

What's Next? podcast

Brandon Larrabee

[Snippet from Podcast] Brandon: And I think it's, like, come in as the changing of the guard here pretty soon, where there will be a big influx of more young indigenous people moving into positions of power. We'll continue to see a lot of, I don't know if I'd call it healing, but reconciliations and things moving in a better direction for indigenous people as a whole.

[Bouncy theme music plays.]

Cody: Welcome to the What's Next? podcast. Let me just start off by saying. Not everyone has the same background. There is no roadmap for success. Life begins at the edge of your comfort zone. Leaning into your curiosities. It does suck when you grow up. We're all still figuring out who we are. You can't just sit back and be silent. Black lives matter. It is the little stuff that makes the biggest difference. Do you have another hour? [Laughs]

[Bouncy theme music fades.]

Cody: Hello, Beaver Nation, welcome back to the What's Next podcast, I'm your host, Cody Stover. Joining me today is somebody who has done and is doing incredible work for the Native American communities with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He now works there as a cartographic technician, as well as a recruiter for the Northwest Regional Office. I'm super excited to get into all that that entails and tell his story. But without further ado, he's a 2019 OSU grad with a degree in geology and a certificate in geographic info systems. Brandon Larrabee, welcome to the show.

Brandon: Hey, thank you, Cody. Appreciate the introduction.

Cody: Of course. We appreciate your time. I'm excited on this episode to kind of get into the ins and outs of what you're doing now. I think for our listeners, too, it would be awesome to have a little bit of context on, kind of, your background, what brought you to

OSU, those types of things. So, talk to me about that. Where did you grow up and talk to me about the communities you're a part of currently?

Brandon: Well, I'm a member of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. I was born in Corvallis and spent the first one and a half years of my life there and then moved to Siletz, where I grew up until I was 18. Kind of came to Oregon State because that's where my parents met. Like I mentioned, I was born in Corvallis. They met, both as students, and I was born out there. I went to my first Beaver game at like five months old or something like that. And so, it's kind of just, that was always on the radar and then kind of got into my teenage years. And my dad was always a huge sports fan, so we had football season tickets. And so, I just spent most of my falls out there at games and it was always the place that I was going to go to school, I think.

Cody: It's kind of that natural progression.

Brandon: Yeah, exactly, although I did get my associate's degree from the Oregon Coast Community College, which was a great experience, too, before I got my bachelors at Oregon State.

Cody: Yeah. What was it like growing up kind of over in that coastal area or a little bit more in that region?

Brandon: I love the coast, Siletz is about 15 minutes or 15 miles as the crow flies from the ocean. So, we're like one or two ranges over and we don't get a lot of blustery, stormy coastal weather, but we're close enough to hit the beach on weekends and go surfing and go crabbing and grow up doing all those kinds of outdoor things.

Cody: Yeah, that's the best of both worlds right there. So, you come to OSU in 2016, Why do you choose geology, or why did you choose that as your field of study?

Brandon: Well, I originally came to Oregon State in 2008. My dad passed away just two months before I graduated in 2008, high school, and kind of altered my life course for a while. I had already gotten into Oregon State, so I continued with that plan, without being kind of emotionally or mentally in a good place or in the right place to be taking classes, so I failed out pretty quickly, by winter term, and then took the rest of the year

off. And then tried to go to Linn-Benton the next year in 2009, and kind of was still facing the same issues and failed out. And later that year, I got a couple of felonies for marijuana possession, just partying and drinking too much and now running around late at night got picked up and had marijuana on me. And so that was in like 2009, which really kind of altered my course for a while, I guess, I got probation and that was two years, and so for kind of 2009 to the end of 2011, I was just running around getting into trouble mostly. I never went to counseling or did anything for the loss of my father, and that really took a toll on me. Kind of something that I came to understand more as time passed, like just how big the loss was. Well, like in 2012, it was like June, I went to jail June 30th for, I was just into public intoxication and stuff and I had kind of a relationship with the local cops.

