



WSU EXTENSION
Chelan/Douglas County

March 25, 2022

Administrative Professional Advisory Council
Washington State University
PO Box 641038
Pullman, WA 99164-1038

AP Contribution Award Selection Committee:

It is my honor to nominate Linda McLean for the Administrative Professional Advisory Council's Contribution Award.

Linda began her career with WSU Extension in 2007. She was hired as an Extension Educator funded through the FRTEP (Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program) to provide outreach education in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and 4-H Positive Youth Development on the Colville Reservation. In 2014, Linda was the appropriate choice to become the first Director of the newly formed WSU Colville Reservation Extension Unit.

Linda is an enrolled member of the Colville Confederated Tribes. She has the competence to readily communicate with tribal members and navigate the Tribal government systems because she understands the languages, customs, and traditions of the Colville Tribes. She developed effective working relationships with the Tribal Council, various tribal programs, individual producers, and families to become a trusted resource for Extension outreach education.

Growing up in the 4-H program, first as a member and then as an adult volunteer, Linda understands the importance of a well-run 4-H program. For more than 30 years, she along with her family, has raised cattle and dryland crops. Once again, she has an appreciation and direct understanding of the issues families and farmers face with limited income, dependence on the weather, marketing impacts, limited broadband communication and rural isolation. Add to this list annual raging fires, drought and then the pandemic.

During the last fifteen years, Linda built a nationally recognized educational program that continues to meet the changing needs of the agricultural producers, families and youth living on the Colville Reservation. Linda has excelled in Extension outreach work.

Linda is very forward thinking. She can anticipate a need and act quickly to make things happen to help her audience. For example, when wildfires hit, Linda was able to move swiftly to educate and provide information to the tribal communities on pertinent topics including - *Emergency Feeding of Livestock; Removing Smoke Smell from Homes; Cleaning up Fire Retardant; and Ember Proofing Your Home*. Her credibility empowered her to coordinate an inter-agency meeting for tribal members affected by the fires to meet with local, state, and

federal government program managers to learn what kinds of services were available to them. In 2021, amid drought and extreme heat, she developed a one-page handout about Fireworks Safety. To help prevent fires caused by fireworks, her easy-to-read flyers were available to all local fireworks vendors to give to their customers. The Tribal Planning Department adopted this handout and made it a permanent part of their fireworks permit process.

Linda is very innovative in her agriculture and food sovereignty work. In 2020, COVID-19 restrictions required office closures and forced educators to be creative with their educational offerings. Prevented from providing her usual Spring Food Sovereignty Garden workshops, Linda developed the drive-thru workshop concept and changed the trajectory to focus on fall gardening. To make the workshops more meaningful for her Native American audience, Linda focused on reintroducing Inchelium Red Garlic. This garlic is the oldest strain of garlic grown in North America. It originated on the Colville Indian Reservation in the small community of Inchelium. People came from all over Washington state to participate. Requests for the garlic were received from as far away as Kansas and Arizona. Native American people learned about ancestral gardening and non-native people learned about Inchelium Red Garlic. They planted and grew the garlic and they were able to consume and share their harvest. A second garlic workshop series was held in 2021, with plans to make this an annual event.

Linda's audience is primarily Native American. She reaches out to other Native-serving organizations to bring education to the reservation. She successfully collaborated with the Intertribal Agriculture Council to host a Youth Food Summit. Teens across the Pacific Northwest came to the Colville Reservation. They interacted with teens from the Reservation and shared their knowledge and ideas, all centered around Food Sovereignty. This innovative opportunity allowed these teens to learn more indigenous and ecological knowledge, as well as realize and understand their own heritage. Linda was honored and featured in the 2021 Intertribal Agriculture Council Success Stories Publication that highlighted Successful Collaborations.

Linda is very competent with collaboration and encourages partnerships with tribal organizations and WSU. Native American youth face historical trauma and high rates of drug and alcohol use and suicide in their communities. The pandemic only increased the stress and isolation. To help tribal youth and their families cope with these issues, Linda teamed with Colville Tribal Behavioral Health and the WSU Family Research Unit (CAFRU) to provide 200 tribal youth with self-regulation or stress management kits. Four hundred more kits will be distributed to every youth in the reservation schools. Working with Rural Resources to reduce hunger during the pandemic, 1000 dozen chicken eggs were distributed to limited income families. She successfully secured \$6250 through tribal programs to support Colville Reservation 4-H Market animals sold through virtual market sales when county fairs were cancelled.

Linda effectively utilizes diverse Advisory Boards to guide her educational emphasis. She is also a mentor and consultant to other Extension Educators and tribal program leaders who seek guidance as they develop tribal programs that are inclusive. She teamed with FRTEP colleagues to present a *Collaborative Leadership* session to Land Grant University educators. She regularly has peer-reviewed presentations at national conferences, serves on a variety of state and national committees and receives national recognition for her work.

The Tribal Extension budget shows a pattern of steady growth and she has successfully secured multiple grants to support her outstanding work. For example, in 2019, Linda and colleagues received a USDA NIFA award for the "Okanogan River Airshed Partnership Award" (air quality emphasis); in 2021 the Center for Disease Control awarded Linda and colleagues \$340,205 to study rural youth and their firearms handling; and in 2021, the National Council on Aging awarded a \$81,180 grant for the Aging Mastery Program to assist elders to age gracefully and maintain their cognitive abilities.

Linda is organized and professional. She easily networks with others. She collaborates whenever possible to enhance the impact of projects. She is committed and dedicated to the youth and to the residents of the Colville Reservation. She has successfully connected WSU researchers and professors with tribal programs for the benefit of the people. She consistently seeks new opportunities for 4-H youth to keep them engaged in activities that support healthy living, good decision making and career planning. Using her critical thinking skills, Linda makes wise, well-thought out decisions. She has a way of visioning that makes her Extension Outreach programming targeted and successful. Whether it is for youth or for adults, Linda takes the time to ensure a positive experience for everyone that engages with her.

These two videos links will provide you with visual evidence of Linda's work with both an adult natural resources audience and a 4-H activity for youth that was well received during the pandemic when families were home:

Slow Burn Natural Resources Video - [slow burn - M3 Agriculture](#)

4-H Seed Bomb Video - <https://youtu.be/rcF5V9FhNhY>

To conclude, Linda serves with distinction as a WSU Extension Educator. She has a symbolic relationship between WSU and the Colville Reservation that have proven to be invaluable for tribal relationships. Her educational programs provide tribal members with access to information and training that is imperative to their success as agriculture producers, families, and youth. Many Extension people admire and strive to achieve what Linda has accomplished.

I trust you will give consideration to awarding Linda McLean with the AP Contribution Award. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



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