Since Time Immemorial
Tribal Sovereignty in Washington State Curriculum

Why teach about tribal sovereignty in public schools? The answer is twofold:
- Tribal: Federally recognized tribes signed treaties guaranteeing education. This obligation has not been fulfilled. 90% of Tribal students attend public schools.¹
- Non-tribal: A recent study² on all 50 states found that:
  - 27 states do not teach about Native Americans at all.
  - Of the remaining that do, 87% teach about Native Americans from a pre-1900 context.

What is Since Time Immemorial: Tribal Sovereignty in Washington State³? A curriculum that is:
- Free and web-based http://www.k12.wa.us/IndianEd/TribalSovereignty/
- Tribally vetted
- Aligned with state Social Studies, ELA, ESE and SEL standards
- Uses three pedagogical approaches:
  - Inquiry based: Asks five essential questions to begin understanding tribal perspective.
  - Place based: Centering the perspective and context of tribal ways of knowing.
  - Integrated: Allows flexibility in how teachers integrate lessons into existing curriculum throughout the year.

What is the future of STI?
- Stronger relations between the state, tribes, and school districts.
- Curriculum continues to be developed including tribally-specific curriculum.
- Implementation models and resources continue to be developed.

Renewing relations: In order for STI to attain success, there must be strong relations between the state, tribes, and school districts that are timely, meaningful, and sustainable.

Implementing Since Time Immemorial:
Training for STI has doubled in size and frequency; more dynamic with tribes. Meaningful partnerships forming with Early Learning, K-12, and Higher Ed.

Legislative building in Washington State:
In 2005, HB1495 was passed ‘encouraging’ the teaching of tribal history, culture, and government. In 2015 SSB 5433 modified ‘encouraged’ with ‘required.’ In 2018, SB 5028 passed requiring STI be integrated into all teacher preparation programs.

Relationship building in Washington State:

Dispelling ‘myths’ about the implementation of Since Time Immemorial (STI):
- True or false: STI is for tribal students only?
  - False: STI is required for all students of Washington State.
- True or false: STI should be implemented by Title VI—Indian Education only?
  - False: STI implementation is best implemented by all levels of administration, including collaboration with Title VI educators, and by being teacher driven.

Office of Native Education
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
http://www.k12.wa.us/IndianEd/

¹http://www.ncai.org/policy-issues/education-health-human-services/education
²http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00933104.2014.999849
³http://www.k12.wa.us/IndianEd/TribalSovereignty/