

# EDI CARES

# THE PULSE

## Tap In To It

SUMMER 2021

## SUMMER IN WAKANDA



**Top Left:** Summer program students close out the summer with EDI CARES Field Day; **Top Right:** Clover Park Upward Bound students and staff preparing to get on the water. Photo Credit: Vernon Ng; **Bottom Left:** Students engaging in morning ice breakers; **Bottom Right:** EDI CARES Staff Ashley Good helping student with beading during LINK Summer program.

EDI CARES kicked off the summer in a big way with the launch of our five summer programs. Each of our programs:

- Vaka
- Legacy of Indigenous & Native Knowledge (LINK) Summer Program
- Transforming Racial Equity through Emerging Scholars (TREES)
- Upward Bound (UB) Summer Academy
- UB Wakanda Warriors in the Workplace

focused on empowering historically marginalized students, culture and identity, college preparation, and STEM.



# EDI CARES Summer Programs Wins Foundation for Tacoma Grant!

The Foundation for Tacoma students in partnership with Pierce County, recently awarded EDI CARES a \$40,000 grant for providing empowering summer access programs for BIPOC and low income youth in Pierce County. The Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant supports summer programming that engages BIPOC populations in hands-on, experiential learning that builds critical social-emotional skills. Pierce College was the only college awarded during the first award cycle. This grant will be used to expand our access programs throughout the school year, and provide transformative and culturally relevant learning experiences to our most powerful and capable students Stay tuned!

## Upward Bound Warriors EDGE Summer Academy

Students enrolled in Summer Academy participated in a six-week program learning academic subjects using experiential and popular education models to create culturally relevant and diverse classes. This year, student learned Spanish in the context of the history of the United Farm Workers Movement, natural science with a focus on Polynesian Wayfinding and celestial navigation, culturally integrated math and English classes.



**Left:** UB students at the Billie Frank Jr Reserve; **Top right:** Students participating in a Dream Workshop with the UW; **Bottom right:** UB students and staff on the water in a double-hull canoe with Hawaiian Outrigger Club Ki Kaha o ke Kai.



With the support of English Professor Jenny Liou and Cultural Studies Instructor Sui-Lan Ho'okano, UB Summer Academy students produced a blog article about their experience titled, **"Wayfinding: Applying Indigenous Hawaiian Teachings to High School STEM Learning"**. Read their blog entry online at:

[bit.ly/ubwayfinding](https://bit.ly/ubwayfinding)



## Wakanda Warriors in the Workforce



Wakanda Warriors in the Workplace (WWW) is a career and education exploration program for students of color. Eleven students participated in a hybrid of in-person and independent learning, where they could identify their unique strengths, research potential career fields, and meet diverse, female professionals from a range of careers. WWW was created to inspire and empower students to complete this summer program with a network of professional contacts and a plan for pursuing their careers of interest.

## TREES Transforming Racial Equity through Emerging Scholars



**Above:** TREES Summer Program students and EDI CARES staff in Tacoma, WA discussing the history of the Hilltop Neighborhood and issues of housing, food, and racial justice with local community organizer and activist, Miriam McBride.



**Above:** TREES students at the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually Wildlife Refuge learning about local history, culture, and ecological restoration with Nisqually River Foundation. **Right:** TREES Summer Program students and EDI CARES staff at Pierce College Fort Steilacoom, Summer 2021;

The TREES STEM Summer Program explored themes of combating racism and environmental injustice, using technology to solve real-world problems, and building skills for lifelong learning and success. Students had the opportunity to use the Pierce digital design lab and makerspace to create technological solutions for social issues, explore local neighborhoods and history, and to interrogate how social change happens on a local level.

Check out the website students designed using skills taught in their Digital Design workshop, and reflections from their field trips at:

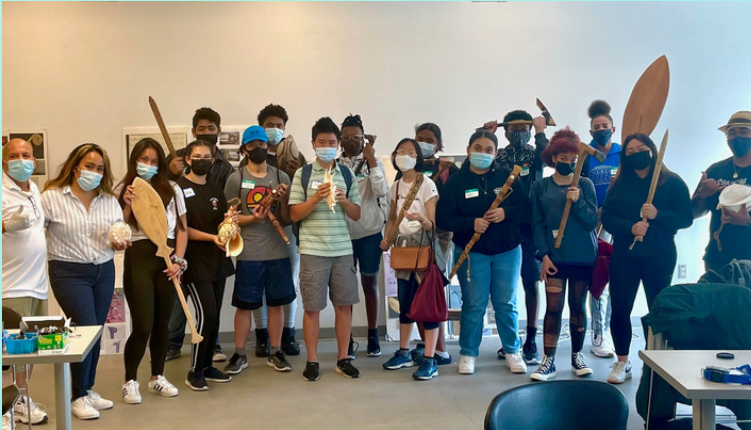
**[trees.piercedigitaldesign.com](https://trees.piercedigitaldesign.com)**