Brandon: I had worked at Dutch Bros. for a couple of years, so I sold a lot of them coffee and they just knew me from being in trouble and stuff. But I went to jail and then my probation officer came to see me that next Monday, I went to jail on a Friday night, that seems to be how it always goes, so you can spend the weekend. But she came and saw me on a Monday, and I told her to see if you can help me get into rehab and stuff, you'll never have another problem with me. And she met me when I was 19 and saw a young kid with a ton of potential. Like, my hat's off to her and I'm very grateful for her because a lot of the kids I grew up with out in Siletz, once you get put on probation, you're just kind of in and out of the county jail for a lot of years. And so, she worked with my tribe and they got me into an inpatient rehabilitation center. And that was the night there, June 30th was the last night that I drank alcohol, and I've been sober ever since. So that was in 2012. The next year, I just kind of spent getting my life back together, working and enrolled at Oregon Coast Community College.

Brandon: And they had sciences there that we had to take to fulfill our science portion of our degree or whatever. And there was a biology course and then there was a geology course that was at 6pm, from 6-9. And I never really liked biology in high school, so I signed up for the geology course and I took that for the whole year, always at that 6-9pm slot, and it was pretty cool. We had an old professor from Texas that was just a really cool guy, not kind of what I thought someone from Texas would be like. And he would just teach us stuff for the first half of class and then put on a movie, or we would do a lab for the second half. And after a year that I kind of thought like, hey, this is what I can do when I go back for my bachelor's degree. I always liked the concept of

being outside and being on rocks and kind of view geology, if you understand it, it's kind of like the Book of the Earth. You can turn the pages back and understand what was going on at times in the past. So that's kind of how I got into geology at Oregon. It's kind of a long-winded answer, but that sums it up.

Cody: Yeah, I really appreciate you sharing all that and all the details of that as well. I appreciate your vulnerability in putting that out there, that takes a lot of strength, so thank you so much. So, I'm curious too now, so you go to OSU, study geology and you said that so beautifully about kind of, I'm going to butcher it now, but the books of the Earth or what did you say that look, turning back the pages of the Earth to look at it - what a beautiful expression you just had there. Did that kind of reign true for you once you got into the studies at OSU, did that continue to be kind of like this thing that filled you? Talk to me about that.

Brandon: Absolutely. I mean, the whole geos department at Oregon State is absolutely great. And specifically, the geology professors think every class that was, you know, started with the G. We had a field trip until we really got to go out and experience what we were learning firsthand in the real world. I think that was another big factor for why I stuck with geology, because it seemed like a way to get outside and go camping as a career. That's not necessarily what I'm doing right now or where I will be in the future, as my passions have kind of evolved over time, and I think I want to do more to help people and break down barriers for indigenous students and indigenous youth. But, yeah, I had a great time with the geology program. I kind of, was a little bit felt like, they call it imposter syndrome, I felt kind of out of place coming back out to Oregon State. I was like 26 at the time, so I was older than a lot of my fellow classmates and I spent the first year a lot of my time down at the Native American longhouse, Eena Haws, and kind of found a great community there. But by the next year, I had taken enough geology courses where I kind of was friends with my cohort and I got involved with the geosciences club on campus. I don't remember what the question was that you asked, but that was a long-winded answer.

Cody: That's perfect. Yeah, I was wanting to hear about your time at OSU, so that's super cool to hear how it kind of got connected and plugged in to what those folks in the major. I feel like that's a common one, that as we all went to OSU, no matter what part of our life we went to it at, you have that same feeling of like, where am I going to get

plugged in here? And then a lot of times too, it is those folks that you see day in and day out in your classes. So that's cool, thanks for sharing that.

