June 22, 2023

Dear Colleagues:

I write to share the news that Dr. Michelle Montgomery (enrolled Haliwa Saponi/descendant Eastern Band Cherokee) has agreed to serve as Interim Cohort Director of Muckleshoot Programs for the School of Education, effective August 01, 2023-February 29, 2024, following Dr. Robin Minthorn's last day at UWT on July 31, 2023.

Dr. Montgomery will work closely with Dr. Chris Knaus, who will step in as Interim EdD Faculty Program Director on August 01, 2023, and MEd Faculty Program Director Dr. Matthew Weinstein, on supporting our current EdD and MEd Muckleshoot cohorts.

Dr. Montgomery is Associate Professor of American Indian Studies and Ethnic, Gender, & Labor Studies in the School of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences here at UW Tacoma, where she is also Chair of the Division of Social & Historical Studies. She also serves as Assistant Director of the Office of Undergraduate Education at UW Tacoma. At UW Seattle, she is Interim Director of Undergraduate Studies and Adjunct Associate Professor in the School of Medicine’s Department of Bioethics & Humanities. Dr. Montgomery also serves as Co-Coordinator and External Indigenous Advisor of the Sustainable Leadership Program at the University Minnesota Morris.

Dr. Montgomery, who has been an Adjunct Associate Professor and Indigenous Curriculum & Community Advisor in the School of Education at UW Tacoma for three years, has long been connected to the Muckleshoot Tribe. Dr. Montgomery was instrumental, with Dr. Robin Minthorn and Ashley Walker at UW Tacoma, in addition to Dr. Denise Bill and Dr. Amy Maharaj with Muckleshoot Tribal College, in launching our inaugural Muckleshoot cohorts (EdD in summer 2020 and MEd in autumn 2022). Moreover, Dr. Montgomery was the student-selected EdD faculty speaker at our 2023 hooding ceremony, demonstrating her positive and transformative impact to students.

An internationally recognized scholar, Dr. Montgomery's research focuses on Indigenizing and decolonizing the climate justice narrative, environmental ethics connected to Indigenous Peoples’ identities, and eco-critical race theory to eliminate racial and environmental oppression.

I thank Dr. Montgomery for stepping into this interim leadership role. We will keep everyone apprised as new developments occur.

Respectfully,

Rachel Endo

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