



The Washington University in St. Louis (WUSTL) Pow Wow is a student-run event that brings together the WUSTL community, the broader St. Louis community, and dancers and guests from across Indian Country. The Pow Wow is a gathering in which people dance, sing, socialize, and honor Native American history and culture.

WUSTL students from the Brown School of Social Work meet throughout the fall and spring semesters to plan, execute, and reflect on the Pow Wow. It is an opportunity for students to gain hands-on experience with event planning, budgeting,

marketing, and developing their leadership skills. Second-year Masters of Social Work student Charity Holmes explains, *“Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies Annual Pow Wow has given me a great experience in leadership. I have gained skills and ideas in how to take a huge project and break it down into a doable process, using the expertise of my peers and mentors. Community, that is how we tackle projects in Indian communities, together.”*

Students work on planning the Pow Wow through a Leadership Development & Evaluation in Indian Course, which meets six times per semester. Individuals are assigned to a committee including assessment, children’s booth, contesting, media and marketing, art and info booth, and volunteer committee. Two students are also elected by the class to be the Pow Wow’s co-chairs, they lead the team and help coordinate the work among students.

While each individual is assigned to a committee, the entire planning process is very collaborative. Students brainstorm a theme for the event, debrief during meetings, and regularly communicate updates with the whole team. Second-year Masters of Social Work student Kelly Connor states, *“Through my participation in the fundraising committee, I have gained valuable skills in reaching out to donors, obtaining donations from local businesses, and coordinating student volunteers. I’m also able to list these activities on my resume and in job applications.”*

The Buder Center for American Indian Studies would like to offer a warm welcome to Seminole State College to attend our Pow Wow, which will be held Saturday, April 20, 2019 at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. The Pow Wow is open to the public and free to attend. Individuals can also register for the contest the morning of the Pow Wow. If you would like to apply to be a vendor at the Pow Wow, please contact us at: bcais@wustl.edu. Whether you come to observe, dance, sing, socialize, or celebrate Native culture, we hope you come out and are inspired by this amazing student-run event!

Dr. Molly Tovar, Director of the Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies

10 Pow Wow Etiquette Rules

2. Stand up during the Grand Entry

<https://newsmaven.io/indiancountrytoday/archive/pow-wow-etiquette-10-rules-to-follow-in-and-out-of-the-arena-zs0Fb3CsGEyju8O1QJL9Fw/>

Next Issue

More Scholarships