Brandon: Yeah, absolutely. And I also kind of felt like I had to get involved and kind of go above and beyond, just with those felonies hanging on my record. I thought I was going to have a tough time getting hired after graduation, so that's kind of what drove me to get involved with the geosciences club. I ran for, like the vice president of that club and we took 25 students down to Argentina for spring break and also got involved doing research this year, so it's one of the professors there. But I kind of tried to get myself, I don't know, out there and make those connections while I was there as sort of an insurance policy for in case I graduated and wasn't hireable because of the felonies.

Cody: Yeah. I'm curious too, I know that this year, and we don't have to talk about this long, we can jump to other stuff. But I'm curious for your thoughts too, I know this year, especially in Oregon, held some legislation that helped to decriminalize some of these things that, like you said, can be on people's pasts, but shouldn't be a reflection of their futures. Do you have any thoughts there or any ideas around why that's important?

Brandon: I would like to see records expunged, of course, says someone with a record. But I think that's something that hangs over, probably a lot of people's minds, and something they think about after they do have an occurrence like that with the law and get a felony or something. They might not even see the value in furthering education if they don't think that they're hireable, and especially for marijuana where it's legal now, it's been legal for a couple of years. It was legalized just a couple of years after I was charged, but that's still something that hangs over my record for, I think, two more years and then it's available to be expunged off my record. But I would like to see that happen for everybody's records through legislation just because, I don't know, I view it as no worse than alcohol. I grew up with alcoholism in my family and saw the terrible consequences of that and so, yeah, that's kind of where I stand on that.

Cody: Yeah, I appreciate you sharing that. And yeah, I know that we all can do a lot better at striving to take care of those around us, those struggling and those going through stuff and approaching those things without judgment, but with love. So, yeah, I appreciate you sharing your thoughts there.

Brandon: Yeah. Everyone has a story, and, you know, I think we're all just trying to get our basic needs met, whether that's physical or emotional. People mostly just need help and someone to care about them. I couldn't have done it without my mom, throughout my whole time and years, drinking and getting in trouble. She was always a steadfast rock and support for me, like, helping me and hoping that I would get through it and knowing that I eventually would with support, and I honestly couldn't have done it without her support and the support of my tribe as a tribe or a sovereign people and a sovereign government. So, we have the ability to allocate funds to programs like that for our tribal members, and I think that's a place that the United States needs to head. As one of the richest nations in the world, we have these funds to allocate and take better care of our citizens, and I think that it's something that we owe to the people of this country.

Cody: Yeah, it seems like, as you're saying, that, too, it sounds like in your experience, it was a beautiful showing of community support and like really digging into that word community as being like a key thing. Rather than just an individual going through something, a community taking it on as well as the individual seems so valuable.

Brandon: I agree 100%.

[Bouncy theme music plays.]

Cody: Hey, listeners, this podcast is proudly supported by your local Toyota dealers. As the official vehicle of Oregon State Athletics, Toyota is a proud partner of Oregon State, both on and off the field and congratulates all OSU alumni for their accomplishments and achievements. Visit your local Toyota dealer or Toyota Dotcom to find the perfect vehicle for you.

[Bouncy theme music fades.]

Cody: I want to get into what you're up to now. Take me through, like, how did you get involved with the bureau and talk to me about what you're doing now?

Brandon: It's honestly kind of a funny story, too. I had interned a couple summers with my tribe doing GIS work, and I worked on kind of a big project, it's called The Multi-

hazard Mitigation Plan. It's a plan for FEMA that basically says how we're going to react to natural disasters, and so I got to do a lot of the mapping and work on that. And then, with being the vice president of the geosciences club on an international trip here and doing research with one of the professors there, I think I padded my resume pretty good. And so, when I was going to graduate, I was looking on USA Jobs, even though I was a little hesitant to because I didn't really think the federal government would be a viable option with having a felony marijuana record. But there was an internship for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and they hire, it's one of the, I don't know, regulations or something that says that the Bureau of Indian Affairs will give preference to Indian candidates, because the whole objective of the agency is to oversee the interactions between the federal government and sovereign tribal governments. So, those people who are working with Indian people should be Indian people, and so I applied to that internship just kind of on a whim. Even though I was about to graduate and looking for a full-time employment, I thought maybe I could just kick the can down the road a little bit.

