

# Contributors for HCC Lesson Plans



## **Michele Balagot, Lushootseed Language Manager**

Michele Balagot is a Tulalip Tribal member and the Manager of the Lushootseed Language Department for the Tulalip Tribes. She has worked for the Language Department since 1997.

She has a Bachelor of Art and teacher certificate for K-8 from Western Washington University, and a Masters degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Phoenix.



## **Natosha Gobin, Lushootseed Language Teacher 1A**

Natosha Gobin is a Tulalip Tribal member with Snohomish, Snoqualmie, Puyallup, and Sauk Suiattle ancestry.

She has been a Lushootseed Language Teacher 1A for several years and received motivation particularly from her grandfather Bernie Gobin, her grandmother Elsie Price, and community leaders and teachers Jerry Jones and Ray Moses.



## **Mytyl Hernandez, Hibulb Manager**

Mytyl is a proud member of the Tulalip Tribes. She received her bachelors and associate degrees from Columbia College. Currently, she is the Manager of the Hibulb Cultural Center in Tulalip, which has given her the opportunity to share the culture of the Tulalip Tribes with visitors, community members and dignitaries from near and far. She feels this work has also opened the door to teach the true history of Tulalip, while working toward breaking down stereotypes and stigmas attached to Indigenous People.

She enjoys committee work, elected to Tulalip's Planning Commission 2009-2017, and Chairwoman for 7 years; active member of the Marysville Tulalip Chamber of Commerce Board, also serving as the Events Committee Chair; member of Archbishop Murphy High School Board of Trustees and Advancement; also serving on the Tulalip Veterans Committee. Working for Tulalip since 2003, she has been part of fundraising, grant writing, curriculum development, event planning, budget management, surveying, branding and cultural education. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling with her family, cheering on her children while they play their favorite sports, teaching yoga and watching football.



**Aaron Jones, Treaty Rights Protection Specialist**

Aaron Jones is a member of the Tulalip Tribes of Washington. He is a descendent of Snoqualmie, Duwamish, Wenatchee, Malahat, and Saanich ancestors.

Aaron works as a Treaty Rights Protection Specialist for the Tulalip Tribes Treaty Rights and Government Affairs Department. He works closely with the Tulalip Climate Change Program and sits as a steering committee member for the Puget Sound Climate Preparedness Collaborative. He strives to protect and ensure the current and future access to treaty reserved resources for Tribes members, as well as promote and strengthen the sovereignty and self-determination of the Tulalip Tribes on local, federal, and international levels. Aaron graduated from Tulalip Heritage High School in 2011 and went on to receive his Master of Public Administration at The Evergreen State College in 2016. However, he recalls his most fun learning experiences running through the woods with his older siblings in the 1990s and early 2000s, where they would observe and interact with the environment through the changing seasons.



**Lena Jones, Hibulb Education Curator**

Lena Jones is a Tulalip Tribal member with Snoqualmie and Malahat ancestry.

She has been the Education Curator since the Hibulb Cultural Center opened in 2011. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Human Services from Antioch University, with a focus on Tulalip history and government, and a Master of Arts in Organizational Management from the University of Phoenix.

She feels honored to help share the ancestral knowledge and wisdom of our elders, and feels blessed to know our youth will be able to learn about some of our beautiful culture.



**Alana Kupersmith, Teacher**

Working as a teacher since 2014, Alana Kupersmith has always had the goal of making learning accessible for all types of students. She graduated from SUNY Albany with a major in history and art history, shortly followed by Masters degrees/certificates in ESL, Special Education, and Elementary education.

Currently, she teaches in a local Washington State school district and is pursuing an EDD in Curriculum & Instruction at Kansas State University.

The lessons Alana provided and the corresponding <https://www.alkcurriculumproject.com/> site is a method of research and methodology for her doctoral dissertation.



## **Lois Landgrebe, Lushootseed Teacher Assistant**

Lois Landgrebe is a Tulalip tribal member from Snohomish, Duwamish, and Nez Perce ancestry. In the Snohomish culture, family trees are unique, and it's important in our culture to state family member names for oral traditional recording. Lois is from the Henry family name on her mother's side. Her maternal grandmother was Duwamish from the Jackson family and a descendant of Chief Seattle. On her birthfather side, she is also Nez Perce. She was relinquished at birth and was adopted out at 1 year old to the Berreth family. She was reunited with her birth mother at 21 years old, got enrolled into The Tulalip Tribes, discovered her people's history, background, and was hired to learn and teach the endangered language, Lushootseed, in 1994.

She attended Wenatchee Valley Community College and Antioch University, graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Studies and minor in Elementary Education. She was state-certified in Lushootseed through the First People's language and History Certificate to instruct k – 12. She was also nestled under the care of two national treasures, Vi Hilbert of Upper Skagit and Raymond Moses of Tulalip. She carries some of their gifts that are stories today. She was NISA's Chairwoman of 2017 and 2018. (\*Northwest Indian Storyteller's Association) Lois recalls a quote from her beloved late mentor, Vi Hilbert, who once told her..."We breathe life into our stories, the testimony of our ancestors. Share them so they are remembered and respected as verbal gifts."



## **Ryan Miller, Director of Treaty Rights and Government Affairs**

Ryan Miller is a Tulalip Tribal member and the Director of Treaty Rights and Government Affairs for the Tulalip Tribes. He has over 15 years of experience working in the Natural Resources field and received his degree in Native Environmental Science from Northwest Indian College.

He is on the board of Qualco Energy and on the steering committee for the Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy.

He represents The Tulalip Tribes on the Snohomish and Snoqualmie Watershed Forums and a number of other forums and committees throughout the State of Washington

He enjoys serving his community by protecting tribal self-determination, sovereignty and treaty rights and seeing the positive results from the work his department does.



### **J.D. Mowrer, Hibulb Video Producer/Director**

J.D. Mowrer is a Tulalip Tribal member. He started recording and producing videos at and about Tulalip since being a Summer Youth Worker in 1999.

He worked at KVO5-TV in Bellingham as a production assistant and reporter.

Since 2013, he was involved in five Tulalip video projects that played at the American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco.



### **Michelle Myles, Lushootseed Language Teacher 1A**

Michelle Myles is a Tulalip Tribal member with Snohomish ancestry. Her mother's family is Jones/Charles and her father's side is Myles.

She is currently teaching at Heritage High School. She has seven children. She has worked at the Lushootseed Department for over 17 years and has compassion for our language.



### **Courtnie Reyes, Hibulb Museum Assistant**

Courtnie Reyes is a Tulalip tribal member and the Museum Assistant at the Hibulb Cultural Center.

Aside from being with friends and family, one of her most favorite things to do is spoil her niece!

She loves learning about her culture, as well as educating those around her.

She enjoys music and spending time with her pup!



### **Cary Michael Williams, Lushootseed Teacher Assistant**

Cary Michael Williams is a Tulalip tribal member whose parents are Monique Steffins and Andy Williams 1st. His grandparents are Herman Williams Sr. and Genevieve Williams and Jim and Gloria Arnold. He is the father to Carymichael Kamekona Williams and husband to Shelby May Williams.

He enjoys working in our communities of the Tulalip Tribes and directly working with our tribal youth to ensure future generations will be connected to their traditions as he was from a very young age.