Message from the Assistant Director

In 1990, when Kathryn M. Buder made her generous gift to provide scholarships for American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) students, her vision was to create leaders within Indian Country. The Buder Center has graduated over 200 alumni representing over 77 tribal nations and working throughout Indian Country. The Center is excited to bring students and alumni together in 2022 to create connections and share reflections with one another on how Kathryn’s vision has impacted their careers. We will be hosting the Buder Alumni Panel March 25th, 2022 at the Brown School where we plan to have current students meet former Buder Alumni and learn about their work in Indian Country.

Kathryn’s lasting vision has created Indigenous leaders that pave the way for Indigenous communities to revitalize traditions and teachings. The 31th annual Pow Wow will be held on April 16, 2022 and its theme, Indigenous Resilience, as many students and tribal communities have ups and downs navigating the COVID pandemic. We are excited to be hosting our Annual Powwow this year in-person back at the Washington University Field House. We are also excited to have 11 students who will be participating in Buder Blessing this year. As always, the Buder Center continues to prepare students to lead our Indigenous communities into a healthy, just and sustainable future. We are excited to honor our founders, our students and our alumni with you in 2022!

Veronica Bruesch (Wichita), Assistant Director

Program Highlights

Coach Berube Interview

Eric Pinto, Community Projects Coordinator for the Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies, recently conducted an interview with St. Louis Blues head
coach Craig Berube to understand more about his Native American ancestry. Despite being nicknamed and called “Chief,” many are unaware that Berube is Métis and connected to the Cree Nation. Berube is known for leading the Blues during the 2019 season from a last place team in the NHL to winning the Blues first ever Stanley Cup Championship. Click here to watch the interview with Coach Berube.

WeRISE

In the fall of 2021, the Buder Center created a new grant opportunity known as WeRise. WeRise provides support for Native community based projects created by Missouri’s Native residents, Buder alumni, and Buder scholars. The Buder Center was successful in reaching its goal of awarding 5 projects that will serve Native communities.

The Brown School Welcomes Native Faculty in 2022

Pamela L. Begay, PhD, LCSW, joined the Brown School in January 2022 as an Associate Professor of Practice, Chair of the American Indian/Alaska Native Concentration, and a Faculty Associate for the Buder Center for American Indian Studies.

Upcoming Events

Decolonizing Mindfulness, Mindful Decolonization, and Social Work Futurities

April 1, 2022 (Virtual)
3:00 pm

31st Annual Washington University Pow Wow


Join us for the 31st Annual Washington University Pow Wow on April 16 at the Athletic Complex.

If you are interested in supporting the Annual Pow Wow, please visit our Crowdfunding page.

If you would like to volunteer at the Pow Wow, please register here.
Pam has taught undergraduate and graduate-level social work courses and maintains a private practice focusing on the treatment of trauma while infusing psychodynamic therapy.

Pam’s work focuses on American Indian tribes and her research interests include cultural identity and issues surrounding Native women. She is Senior Editor for the Journal of Indigenous Research and Editorial Board member of the Clinical Social Work Journal. Her long-term goal is to teach and mentor the next generation of social workers and maintain her clinical private practice.

She is enrolled in the Navajo tribe of Shiprock, New Mexico. Pam received her PhD in clinical social work from Smith College-School for Social Work, her MSW from Washington University in St. Louis, and her bachelor’s degree from the University of New Mexico.

Manasseh C. Begay, MSW, LADAC joined the Brown School in January 2022 as a Lecturer and SAGE Program Manager. He has worn many hats to include a federal firefighter & San Juan County sheriff deputy. Manasseh comes to the Brown School from Dine’ College, a tribal college in Arizona.

While working out of the Shiprock, NM campus of Dine’College, Manasseh assisted in building the social work program through collaboration and curriculum development that is currently in place. He taught and assisted in field placement, community social services and culture, and other introductory social work courses.

His work at the Brown School will include collaborative efforts with the Office of Field Education, teaching, and managing the SAGE program in the Buder Center for American Indian Studies.

He is originally from Cibeque, Arizona and is enrolled with the White Mountain Apache tribe and also Navajo. Manasseh received his MSW from
New Mexico Highlands University and his bachelor’s degree in liberal arts from the University of New Mexico.

Alumni Spotlight

Clara Stenstrom proudly represents the Hocąk Njįšoc Haci (Winnebago Tribe) and Nlieʔkepmxc (Lower Nicola Indian Band). She is the ICWA Prevention and Early Intervention Consultant for DHS. Prior to this position she completed her Master of Social Work Degree with a concentration on American Indian and Alaska Native Studies and a specialization in Sexual Health and Certificate of Violence and Injury Prevention at the Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis.

As a SAGE recipient, Clara served with the Safe Harbor Program at the Minnesota Indian Women’s Resource Center. The primary goal was to provide support to individuals 21 years and younger who were at risk for sexual exploitation. A few of the activities included case management, resource coordination, and developing and implementing a culturally grounded sexual health education class to youth in the community.

We love to highlight our talented alumni who are making long-lasting impact in tribal communities! If you or someone you know would like to be featured in the Alumni Spotlight, please email bcais@wustl.edu. Include name, contact email address, graduation year, current role, bio information (or link to bio) and reason for nomination.