

Port Madison Enterprises Honors Casino Employees with Certification in Tribal Gaming Management

Port Madison Enterprises (PME) recently honored nine new graduates of the Tribal Enterprise Gaming Certificate Program in a ceremony held at the Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort. The program, developed by PME in partnership with Olympic College, was launched in 2009 to provide Clearwater Casino employees with a comprehensive overview of tribal gaming operations and hone the skills necessary for career growth. The graduates, all casino employees, comprise the second class to graduate the program, bringing the current total number of graduates to 23.

At the heart of the program is PME's desire to give casino employees the opportunity to achieve their goals. It is intended to broaden employees' knowledge and understanding of the casino business beyond their current job descriptions and to build their confidence to pursue other positions within the company.

"PME is always looking for ways to develop employee skill sets that are essential to the future growth of this company," says Human Resources Director Barbara Griffin. "This program allows casino employees to feel empowered and challenged to explore creative solutions and business ideas."

The Tribal Enterprise Gaming Certificate Program currently consists of six classes: Introduction to Gaming; Customized Corporate Training; Hospitality; Introduction to Marketing; Human Relations in the Workplace; and Casino Financials. Each class is taught by Olympic College instructors and takes place over a 10-week period at the PME Training and Resource Center. Graduates receive a certificate in Tribal Gaming Management, as well as 15 college credits that can be applied towards other college programs.

PME covers the program tuition for its employees, as well as books and fees. In addition, employees are compensated for the 3 hours that they are in class each week. The program is expected to begin its third year in fall of 2013. A seventh course, *Introduction to Retail*, will be added to the curricula.



Graduation Photo, back row from L-R: Karl Post, Randy Johnson, Richard Williams, Carlos Miguel, and Andrew George. Front row from left to right: Shanel Greer, Karin Dunn, Karin Escalante, Dawn Nichols and not present; Leslie Sarale.

New in 2013, the PME program committee will be reaching out to not only PME employees but also to Suquamish tribal members in an effort to give the entire tribe a chance to earn this certificate if they wish to do so.

After 60 weeks of projects, tests and presentations graduation day finally arrived and the ten employees held their heads high as they walked up to receive their certificate. During speeches the employees expressed their gratitude for a wonderful experience, for the team-building aspect and for an educational opportunity that some never thought they would have.

"Participating in this program has helped me realize that I am capable of reaching my true potential and willing to embrace challenges both personal and professional," said Tribal Liaison Shanel Greer.

Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort is operated by Port Madison Enterprises, an agency of the Suquamish Tribe that develops community resources while promoting the economic and social welfare of the Suquamish Tribe through commercial activities. ♣

For more information about the Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort, visit www.clearwatercasino.com.