

Stronger Together

UWT AND THA ADDRESS BULLYING IN THE COMMUNITY

Building a Safer Salishan

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UW Tacoma School Psychology students and faculty joined the Tacoma House Authority to confront bullying and strengthen community at a Salishan event on September 26, 2025, sponsored by the Salishan Association.

The gathering brought together residents of all ages to share experiences and insights about bullying in their neighborhood. Through a series of interviews and discussions, UW Tacoma students found that physical, verbal, and cyberbullying were the most frequently reported forms of bullying in the Salishan area.

Community members expressed a desire for stronger safety measures, such as more visible anti-bullying signage, enhanced security, and clearer systems of accountability. Many also emphasized the importance of collective action in creating a safer and more supportive community.

For the Salishan Association, this event was part of a broader mission to foster safe, affordable, and connected neighborhoods. The Tacoma Housing Authority offers housing and community support programs throughout Tacoma, serving as one of the city's most active community hubs. Through youth engagement programs and family-focused events, The Tacoma Housing Authority works to build an environment where residents feel empowered to address social issues, including bullying.

Students from UW Tacoma played a key role in facilitating the conversations. They not only gathered valuable data but also gained firsthand experience in community-based collaboration, an essential component of their School Psychology training.

Student Voices in Action

"It's important for us as students and future professionals to be involved in community events and educate students and families about different topics, like we did on this day," said Annia Barajas, second-year School Psychology student who participated in the event.

While residents appreciate the Salishan Associations' ongoing support and programming, more targeted anti-bullying efforts could strengthen community safety and cohesion. Enhanced educational outreach, youth leadership initiatives, and partnerships with local schools were among the suggestions that emerged from the discussions.

Moving Forward, Together

The Salishan Association and UW Tacoma plan to continue collaborating with residents to identify priorities and develop strategies that respond directly to community concerns. These efforts aim to create a safe and inclusive environment where youth feel supported and families feel heard.

Through partnerships like this, the Salishan community continues to demonstrate the power of collaboration between local organizations, higher education, and residents. By combining research, lived experience, and community engagement, Salishan is working toward a future where every young person feels valued, protected, and connected.

For more information about the Tacoma House Authority and its programs, visit www.tacomahousing.org



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