



Nov. 6, 2006

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Cooperative Education  
Department

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Shelley Hanson  
Director  
Spirit Mountain Community Fund  
9615 Grand Ronde Road  
Grand Ronde, OR 97347

Dear Ms. Hanson,

As a faculty member at Lane Community College I strongly support building a longhouse on campus to serve our students. I believe it is essential for the college to provide culturally appropriate learning experiences for all students and a longhouse would meet this need for Lane's native students. My experience coordinating internships for native students from many different tribes has strengthened my belief that a longhouse will contribute to a welcoming and supportive environment for them. The longhouse will help native students understand that the college is committed to their success in higher education as well as provide a culturally appropriate location in which gatherings and learning can take place.

A longhouse on the Lane campus will serve non-native students and the local community as well. The longhouse will stand as a visible and tangible symbol that Lane values and supports an inclusive, culturally diverse environment. Non-native students and community members will be able to learn more about native cultures through the courses and programs offered in the longhouse thus contributing to their respect for cultures different from their own.

I believe that the longhouse will also help in Lane's efforts to attract and retain a diverse faculty. As one of the 19 board colleges of the League for Innovation in the Community College (an international organization with over 750 members dedicated to strengthening and growing the community college movement) Lane has re-committed to improving faculty diversity. In my role as Lane's representative to the League, I facilitated a feature article about Lane's Native American Student Program, including our commitment to the longhouse, in a League member on-line publication. Lane, in conjunction with our League partners, sees the development of a more diverse faculty as an essential goal for community colleges.

By fostering a strong native student program that will serve our current and future students well, we also hope that some of these students will choose to continue their education and become educators themselves. Your support of the longhouse will help us realize our goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tamara Pinkas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tamara" and last name "Pinkas" clearly distinguishable.

Tamara Pinkas  
Cooperative Education Coordinator, American Indian Languages  
Lane's League for Innovation in the Community College Representative  
(541) 463-5011