

Michael Tuncap

Miget (Michael) Tuncap was born in Aniguak, Guam & raised in South Tacoma by the late SSGT David Gumataotao Tuncap & retired para educator Violeta San Nicolas Tuncap. Tuncap is a Chamoru descendent of the Matao people with maternal lineage from the Acfalle, Salas, Borja, Aguon, Babauta & paternal lineage from the Terlaje, Bordallo & Aguon clans dating back 4,000 years of ancestry in the Pacific ocean.

Tuncap has worked in education & race relations at the local, state & international level since 1998. Professor, director, mentor, father, husband, son, coach, Brother Tuncap embodies a type of real world revolutionary.

As a student, “Mikey” graduated from UW Seattle in Communications & Political Science & from UC Berkeley in Ethnic Studies. Tuncap earned fellowships at the University of Virginia in Race & American Politics & the UC Berkeley Goldman School of Public Policy. Tuncap worked for 5 years with the UW admissions & OMAD programs, ASUW Board of Directors & with the Ethnic Cultural Center. Tuncap is the co founder of the Student Ambassadors, UW LEADERS, PIONEER & the nation’s first Pacific Islander Student Commission. As a student activist, he lead the 1998 UW walk out closing the 520 bridge in support of affirmative action law.

Since 2005, Tuncap has been regarded as one of the Northwest experts on youth empowerment as a trainer & keynote speaker for over 59,000 people from over 118 universities, and conferences in the United States, Canada, Mexico & the Pacific Islands. Tuncap has served on the Board of Directors for the NAPA, Communities in Schools & the Asia Pacific Cultural Center. He has been a featured keynote alongside some of his heroes like Governor Gary Locke, Dr. Joy DeGrue & Lee Mun Wuh.

As a practitioner, having spent over 17 years with the state’s leading diversity experts, Tuncap became the co-author of *the DEHPD 16 Steps in the Hiring Process* and serves on the WA state Faculty & Staff of Color Conference (FSOCC). Tuncap served 4 years as the Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion at Green River College. He served as Program Manager for Community Engagement with



AANAPISI at Highline & as an Educational Adviser for Evergreen’s TRIO UB at Clover Park High School. He now serves as TRIO SSS Director at Seattle Central College, one of WA’s historically black colleges (also Evergreen Tacoma).

As a teacher, Tuncap has been credited for building innovation in classes. From 2003-09, he taught with Ethnic Studies, the Fall Program for freshmen and the American Cultures to over 1,200 undergraduates at the University of California Berkeley. He taught Communications with the TRIO Upward Bound program at Evergreen State College (Mt. Tahoma, Lincoln, Foss, Clover Park) which published the 2012 *Breathing Stories 2 Life*. He served as adjunct faculty in Diversity & Global Studies at Highline College & adjunct professor of Sociology for Northwest Indian College-Muckleshoot. Professor Tuncap teaches Hip Hop Music & Culture as an adjunct professor of Humanities at South Puget Sound Community College. Professor Tuncap is now teaches in the new minor in education & community engagement for the college of education at UW Tacoma.

Tuncap served on Guam’s 2009 delegation to the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization in New York. He is published in *Matamai: The Vasa in Us*, an anthology of indigenous writings from the Pacific Northwest. In October 2019, Professor Tuncap will return to the United Nations in New York with a state wide delegation of students who have “graduated” from the WA State Student of Color Conference.

As a consultant, Tuncap co-founded, the Men of Culture Academy (MOCA) in 2019 to provide two state wide pathways for equity in employment: one focused on youth & another to provide professional development for employees from all classifications. MOCA is a direct result of Professor Tuncap’s 11 years of service with the Students of Color Conference.