there's lots of tribes should have some basic knowledge of Native American law. This is one step towards that goal. Our numbers are gradually growing for Native American law students. We also have a solid cohort of non-Native students who are very interested in this area of law. The Washington State Bar Exam has Indian law as a testable subject and that brings students into my Native American law overview class. Many students plan on taking the Washington State Bar Exam." EagleWoman said the proximity of the Washington border to the University of Idaho, about six miles, certainly enhances that program.

There is also a broader Native American law program available that has four components.

"There is academic emphasis, membership in the Native American Law Student Association, working with me as the Native American law faculty member, and the fourth being in collaboration with Native American nations. We do that in a variety of ways. For example, I often have attorneys from the Coeur d'Alene and Nez Perce tribes speaking in my classes."

EagleWoman put out a call to students in October to start a NALSA chapter on campus and had 17 students respond. She reports it is now one of the most active organizations within the law school.

"One of the highlights this year was that we debuted, the first time ever for the new Idaho chapter, at the national NALSA competition. Our team placed fourth out of 44 teams and one of our team members, Kirstin Eldenbach, won second place in the oralist award."

"We're also in the process of building a tribal law clinic. It will look at collaborative projects with area tribes. For example, things like tribal code development, working on land issues, etc." Burnett expanded on the benefits of the Native Law Emphasis Program. "The practical experience combined with the academic side has a natural fit also with the mandatoriness. There is no compensation, no credit hours, but everybody does it. A number of students have chosen to link it with their work with tribes. There's a synergy between our pro bono program and our service in tribal outreach which can be facilitated by students completing the practical side to achieve the Native American law emphasis. That will be noted on their diplomas and will be increasingly useful for law graduates seeking employment in the West."

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