



Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies

Brown School

The 2020 Washington University in St. Louis Pow Wow Committee COVID-19 Report and Resource Guide

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Prepared by Kellie Thompson, MSW, Director, Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies
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Every year since 1990, Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis students and the Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies organizes an annual Pow Wow. A Pow Wow is an event where both Native American and non-Native American people meet to dance, sing, socialize, and honor American Indian history and culture. The 30th annual event was scheduled to occur on April 11, 2020 with the theme of “Steps to Sovereignty: Decolonize, Indigenize, Revitalize.” The Washington University Pow Wow is critical in bringing the St. Louis community together to honor and celebrate Native traditions.

As coronavirus spread in early 2020, Washington University in St. Louis was closely monitoring the global outbreak of this disease. In commitment to the health and safety of our community, the Buder Center and Washington University made the difficult decision on March 11, 2020 to cancel the Washington University Pow Wow. The decision was made with the health and safety of our relatives, elders and attendees in mind.

To honor our commitment to our communities, the Pow Wow Committee acted fast and they interviewed each Head Staff member plus one vendor. Interviewees were generous with their time, stories and knowledge. Students conducted interviews on April 11 and April 15 and created the following stories and resources to share.

Resources appear in this order and reflect the creative ways the Pow Wow Committee summarized stories and collected resources.

Student Name	Committee Position	Interviewee Name	Head Staff Position
Jaisah Lee	Co-Chair	Laura Rice	Head Woman
Kelley McCall	Co-Chair	Edmund Blackthunder	Head Man
Natalie Moyer Ray Phillips Eric Pinto	Assessment	Young Buffalo Horse & Otter Trail Singers	Host Northern & Host Southern Drum Groups
Chase Bryer Aquira Foster Patricia Pena	Media	Craig Cleveland Jr.	MC
Shandiin Begay Adria Brown	Volunteer	Ron Brave	Arena Director
Sunny Clifford Mariah May	Children’s Booth	Tim Robinson	Head Gourd
Rachel Baxter Heather Sindelar	Children’s Booth	Oneida Nation Color Guard	Color Guard
Ashton Megli Katelynn Pipestem Hazel Rogers	Contesting	Isaiah Stewart	Head Judge
Jordon Connell Alejandra Gonzalez Angelica Santiago Gonzalez	Vendor Committee	Sherry Echo-Hawk Taluc	Vendor

Laura Rice's Story about Education during COVID-19

By: Jaisah Lee 4/24/20

MSW Candidate 21', Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis

Jaisah Lee (Oneida Nation), interviewed Laura Rice (Prairie Band Potawatomi, Kickapoo, Sac & Fox, Yurok, and Wintun) on 4/11/20. Laura Rice works for Haskell Indian Nations University and now works from home helping her students virtually. When the Haskell campus evacuated many students did not have a place to go and remained on campus. Not wanting her students to be lonely, Laura has arts and craft zoom nights with her students on a weekly basis. This is a time for students and Laura to catch up and enjoy each other's company. Additionally, Laura identified many of her students are from the Navajo Nation where internet access is extremely limited. It also does not help that students are losing the value of in person teaching and struggle engaging with their online classes. Laura highlighted the importance of being flexible in education and to understand the many situations students are having to deal with.

How to support AI/AN students while they learn from home:

- We Are Teachers online is highlighting the limited research surrounding the impact of COVID-19 on students, but according to one researcher anxiety is seeing a steady increase. We can work with students to combat this issue by:
 - facing the fear we feel with facts about the COVID-19
 - Work to diminish the transition of virtual learning that might add to a students anxiety
 - Encourage Virtual Connections
- The National Association of School Psychologists has also offered the following approaches to help student's learning from home:
 - Practice mindfulness with students
 - mindful breathing, yoga, meditation, etc.
 - create a daily routine
- NDN Collective has offered additional strategies:
 - staying grounded through praper and smudging
 - connect with traditional medicines & knowledge

Around 1.6 billion children and young people are out of school world wide. Not only are countries adjusting to school closures but many families in the U.S. are adapting to the daily life changes caused by COVID-19. We must remain flexible , understanding, and supportive to students as they navigate learning virtually.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We would like to thank Laura Rice for sharing her story about how COVID-19 has affected the educational systems and students learning.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
BCAIS@WUSTL.EDU

Edmund Blackthunder (Oneida/Lakota)

COVID-19

"I have to respect it. It goes back to what I learned from my parents, to depend on Creator to protect us and depend on spiritual ways to keep us in good health."

