



Alumni Spotlight

Charity Faith Holmes-Green (Cherokee/Seminole-Creek) received her Bachelor's in Social Work at Northeastern State University in 2017 and went on to receive her masters in Social work at the Brown School of Social work in 2018 with a concentration in Violence and Injury Prevention. As a Buder Scholar she participated in the American Indian/Alaskan Native studies (AISA) where she worked with a team to create activities for community youth for the annual pow-wow children's booth. "During my time as a Buder scholar, I met many wonderful people in whom I have gained numerous strengths from that I will forever carry with me in my journey. Our people are resilient and continue to overcome much, and I am forever grateful that the Buder Center and Brown School have equipped me to be in a position that continues to offer our people hope and a future."

Since graduating with her MSW, Charity is currently employed with Cherokee Nation Behavioral Health mat clinic where our mission is "to ensure the story of the Cherokee Nation continues, we partner with individuals, families, and communities to improve our health and quality of life." Charity has played a critical role in the development of the mat clinic program. As Family Care Manager, her position has offered a space for much growth in attending to the needs of the Cherokee families in re-establishing their lives after the Opioid Crisis. Her hard work has paid off and has recently been offered a master's level therapist position that has been opened and set to begin in January of 2022, this position was offered in lieu of the successful clients that continue to pursue sobriety as she has offered them a desire and much hope for a better future with all sincerity. "The best part of my job is when a client takes the time out of their day to pop in and say, "Thank you for giving me my life back."

During the summer of 2018, Charity was a SAGE recipient and worked with Partnerships for Success at the Lower Brule Lakota Sioux Reservation. "Waakiye Okolakiciye' Helping Each Other" Where she worked with the team on suicide prevention within the community. The youth were, trained to recognize signs and approach their peers with concern. The youth are taught how to build a relationship of trust so that when needed the peer would trust them enough to accept their advice to visit with a trained professional as needed. These youth are called the "Natural Helpers" and were rewarded for their hard work with travels to Rhode Island where they attended a youth leadership conference, which was rewarding for the staff also to be able to see them smile and enjoy if but for a moment. Her advice for students seeking a practicum in Indian Country is to, "Hit the ground running and take in as much as you can, not only in your practicum experience but also in getting to know the community as a whole. I believe that everything that we experience adds to our growth as a person and professionally. It offers us so much to give in our future endeavors. Where not only have we become strengthened, we have gained so much strength that it flows into the lives of those around us."