now an annual commemoration which happens on the 30th of September every year.

In Phyllis's words, Orange Shirt Day "is a day to honor and remember Residential School survivors and their families. Every Child Matters even if you're an adult. We must also remember those children that never made it and are no longer with us. Today is a day for survivors to tell their stories and for us to listen with open hearts."

Residential Schools for Indigenous children, both in the U.S. and Canada, were both government and Church run institutions. Indigenous children would be stolen from their families and forcefully brought to the schools. Once at the Residential School, the purpose of these institutions was to strip the children of every piece of their culture, history, and identity as Indigenous people. The methods implemented to achieve this immoral purpose were often violent and always abusive. In many ways Residential Schools were designed as institutions of genocide. The legacy of these institutions is the generations of trauma that they are directly responsible for, as well as the murder of thousands of Indigenous children.

From: [nasa.org.uiowa.edu](https://nasa.org.uiowa.edu)

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Listen to the stories of elders as they express how residential schools affected and continue to affect their lives and families
- Honor and remember the lives of those who were lost at the hands of these institutions
- Support indigenous businesses and causes
- Wear an orange shirt on September 30th
- Continue to educate yourself about the history of residential schools





# SAVE THE DATE FOR COLLEGE FAIR



11:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M. | OCTOBER 20, 2024

Registration for  
Students and Families

<http://StriveFair.com/wacac>




For more information visit  
<https://www.washoeschools.net/collegefair>





# Contact Us!



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