Oneida tribe closed down

"Glad we took the action that we did."

It has been a hardship

"We have our essential workers, but they're all family."

"Real hard on those that Pow Wow all year long. It's almost like taking a little bit of their spirit away."

Head Man for 30th Annual Pow Wow

"I look at it as a position of responsibility...to make it a positive experience for all participants."

Edmund has been Head Man, Head Judge, and Arena Director. He planned the 4th of July Pow

Wow which is a huge deal and the responsibility has been passed down from his parents. He has MC'd for educational events around Oneida.

POW WOW CANCELLATION IMPACT

One Main Pow Wow Tradition:

"When hosting, you feed and shelter your visitors."

LEADERSHIP

"Depend on Elderly to shape opinions or views, and go to more than one"

"Whatever your position is in the community, it's a position of responsibility"

"In today's society we just adapt...we adapt for our own tribes"

"Everyone has a personal outlook on Pow Wow. I look at it as representing my family."

ONEIDA RESOURCES

❖ Elder Services

- ❖ Anna John Nursing Housing for our Elders– with individual living pods specifically mentioned

❖ Community Health– car seats, shots, prenatal

❖ Behavioral Health– SA, suicide, Rx, therapy

❖ Fitness & Recreation

❖ Economic Support Services– utility, foodshare, childcare, employment

❖ Child & Family Services– DV, ICWA, Parenting programs

❖ Child Support

❖ Land & Home Opportunities– new listings

❖ Library

❖ Language Revitalization

❖ Oneida Native Arts Program– used to restore the human dignity, vitality, and economy of the local community.; promotes and nurtures artist in five creative art fields: music, fine arts, dance, drama, and literature

❖ Environmental Health & Safety– licenses, air quality, H2O

❖ Motor Vehicle Department

❖ Oneida Community Integrated Food Systems– delivery, traditional foods, education

❖ South Eastern Oneida Tribal Services

❖ Enrollments– Tribal ID's, insurance

❖ Kalihwisaks– media/news

POSSIBLE RESOURCES

❖ Biopsychosocial Research Center– to include Traditional Oneida Ways

❖ Complete Wellness Center (minimize referred out services)

- ❖ Full medical and surgical facility; dental

- ❖ Pediatrics

- ❖ Women's Health Care– Pre/Post care

- ❖ Teen Health Care– include family planning

- ❖ Nutrition Counseling– Chronic disease Eval & Tx

- ❖ Digital Tx options

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT/THANK YOU

With his permission, I would like to thank Edmund Blackthunder for sharing his story about how COVID-19 is affecting him, his family, and community.

Interview and author of this report completed by Kelley McCall (Cherokee),
MSW/MPH Candidate '21

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Policy Brief: Indian Country and COVID-19

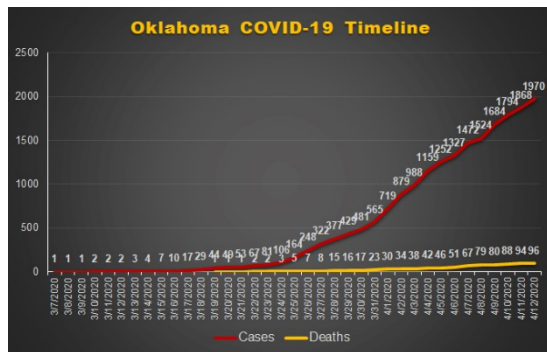
Background

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness which originated in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China in December of 2019. Since it first appeared on the public health radar, it has proved to be easily transmissible and particularly deadly to older adults and those with underlying medical conditions.

This has profound implications for Indian Country, necessitating a robust federal response which thus far has not materialized.

Many tribal governments are based out of Oklahoma and the members of drum groups Otter Trail and Young Buffalo Horse that participated in the interview also live in Oklahoma. For this reason, this brief focuses on information related to the COVID-19 outbreak in that state and the tribal governments operating out of that state.