Brandon: A couple of weeks later, I got an email back saying that I didn't qualify because I was graduating, and then I think a week or two after that, it was like the last week on campus before finals, I was leaving Wilkenson, and I got a phone call from a DC number, and I answered it and it was a woman with the BIA who ran the internship program. And she just kind of chatted with me for 10 or 15 minutes and said, hey, we saw your résumé, you seem like a super, highly qualified candidate and we don't want to miss out on you. Like, are you willing to work with us? And I was like, yeah, and I scheduled a meeting with her for the next week to talk because I like wanted to make sure she was fully aware of, like, my criminal history, not criminal, I shouldn't say that, but my record because I didn't want to commit to something that wasn't a guarantee and I still didn't feel like the federal government would hire me as a felon. But we talked and I told her everything that was on in my past and she said, no, work with it like we want to hire you. Like I said, everyone has a story. And especially in Indian country, there's so much historical trauma and just trauma growing up that you see on a day-to-day basis.

Brandon: I think that she understood the, like, we'll overcome adversity, be different. So, we started talking and she started working on the paperwork and in the meantime, I just went back and started working for my tribe. I was living with my grandparents, in the upstairs, and working with our behavioral health with the youth prevention and doing healthy traditions work. So, we would take some of our high school youth down to

southern Oregon, to some of our ancestral homelands. We took them down there for a couple of days and did some gathering of first foods and some seeds, the First Foods just was kind of restoration work for Meadow a nonprofit down there called Vesper Meadow, and so I got to do some work like that for a couple of months. But then as it was around November, my funding was going to end, so I called Gaila and I said, hey, I'm going to have to find a real job here if you guys can't do something for me because my funding's running out and I need to pay my bills. And so, she got a hold of me, I think, three or four days later and said, can you come up and start next Monday? And they brought me on as an intern in November of last year, and I was doing GIS work with the fire management here for the Northwest.

Brandon: And so, with them, I was just kind of collecting data from the different tribes in our region. We serve over, I want to say, 40 or 50 tribes for the northwest, and a lot of it makes up Oregon, Washington, Idaho and a little chunk of northwest Montana. So, there's a lot of fires happening out here and so I was just collecting data on fires, fire perimeters and fuel treatments. We're seeing kind of a return to indigenous land management practices, which I think is pretty cool and will be good for the land. So that's something that's kind of moving forward and the BIA, as they call it, fuel treatment, but it's basically like burning during the spring and the fall to clear out understories and just good land management practices, so you don't have these massive forest fires that are starting to become commonplace out here on the west coast every summer. And I did that, but it was November, like I said, so November, December, January, winter months, there wasn't much fire work for me to do other than for the last season, the 2019 summer. And so, I kind of, out of being bored, I talked to our regional director to see if we were doing any recruiting as the Bureau of Indian Affairs regional office, because it had kind of come to me just out of the blue, Googling potential internships and stuff. It wasn't that opportunity.

Brandon: The internship or the career path was never something I was aware of. And I didn't know about Indian preference. For me, like with the felonies on my record, it was kind of really life changing, it felt like to just go on this career path with the federal government where I will be able to make, you know, good money and hopefully make a difference in Indian country. But I never would have known that without Googling and just kind of lucking into it. So, I kind of brought that up with our regional director and then the program coordinator for the Pathways internship program, and they were both

on board. And so, I spent February, most of February, traveling to different universities - I went to Southern Oregon University, UO, OSU, I went out to Idaho State and University of Idaho, a couple up in Washington and just would meet with the indigenous student groups, whether they were student unions or student associations, and just kind of let them know about these opportunities. And I did that for a while and talked to my RD into letting me kind of make recruiter an official title on top of my internship duties. And then then in March, I was brought on full time for a position I had applied to in August, as a cartographic technician for the Division of Lands, Titles and Records, and that is what I have done since March.

