



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF EARLY LEARNING

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Dear Tribal Partners,

It is with great excitement that I introduce myself to you as the new Tribal Liaison for the Washington State Department of Early Learning.

My name is Tleena Ives. I carry the ancestral names of Ha?Ha?mu and Kwewatanat. I am an enrolled member of the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe and am also a descendant of the Suquamish and Colville Tribes. I have several years of experience in tribal education & the early learning fields; including Managing a Tribal Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting Grant for the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Cultural Specialist and Parent Involvement Coordinator for the Suquamish Tribe's Marion Forsman Boushie Early Learning Center, and as Lushootseed Language consultant for the Suquamish Tribe's ANA Language Program.

A single mother of four young children, I am driven to make the best life possible for them by utilizing cultural resources that surround our tribal communities. This serves to make them happy and healthy culturally and sets them up to be future leaders. My family, culture, and health are my biggest passions. In fact, I will soon be speaking at the Harvard Conference on Native American Running: Culture, Health & Sport. I will also be running in the famous Boston Marathon, so watch for me as I cross the finish line with the Nəxʷsłáyəm flag!

I am excited to work with the tribes and the state as I assist DEL in fulfilling its mission, commitment and obligation to provide quality early learning to all children in our state—emphasizing partnerships in regards to the needs and strengths of Native American/Alaska Native citizens of our state.

I look forward to connecting with you soon so I can learn about the wonderful work you are doing and how I can be a resource to your tribal early learning programs.

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Kids' Potential, Our Purpose