# Vaka Summer Program

Vaka provided students two 4-day options to participate in a program focused on STEM through a lens of traditional knowledge to better understand their connection to the environment and world around them. Students engaged in hands-on, interactive activities around environmental justice, and develop their college-going skills.



**Top Left:** Vaka Session I group photo; **Top right:** Students created a Hawaiian star compass across the Rainier lawn; **Bottom right:** Student builds a model canoe with Instructor Noel Quitigua, after storytelling session on traditional Chamorro navigation practices.

# LINK Summer Program

## Legacy of Indigenous & Native Knowledge

The LINK Summer Program engaged youth in knowledge building activities centered on Indigenous experiences. Student were able to engage in hands-on learning activities exploring their cultural-identity and worldviews to gain Indigenous knowledge. Activities included Indigenous beadwork, self-identity exploration, and land-connection.



**Top Right:** Students engage in beading activity. **Bottom right:** LINK students exploring habitat around Waughop Lake.



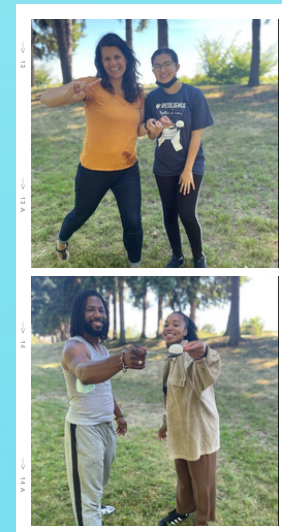
# CELEBRATING in Wakanda

## End of Year Celebration



## EDI CARES Staff Retreat

EDI CARES is all about building solidarity. On June 24th, we enjoyed an amazing team retreat where we played a few field games, painted ceramics, discussed summer programs, and enjoyed the company of each other. This was a great time for team bonding, and strengthening our vibranium before the start of our busy summer.





# CELEBRATING *in Wakanda*

Sending a huge congratulations to the accomplishments of our Wakanda family and members of their family.



## **Ashley Good, EDI CARES**

Graduated with a BA in Community Advocates and Responsive Education in Human Services.



## **Cynthia DePoe, Veteran Services**

Cynthia's daughter graduated from Oregon State University (OSU) with a degree in Ecological Engineering and a minor in Fish and Wildlife. Her son is a graduate of the Indian Education Program and will be pursuing a degree in Mechanical Engineering at OSU this fall.



## **Jasmine Justice, EDI CARES**

Jasmine's daughter Josiah graduated from Harrison Prep and will be attending Eastern Washington University this fall to study Environmental Biology.





# *Pierce College* CULTURAL CALENDAR

In collaboration with EDI CARES and Marcom, we would like to introduce our very own Pierce College Cultural Calendar featuring dates of affinity and cultural celebrations. You can check it out here: [www.pierce.ctc.edu/calendar/cultural](http://www.pierce.ctc.edu/calendar/cultural)

Do you have an observance you would like to suggest for the Cultural Calendar? Please email [webupdates@pierce.ctc.edu](mailto:webupdates@pierce.ctc.edu) with your suggestions and feedback.

## Pierce College *at* NCORE 2021

Thank you to all that attended NCORE 2021, we had an amazing group of twenty-four faculty and staff and one of our amazing Pierce College 2021 NCORE Student Scholars, Alex Horen. If you missed you this year, not to worry. You can catch up on NCORE webinars and other EDI CARES events online at: [intranet.pierce.ctc.edu/EDI/events.php](http://intranet.pierce.ctc.edu/EDI/events.php)

## EDI CARES Squad Spotlight

Tap in to The Pulse to learn a bit more about our EDI CARES team. This month, we are spotlighting Michelle Tate, our EDI CARES Administrative Assistant.

### Favorite Quote

"Just because you can doesn't mean you do"

### Food

Brussels Sprouts

### Song

Greg Street ft. Nappy Roots- Good Day

### Activity

Hiking -Gardening



**Michelle Tate**

Administrative Assistant III