Cody: Well, thanks for taking us all the way through that. I think it's incredible to call out there too, you had your main position and then you added this recruiting part, what it sounds like, because you wanted to help folks who were maybe in your same position and didn't get as lucky to just happen to Google the right thing at the right time. So, I love that you're trying to take the guesswork out of that and have the opportunities placed in folks who need them laps, or at least with the goal of getting those opportunities out there. So that's really cool that you proactively added that to your workload, seeing that I was important.

Brandon: Yeah, as I kind of got closer to graduation, I think my passions kind of shifted a little bit into wanting to do something for people or indigenous people, and I kind of see myself maybe in the future getting back into academia, as something of like an indigenous student, advisor, recruiter, retention specialist, and I thought this would kind of be a good way to get something on my resume that would qualify me for that down the road. And there's a lot of there's a lot of bad history between the BIA and indigenous peoples. They for a lot of years, were very harmful and detrimental to our indigenous communities. I grew up hearing stories about how terrible the BIA was and stuff like that, and for a lot of years, I think it was managed that way, but that's something that is they're trying to rectify. I think Indian preference hiring is a big way to do that, even though, there's so much to unpack in Indian country. There's some tribes that aren't federally recognized, which means that they don't qualify for that even though their tribe and ancestors have been living here for thousands and thousands of years.

Brandon: So that's a different conversation to have, but I see it moving in the right direction, and I think it will only move further in the right direction as more young

indigenous people are hired for the BIA. I think younger people are ready to, like, fight. I kind of see it as each generation has their fight to make things a little bit better and I think it's like coming as the changing of the guard here pretty soon where there will be a big influx of more young indigenous people moving into positions of power. I mean, for example, Deb Halaand being nominated or pu, as the secretary of the interior, I think that's huge, both for representation and just to have an indigenous person managing the public lands for the United States. I think moving forward, we'll continue to see a lot of, I don't know if I'd call it healing, but reconciliations and things moving in a better direction for indigenous people as a whole.

Cody: Yeah, and it's so important to have leadership be representative of the folks that they're serving, so that's really cool to see. I wanted to unpack just a little bit further too, your specific job currently with the bureau, talk to me about like the cartographic side of this. So, we heard about the recruiting. What are you doing on a day-to-day basis and how are you communicating with these different communities in the cartographic role?

Brandon: So, I was hired on with, I think there are, eight other cartographic technicians and we're all stationed in a region across the US. In Indian country, there's something called Trust Land, which is essentially reservation land that is held in trust by the United States government for whatever tribe it is held for and so there's a lot of this land across the United States and there hasn't been, I guess, data for it for a long time. It's always been in paper form, but as technology is moving forward, there's been a big push over the last couple of years to get all these old surveys and property legal descriptions mapped and then digital form. Yeah, so that's basically what I've been doing day-to-day, I just pick one of the reservations in my region and start looking for old surveys or whatever that may be, they're broken down in the tracks, and so I'll pick one that's not mapped yet and start looking for all the information that I need to map it. Sometimes that involves contacting county assessor's offices or county recorder's offices to get, you know, them, to scan a paper document from the early 1900s for me. And so basically, I have been working for the last nine months trying to create a digital representation for all the lands held in trust by the United States government for the Northwest.

Cody: Wow, that's incredible, you're collecting stuff that old or, you know, not even that that's that old relatively, but like digitizing that stuff that's on old paper and stuff like that. That's really cool. I was going to ask too, why is this work so important or what's the end

goal of it? Is it so that we have better legal, you know, descriptions or better legal rights to some of these pieces of land, or is it so that federal funding can be allocated correctly? Talk to me about what the high-level goal is of the work.

