



## PRESS RELEASE

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION

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### **Colville Tribes Hold Remembrance Event After Passing of Longtime Employee**

**(Nespelem, WA)**- The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation (Colville Tribes) held a remembrance event today in the auditorium of the Lucy F. Covington Center after the unexpected passing of longtime employee and tribal member, Gloria Atkins. She was 70.

“I’ve known Gloria my entire life,” lamented Colville Business Council Chairman Rodney Cawston. “To not have her here, among us, in all places and in all times is a huge loss for our community.”

Gloria was an active participant of the Wenatchi Advisory Board since its inception in 1999. She strongly and consistently advocated for the fishing and gathering rights and for the federal government’s promise to establish a reservation for the Wenatchi people. She was a traditional food gatherer for the Nez Perce Longhouse and for her Wenatchi people. She always travelled back to her traditional homelands to gather traditional foods and to honor her ancestors during Memorial Day weekend.

Nearly 100 employees participated in the remembrance, sharing stories of her 45+ years of service in the Tribes’ Education Department. These stories highlighted Atkins’ friendly demeanor, passion, dedication, drive and now her legacy. Atkins served approximately 150 students per year as the Tribes’ Higher Education Director. She was credited to having touched the lives of all students.

“She was the matriarch of the Colville Tribes,” said Cawston. “She has helped so many.”

The event was an important step in celebrating Atkin’s memory. Employees were encouraged to honor the employee who has asked little of her Tribe but gave so much. At the conclusion of the event, administration offered services for colleagues who may be feeling overwhelmed. Grief counselors were available onsite.

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About the Colville Tribes:

Today, more than 9,526 descendants of 12 aboriginal tribes of Indians are enrolled in the Confederated Tribes of the Colville. The twelve tribes which compose the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation include: ščəlámχəx<sup>w</sup> (deep water) or Chelan; walwáma (Wallowa people) or Chief Joseph Band of Nez Perce; sǰ<sup>w</sup>yʔiłp (sharp pointed trees) or Colville;

šntíyátk<sup>wəx</sup> (grass in the water) or Entiat; snšáyckst (speckled fish) or Lakes; mət<sup>w</sup>u (blunt hills around a valley) or Methow; škwáxčənə<sup>w</sup> (people living on the bank) or Moses-Columbia; nspilm (prairie) or Nespelem; uknaqin (seeing over the top) or Okanogan; palúšpam (people from Palouse) or Palus; sənp<sup>w</sup>ilx (grey mist as far as one can see) or San Poil, and šnpəšq<sup>wáwsəx</sup> (people in between) or Wenatchi.