1



COVID-19 in Oklahoma

- First person tested positive for COVID-19 on March 7th, 2020
- First death was recorded on March 18th, 2020
- Currently has 1,970 cases and 96 deaths
- Governor of Oklahoma declared a state of emergency on March 24th, 2020, which included issuing stay-at-home orders and closing all non-essential businesses

Photo credit: Oklahoma State Department of Health;
<https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov/> ; governor's actions are accessible via:
<https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov/governors-actions>

Impact on Indian Country

COVID-19 has the potential to be devastating to Indian Country in terms of lives lost, but also in terms of suffering inflicted on those who survive. The disease's potential to cause harm is due to five main factors:

- Lack of access to preventative care resources such as clean, running water
- Multigenerational households
- Preexisting conditions caused by poor healthcare services and inadequate sources of high-quality nutrition
- Loss of opportunities to engage in sustaining cultural traditions
- Poverty

Already, people from Indigenous communities are dying at higher rates than those from non-Indigenous communities. Quick action is necessary in order to save lives.

Potential Solutions

There needs to be systems in place to make sure community members' basic needs are met. This should be undertaken by tribal governments and states and should consist of delivering weekly packages of food, purified water if none is available, disinfecting wipes, hand sanitizer, and masks. Registration for this service should be linked on both the state government website and the tribal government website where those exist.

States must open lines of communication with tribal governments and coordinate a system of care to assist rural residents who fall ill in getting to the nearest hospital with intensive care capacity. This could include distributing cell phones without sim cards, as these can be used to dial 911 in emergencies.

Tribal governments must assist their members in finding new ways to engage in cultural traditions such as drumming, singing, and dancing, as these traditions contribute significantly to a sense of community and the spiritual health of the people.

Finally, Indigenous activists and allies across the country need to be proactive about voicing their concerns to their state representatives to ensure that any aid packages that are passed address the specific and unique needs of Indian Country.

First-hand Experiences

- Members of Young Buffalo Horse
 - Stillwater Oklahoma is really quiet now
 - They were "essential employees" and so still had some income coming in
 - They said that their experience overall as citizens of Oklahoma has been okay but wished there was more communication between tribal governments and the state government to make sure tribal citizens were getting what they needed
 - They expressed concerns about elders receiving the care and support they needed
- Members of Otter Trail
 - Noticed less cooperation with social distancing in their community (Norman, Oklahoma)
 - Also expressed concerns about elders getting care and support
 - Expressed concern with lack of access to financial resources
 - Drew explicit connections to historic oppression and lack of resources (lack of access to clean water, health disparities, etc.)

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Natalie Moyer, MSW
Candidate 2021

Interviews completed
by Natalie Moyer, Eric
Pinto, and Ray Phillips

For additional
information, please
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¹ Additional source: Givens, M. (2020). The coronavirus is exacerbating vulnerabilities Native communities already face. *Vox*. Retrieved from:
<https://www.vox.com/2020/3/25/21192669/coronavirus-native-americans-indians>

Policy Brief: COVID-19 affects the Pow Wow Well-Being

The Issue:

Pow Wows are social gatherings for Native people and communities to connect with and share their culture. They provide numerous benefits to support the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of Native people. Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, U.S. federal, state, and local governments, CDC, and WHO have issued policies to prohibit mass gatherings in an attempt to reduce the spread of the virus. Pow Wows fall into this category of mass gatherings as they attract large crowds of both Native and non-Native people to honor Native culture. This public health issue has negatively impacted Native people and communities as event venues close and Pow Wows cancel across the nation. Currently, Pow Wow participants, vendors, and attendees are unable to socialize, connect with their culture, and lose out on economic opportunities.

Experiences of Pow Wow Drum Groups:

Northern Drum Group: Young Buffalo Horse	Southern Drum Group: Otter Trail Singers
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drum group members are disappointed Pow Wows are cancelled because they look forward to singing and interacting with other Pow Wow participants and families.• The drum group produces CD's to sell at Pow Wows to provide financial support to travel and participate in the Pow Wow circuit.• Drumming and signing helps them connect with the drum and experience. They lose themselves while singing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members enjoy the signing and dancing aspects of Pow Wows.• They appreciate how Pow Wows create family and community.• Members enjoy learning other tribal cultures while traveling in the Pow Wow circuit.• Pow Wows provide economic opportunities to support members



Solutions:

The experiences shared from the drum groups have common themes of dancing and singing, socializing, and economic opportunity. To achieve the above benefits while following the COVID-19 quarantine protocols requires the use of an alternative plan. Many organizations and people have utilized virtual platforms and social media sites to reach their audience. Facebook groups such as Social Distancing Pow Wow has provided a space for Natives to share recorded songs and dances, and communication with others. Live video streaming through social media sites (i.e., Facebook, Instagram, etc.) and video conferencing sites (i.e., Zoom, Microsoft Teams, etc.) provides a means for Natives to connect. Existing consumer sites, creating a business page through social media sites, and music sites/apps (i.e., Apple iTunes, etc.) can provide an economic opportunity to sell CD's, songs, and albums. Lastly, Pow Wow hosts and participants need to begin collaboration with tribes, venues, and the Pow Wow community to create plans for future Pow Wows when the quarantine orders are lifted.

