



Kathryn M. Buder Center
for American Indian Studies

Brown School



Washington University in St. Louis



“The opportunity to have the Buder Scholarship was a real gift. I’m very grateful for it. ... If you take the scholarship, you pay it back to Indian Country; you do your service back. That’s a beautiful full circle.”

—Poem Swentzell, Santa Clara Pueblo, MSW '14

Buder Foundation Scholarships

For incoming American Indian and Alaska Native MSW students who plan to work in Native communities, the Kathryn M. Buder Charitable Foundation offers a select number of full scholarships. These scholarships provide tuition, monthly stipends, professional development opportunities, and books for two years of full-time study at the Brown School.

Upon graduation, Buder scholarship recipients commit to at least two years of professional service in Indian Country.

To prepare to become leaders in their chosen careers, Buder scholarship recipients each complete the American Indian and Alaska Native concentration within the MSW program, which includes extensive field experience in a setting serving Indian Country.

DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

The Brown School’s Center for Social Development provides a Buder Doctoral Fellowship. This fellowship is awarded to an outstanding doctoral student with expressed interest in American Indian studies and social work.



Students join the Brown School community to gain the analytical skills and knowledge to make great change happen. Scholars at the Brown School’s Kathryn M. Buder Center learn to apply these skills to impact the future of Indian Country. We invite you to learn more.

Buder Center

The Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies is committed to the education of American Indian and Alaska Native students, and to supporting their growth as scholars and leaders in the fields of social work, public health and social policy.

Curriculum options include the American Indian and Alaska Native concentration of the MSW program, as well as special programming related to violence prevention within Native communities. A range of courses address historical and contemporary issues facing Native populations from cultural, policy and practice perspectives.

Students also have the opportunity to participate in Buder Center research projects, as well as local and national program and policy projects that directly impact Indian Country.

Buder Scholars benefit from the resources, expertise and supportive community cultivated at the Brown School. Through in-class and applied learning experiences, the center prepares future American Indian and Alaska Native leaders to practice in tribal and urban settings, making significant contributions to the health, wellness and sustained future of Indian Country.



“The Brown School was a perfect match; however, what made it a fit was the Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies. Ultimately, they are providing the greatest skills and techniques to create the path to be change makers working in Indian Country to confront the most pressing social and public health issues.”—Brandon Smith, Navajo, MSW/MPH '19 Candidate

Annual Events & Programs

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS POW WOW

This student-run event brings together the Washington University community, the St. Louis community, and guests from across Indian Country to celebrate a rich heritage of dance, music, art and cuisine.

INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION

The Buder Center collaborates with a number of departments, schools and research centers at Washington University to conduct research and plan programs for students.

GUEST LECTURES

Throughout the year the Buder Scholars network with American Indian and Alaska Native professionals visiting St. Louis.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES

Special professional development forums offer Buder Scholars opportunities to expand knowledge and enhance professional performance and career development.

AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

Buder Scholars host a variety of events during American Indian Heritage Month, which recognizes vital cultural contributions of the past and celebrates hope for the future.

BUDER BLESSING

This traditional Native blessing celebrates Buder graduates and wishes them well on their journeys.

AMERICAN INDIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION

AISA is one of the Brown School's most active student-led affinity groups. The association includes Native and non-Native students who are committed to learning, preserving, and sharing the cultures of American Indian, Alaska Native, and other Indigenous communities. It provides a safe and supportive environment for members to explore cultural identity while advocating for diversity within the Brown School, as well as the larger St. Louis community.

AISA hosts many social and volunteer events for students, faculty and staff throughout the year, including visits to tribal agencies, lecture series, panel discussions and scholars' dinners.

“The Buder Center gave me opportunities to change critical public health issues within Indian Country, including food safety and access, hunger and nutrition, climate change and other environmental health issues, and public health infrastructure.”

—Lindsey Manshack,
Choctaw Apache Tribe of Ebarb, MPH '17



Practicum

Buder Scholars have many opportunities to expand their education outside of the classroom by completing their practicum/field placement in Indian Country. This placement can be with tribal, social, educational or governmental agencies on or off the reservation.

The Buder Center has established a network throughout Indian Country to help scholars secure appropriate practica. Students may also be able to formalize an affiliation with a new practicum site in a location or area of interest, including children, youth and family; community and economic development; education; gerontology; government; health; and mental health.

SAMPLE PRACTICUM SITES INCLUDE:

Denver Indian Family Resource Center
Intertribal Council of Arizona
National Native Children's Trauma Center
Navajo Nation Division of Social Services

Our Community

BROWN SCHOOL

The Brown School offers a top-ranked Master of Social Work program and an innovative, transdisciplinary Master of Public Health degree. Curricula for each program can be tailored to suit each student's personal and professional interests. The School also offers unique joint-degree programs, which include architecture, business, law, divinity, education, occupational therapy and medicine.

Our community of faculty, students, staff and graduates works throughout St. Louis, the country, and the world to apply new knowledge and use the best available evidence to impact policy, practice and service delivery.

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

Washington University is an independent university known internationally for excellence in teaching and research. The university is consistently ranked among the nation's best in higher education programs, drawing students and faculty to St. Louis from all 50 states and more than 120 nations.

ST. LOUIS

The Buder Center is located on Washington University's Danforth Campus. The campus is next to Forest Park, a 1,300-acre park that is home to the Saint Louis Zoo, Saint Louis Science Center, the Saint Louis Art Museum and the Missouri History Museum.

St. Louis is made up of many neighborhoods connected by a light rail system, combining a college town feel with the resources of a major metropolitan area. This city boasts a low cost of living, many free attractions, a robust music and arts scene, as well as international cuisine and a community with Native American heritage.



“One of the great things about being at the Brown School is the opportunity to work with Buder Center Scholars. It is important for these students to apply their learning and knowledge to issues that impact American Indian/Alaskan Native populations, and become leaders in their community.”

—David Patterson, Silver Wolf (Adelv unegv Waya),
Cherokee, Associate Professor, Brown School



“I chose the Brown School’s doctoral program because of the Buder Center. I wanted to be in a supportive academic setting that would understand my perspective and passion for addressing injustices across Indian Country. Through the Buder Center fellowship I was able to also be educated by amazing renowned scholars of social work. They not only taught me skills to be a successful academic, they taught me how to translate indigenous knowledge into academia. The Buder Scholar network is an extended family that I feel so honored to join.”

—Shanondora Billiot,
United Houma Nation, PhD '17

CONTACT

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