Brandon: Well, I think, for the Division of Lands, Titles and Records, who I was hired for and to complete all this mapping for, I think their main goal is to just get this represented digitally, because having all this records on paper isn't great for storage purposes, yes, I have a lot more filing cabinets. And just ease of being able to open up your computer, and if you're having an issue with a certain chunk of land, and you need to see where it is, being able to just open it up with a couple clicks is really useful. And a lot, you have different types of, I guess, parcels, you could have the surface rights to a parcel or the mineral rights. So, it's important for them to know when going into leases with mineral extraction companies, just where they have the rights to be drilling and stuff like that. I think long term and for us at the bottom level, we see as having this data just useful in terms of having data, knowing where this trust land is will benefit fire management to know where homes are.

Brandon: What is Indian country and Indian land versus what state or federal that's not held in trust for any sort of analysis that like the biology or natural resources people want to do, you got to know where it is, and you've got to have that data to be running that kind of analysis that they want. So, I think just having the data will spark kind of the use cases for it, because people aren't thinking of uses for something that doesn't exist. But if I'm able to give them a product that's clean and easy to digest that they can do something with, then they will be able to look at it and be like, well, this is beneficial for all of us. The Department of Transportation within their division, I think, is really important when creating roads on reservations and stuff like that. I think just getting the data created will open up a lot more opportunities for different divisions to just use technology and science more, to make better informed decisions, which then benefits Indian country.

Cody: Yeah, it sounds like, if I'm hearing there, too, just having that, opens up so many doors and allows that data that was spread out on paper and things like that, and makes it accessible at a large scale and quickly, too. So, that's really cool to hear. I was going to ask, too, for folks who are listening and folks who are outside of the native and indigenous communities, what, in your opinion, is the biggest thing that these folks can

be thinking about or doing in order to better support native and indigenous communities?

Brandon: Oh, goodness. That's a big question. I think, if people want to get involved and support indigenous communities and people, they just need to be proactive in searching for that, because there's a lot of organizations that are indigenous-led and indigenous-organized that are doing good work, so if you can get involved with them. Money is a big thing, donate. Activism looks different, there's not just one type of activism. So, finding out what your role is that you're comfortable playing or that you're willing to take and then kind of doing that to the best of your abilities, whether that is joining an indigenous-led organization and seeing how you can support them or just listening to indigenous people more and centering their voices in conversations where their voices deserve to be centered.

Cody: Yeah, thanks for sharing that, I know a big question, but I appreciate you, yeah, sharing some ways that folks who want to take that next step or interested or want to hear those stories more to wherever you are in that journey. Thanks for sharing that.

Brandon: Yeah, absolutely.

[Bouncy theme music plays.]

Speaker3: Hey Beaver Nation. I'm Ali and I'm a 2015 OSU grad and part of OSU Next. Figuring out your journey post-college in these times can be tough and it sometimes can seem like there's a lot flying at us all at once. We started the OSU next LinkedIn group to be a place for Beavs to support Beavs. Whether you're looking for tips on negotiating your first promotion, hoping to connect with others in your area, or simply trying to stay sane while working from home, we're here for you. Join us by searching OSU next on LinkedIn. Now back to the show.

[Bouncy theme music fades.]

Cody: I want to use this last little bit of the episode to dig into a few fun segments here that might help us learn a little bit more about Brandon, but I appreciate you sharing all of the above. These next couple ones, the first one is one we're calling, since we're in

2021 now, 2020 was a year unlike any other. I was mentioning in the previous episode that we have a lot of folks had resolutions like travel more and that sort of thing, which obviously didn't come to fruition probably last year. And like you said, we had a crazy fire season, but looking forward at 2021, what New Year's resolutions do you have for the year?

Brandon: I'm trying to buy a house next year, to be perfectly honest, that's my main focus. Yeah, just kind of getting back to spending more time with family, once things calm down a little bit more and just keep grinding and try and work my way into a position where I can help more, more indigenous youth. Yeah, I'm not a big resolution guy. I used to do resolutions like try and go out and, like climb two or three mountains this year, but as I've gotten older and graduated, it's more laid back, like trying to get a house.

