Green River College
Information Technology

The information technology program at Green River College, which is located amid rural towns and small cities touched by the Seattle tech economy, is expanding access to the region's abundant software development, cybersecurity, data science, and networking jobs for longtime residents and newcomers alike.

For many, Green River's IT pathway begins with dual enrollment in high school. It continues through both associate and applied baccalaureate degrees, and can even extend via articulation to master's degree programs in Seattle and Tacoma.

Through a recent partnership with the Muckleshoot Tribal College

and planned relationships with other tribes in the region, the college's IT program is significantly increasing its Native American student enrollment and opening up new opportunities to bring IT courses to tribal students. In 2018-19, more than 100 Muckleshoot students began Green River IT coursework taught at Muckleshoot by faculty who are trained and supported by instructors at Green River.

Partnerships between community and tribal colleges that offer not just courses but full programs in STEM fields that lead to good jobs are relatively rare. Green River is able to build such a partnership in part because of IT instructor Tim Mason, a tribal member. "The staff at Muckleshoot Tribal College

are colleagues," Mason says. "We meet regularly and help coordinate assessment and advising for their students. I go down to their students and meet with them. We let them know we care and are interested in their success."

Program leaders and staff don't just do a great job promoting representation at the college—they also take it upon themselves to conduct research into their equity practices and outcomes and share it with the field through presentations and publications. "Our faculty has a commitment to rigor that's helping our program be regarded as on par with community and the research literature," grants director Matt Swenson says. "We're helping to change the conversation in that regard." ■

**IT PROGRAM
REPRESENTATION:**

**BLACK, HISPANIC,
AND NATIVE AMERICAN
STUDENTS:**
36%

WOMEN:
28%