



From Boarding School to Resiliency

FROM THE HEART

DISCLAIMER: DO NOT TAKE THIS PERSONAL OR ACCEPT THE BLAME

Take a little journey with me

Tulalip boarding School

▶ <https://youtu.be/2TMjIDF4ho8>

Colonel Richard Pratt

- ▶ 1879 Established the Carlisle Indian School in Carlisle, Pennsylvania
- ▶ His motto was “KILL THE INDIAN TO SAVE THE MAN”
- ▶ His intention was to completely assimilate Indian Children into white society

Assimilation

- ▶ Forbidden to speak our Language
- ▶ Forbidden to practice our Spiritual Beliefs and to use our songs and dances
- ▶ Military Experience rather than Traditional Parenting Practices
- ▶ Take away our traditional hunting and gathering
- ▶ Trained to be blacksmiths, farmers, seamstresses,
- ▶ Half the day on industrial training and other half on academics
- ▶ Termination
- ▶ Relocation
 - ▶ How has that affected our Tribes



Losses that we have Suffered

- ▶ Loss of our Language
- ▶ Loss of Cultural Lifeways; hunting, gathering, traveling
- ▶ Loss of traditional parenting skills
- ▶ Loss of our Identity
- ▶ Loss of our Lands

What we Gained

- ▶ Generational Trauma in our DNA
- ▶ Physical and Mental Abuse
- ▶ Alcoholism
- ▶ Multiple issues on the ACES scale
- ▶ Poor sense of identity

Resiliency

- ▶ We are still here
- ▶ We regained our opportunity to practice spirituality in the Longhouse through providing “treaty days”
- ▶ In 1972 our tribe had 750 tribal members and now we are over 5,200.
- ▶ We have worked to revive our Language and to practice our Spiritual Ways. In the 70's our grandparents gathered in the community to work on saving our language
- ▶ In 1992, our tribe received our first grant to do Language Revitalization.
- ▶ Our Canoes brought back more of our Cultural Ways through Canoe Pulling, Sharing Songs, Dancing and sharing stories and teachings with our young people since 1989 “Paddle to Seattle

Resiliency continues

- ▶ Betty J Taylor Early Learning Academy brought all of our Early Learning Programs under one roof to help us be consistent with our education for our Birth to Five Children.
- ▶ Started providing language to our Birth to three children five years ago and it is making a difference.
- ▶ Sharing with Birth to Five children is key to our resiliency as they grow up knowing who they are and experiencing our traditional language, stories, songs and foods.
- ▶ Developing relationships with families is key to success for our children
- ▶ One of the things that we experience now is our child visitors that moved to our new school.

First Traditional Clam Bake at BJTELA

- ▶ <https://www.facebook.com/TulalipNews/videos/3355922571331577/>
- ▶ <https://vimeo.com/722754743>