Cody: I have so many resolution lists, too, that I look at, you know, eleven months later when it's the end of that year and I'm like, man I why'd I put like, yeah, like you said, three mountains on there, I didn't even get to one. I should do something more actionable or more realistic. But it's fun to dream at the time too. OK, this next one is a little bit just wanting to open up, if there's anything else you've considered career-wise, but the prompt is if I weren't a geologist or if I weren't a, in this case, I guess your current title is cartographic technician on this path, I'd be... and then blank fill in that blank.

Brandon: Oh goodness. If I weren't a cartographic technician, I would be... and this is if I could choose what I got to do?

Cody: Yeah, take this wherever you want it. Just, if you have, like, this other dream career in the back of your mind. Take it wherever you want it.

Brandon: Man, I had a buddy that recently got a job at NOAA, and I've been pretty jealous just at the science involved in his job. That was one of the big things that I liked about my time in Oregon State, was just going to sit in classes and have people teach me cool stuff about the world. And he got a job doing surveying of the sea floor down in Mississippi after hurricanes came through. So, maybe I would want to be doing something with NOAA like that, mapping or doing some hard science. Or maybe like a

program coordinator for, like, indigenous advising and recruiting at a university, I think that would be a pretty cool spot to find myself and I could make a big difference. Yeah, I think those would probably be where I would be if I could do anything.

Cody: Yeah, that's cool, yeah, I'm interested to see where people take that question, too, because I'm sure there'll be a mix of, you know, folks who want to be a singer in a punk rock band and versus folks who have a very practical next step that they have or see for themselves. So, yeah, thanks for answering that.

Brandon: Yeah, no problem. What would you be doing if you weren't doing the podcast or doing whatever you do?

Cody: Maybe, maybe me mentioning that example there at the end was indicative. I always have done music and always just for fun, but I'm always like, oh man wouldn't it be cool to be up on a stage playing music? Yeah.

Brandon: Are you still in Corvallis?

Cody: No, I live in Portland.

Brandon: Ok, same.

Cody: Ok, so we're virtually, probably not too far away

Brandon: That's something I missed a lot in the last year, was going out to shows and stuff.

Cody: I feel like when it's finally safe to do so again, that first show back that you go to is going to be, I feel like the feeling is going to be so cool because you're like, man, I missed this.

Brandon: Euphoric.

Cody: I know.

Brandon: It's going to be great.

Cody: Ok, this final segment is called Dinner for Four, so you can take this wherever you want to, but if you could have dinner with any four people, past, present, future. And again, this is non-COVID time, so you could actually be around the table with them in this scenario. But if you could have dinner with any four people past, present, future, who would they be and why?

Brandon: That's kind of, mine's probably sad. I would have dinner with, like my dad and my mom, and maybe my great grandma. But if I got to have dinner with, like, a second group of three other people, I don't know, maybe like AOC, Deb Hallaand and then, I don't know, maybe Chief Joseph would be pretty cool to have talked to. So, that's my fun answer.

Cody: Yeah, no to two really great answers. Yeah, totally. And I think for everyone, these last fun segments, too, people have different experiences, different journeys, different points in their life. So, I appreciate you taking us through that. So, yeah, that that concludes our fun segments and the episode as well. So, Brandon, I really appreciate you taking us through your journey to OSU and then also the work that you're doing currently. Thanks for coming on the show.

Brandon: Yeah, thank you, Cody, I had a good time. I appreciate it.

Cody: Yeah. To all our listeners out there, we will see you on the next episode.

[Bouncy theme music plays.]

Hey, listeners, our goal at LSU next to the alumni association is to build community, and that includes creating connections and sharing these unique stories with the rest of the nation. If you found this episode of the What's Next podcast valuable, you can help us achieve this goal by writing a quick review, leaving a radio and subscribing to the show in your preferred podcast player. We're thankful for your support.

[Bouncy theme music fades.]