A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

The College of Education and Human Development at Eastern Washington University has evolved directly from the earliest foundation of the Normal School at Cheney, an institution founded in 1889 out of the Benjamin P. Cheney Academy that had begun instruction in 1882 with over 200 students. The stated designation of the Normal School at Cheney established its creation “for the purpose of instruction of persons, both male and female, in the art of teaching the various branches that pertain to a good common school.” In 1907, the first academic departments emerged and among the units created was the Professional Department, which in 1909 became the Department of Education and Psychology. Physical Training, the forerunner of our current Department of Physical Education, Health, and Recreation was another of the early departments in the original Normal School.

In 1911, the Department of Education and Psychology was renamed the Department of Education, with psychology classes offered as part of the Education Department’s program. The institution was designated Eastern Washington State College (EWSC) in 1961, and organizational restructuring resulted in the creation of an independent Department of Psychology in the early 1960s. Both departments were part of the Division of Education and Psychology, which became the School of Human Learning and Development (SHLD) in 1971.

At the time of the creation of the SHLD, the Department of Psychology reorganized into two separate departments; Applied Psychology (renamed Counseling, Educational and Developmental Psychology in the summer of 1999), which remained in the SHLD, and Psychology, which joined the School of Letters and Sciences. The SHLD also adopted oversight of the present-day Department of Physical Education, Health, and Recreation. These three departments, which had historically been separate entities, followed National trends within their disciplines and reorganized as a larger unit under SHLD in the early 1970s.

Upon adoption of the current designation of Eastern Washington University in 1977 as appointed by the state Legislature, the divisional titles of Schools within the old College structure changed to titles of Colleges under the new University model, thus establishing the current College of Education and Human Development. The faculty, staff, and students take pride in a long history of contributions to education, cultural diversity, wellness, learning, and development.