The Future:

Paul G from Powwows.com focused on three areas for future Pow Wow planning that Natives will need to consider: 1) Health Screenings, 2) Increased Sanitation, and 3) Dancers, Singers, and Spectator Protection. Within this planning process, different state and local jurisdictions will need to be acknowledged. Heightened health screenings, sanitation supplies and protocols, and personal protective equipment requirements will have be considered.¹ Outdoor venues should also be considered with new findings of UV light and humidity effects on reducing spread of the virus.²

Author of this report: Eric Pinto (Choctaw and Zuni), MSW Candidate 2020, Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis
Interviews conducted on April 11, 2020 by Eric Pinto, Ray Phillips and Natalie Moyer
For additional information contact bciais@wustl.edu

¹ G., P. (2020, April 16). *How Will Pow Wows Be Different When They Resume?*. Powwows.com. <https://www.powwows.com/how-will-pow-wows-be-different-when-they-resume/>

² Fredericks, B. (2020, April 23). *Top DHS scientists says heat, humidity slow coronavirus*. New York Post. <https://nypost.com/2020/04/23/top-dhs-scientists-says-heat-humidity-slow-coronavirus/>

 QUALITATIVE INTERVIEW ~ APRIL 11, 2020

INTERVIEW W/ CRAIG CLEVELAND, JR.

PATRICIA PENA (KICKAPOO OF KANSAS), MSW
CANDIDATE 2020, BROWN SCHOOL AT
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

-POW WOW MC

**-WINNEBAGO
TRIBE OF
NEBRASKA, 26**

CRAIG'S ADVICE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC:

**"WOGIXETE WIRE"
LOVE ONE ANOTHER**

CHASE BRYER, MSW 2021
PATRICIA PENA, MSW 2020
AQUIRA FOSTER, MSW 2020

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE EMAIL BCAIS@WUSTL.EDU



Public Health Report for Indigenous Nations in the United States

Indigenous
practices as
positive
mechanisms
for
maintaining
a healthy
community
during
Covid-19

Author of this report: Aquira Foster, MSW Candidate 2020, Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis
Interview completed by Aquira Foster, Patricia Pena, Chase Bryer
For more information, please email bcais@wustl.edu



Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska Covid-19 Update

As of April 11, 2020, the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska had no known cases of Covid-19 within their tribal area. The Winnebago Tribe had been following the CDC's best practice recommendations even before an official shelter in place order came to Nebraska. They began making changes and closing non-essential businesses on March 14th, one day after the President issued a national state of emergency. Additionally, to further prevent contraction and infection, the Tribal government issued a mandatory curfew to be observed between the hours of 7:00pm and 5:00am that would take effect on April 15th and continue until deemed appropriate. This will be regulated by local police authorities who are authorized to issue citations up to \$500 based on the number of offenses and documentation presented.

Indigenized Programming for Community Support and Elder Engagement

It has been widely established that the elderly and immunocompromised individuals are at greatest risk for contracting Covid-19. This could present a uniquely serious problem for Indigenous communities whose elders are keepers of knowledge that physically avail themselves to others. This could drastically increase their chances of contracting and spreading Covid-19. One method of mitigating such risk could be the implementation and use of Zoom or other online virtual platforms by elders and members of the Tribal council. Native meditations and self-care strategies taught by elders and other community members may be best practices for utilizing online platforms in Indian Country. Similarly, the council together with community organizations could coordinate meeting times for spiritual and religious ceremonies to be held via Zoom. This would provide a key opportunity to coordinate distance prayers, songs, and spiritual dances, that could be taught virtually and enacted outdoors so that neighbors can hear and join.

The following recommendations for socially distant indigenized programming are based on information gained from Craig Cleveland of the Winnebago Tribe:

- Talk with and support elders safely; coordinate home delivery of food and medicines
- Make traditional medicines and share them safely with elders and community members
- Start seedlings
- Reconnect with your traditional language, stories, and songs (especially those calling for protection and health)
- Learn a traditional craft or skill
- Support fellow Indigenous artists, craftspeople, and knowledge keepers whose livelihood might be impacted by the pandemic
- Learn about Indigenous rights, self-determination, and sovereignty
- Check out the United Nation Declaration of Indigenous Peoples
- Read e-books by Indigenous authors
- Create or attend a virtual Pow Wow, drum circle, or dance for healing
- Spend time connecting with the Earth

sourced from NDN collective

The Ho-chunk saying, "Wogixete Wire", seamlessly represents their values, actions, and recommendations on how to lead during this pandemic: Love one another. Love when practiced in ways like the aforementioned, is transformational and shifts the pandemic paradigm from fearful selfishness and isolation, to intentional connectedness and rebirth.

Policy Recommendations for Tribal Service Organizations and Governments

In congruence with recommendations from the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC), the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center (NIWRC), and the Centers for Disease Control, the following procedures are considered best practice and should be considered for current and future preparedness efforts.

- Assign a staff member(s) to check the WHO and CDC for the newest guidelines every day
- Set up strict social distancing practices in all public spaces
- Consider setting a rotating schedule for using shared spaces for staff and clients
- Coordinate food, medicine, and urgent needs, delivery for elders and the vulnerable
- Create a task force to survey internet and virtual service capabilities within the community
- Create alternative programming based on survey
- Due to shortages, Tribal programs and other advocates will likely need to work with state entities to access Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and appropriate sanitation materials
- If operating in a nation that opted for “self-determination” (which enables greater financial flexibility and clinical autonomy), coordinate clinical teams to staff mobile testing centers as soon as possible

Moving forward, it is important that Tribal governments hold state and federal authorities accountable for involving indigenous peoples in the policy making process. It is the right of Indigenous nations to take decisive action concerning their people; that sovereignty includes the maintenance and protection of Tribal lands and waters that some governments have been trying steal amidst the fallout of the pandemic. This sovereignty includes the right to environmental and community health that is self determined, informed consent, and the power to build sustainable, resilient and just post-Covid-19 solutions. Moreover, Tribal governments can utilize this time to create extensive preparedness plans for their people so organizations and individuals have immediate access to best practice procedures in the event of another pandemic. This might involve creating a shared online de-identified data receptacle, so that every tribe has access to health data relating to the pandemic, as well as information on tools and strategies found most effective.

References

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COVID-19 Information for Tribal Communities. (2020, April 14). Retrieved April 23, 2020, from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/tribal/index.html>

Lakhani, N. (2020, March 18). Native American tribe takes trailblazing steps to fight Covid-19 outbreak. Retrieved April 23, 2020, from <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/mar/18/covidcoronavirus-native-american-lummi-nation-trailblazing-steps>

COVID-19 & LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION IN INDIAN COUNTRY

The COVID-19 pandemic has created additional barriers for language revitalization and preservation efforts across Indian Country. Tribal language teachers such as Craig Cleveland Jr. (Winnebago) understand the importance of tribal languages, and have been tasked with finding creative efforts to further the spread of Native languages for future generations. Find below a resource for tribal language teachers that includes best practices and tips for language revitalization while social-distancing.



COORDINATE VIRTUAL ZOOM CLASSES

Zoom offers a full-featured Basic Plan for free with unlimited meetings. Just visit www.zoom.us to get started.



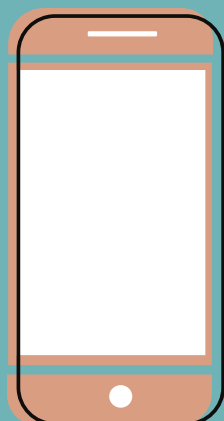
GO LIVE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Engage with students and fellow tribal members by going live on Facebook or Instagram.



CREATE INTERACTIVE FLASHCARDS AND GAMES

Create Quizlets for students and utilize free gaming-based learning softwares such as "Kahoot!" to create fun, interactive games for your students.



CALL YOUR ELDERS

Be sure to maintain and enhance your own language fluency by talking regularly with other fluent speakers such as elders and your colleagues.



BRAINSTORM OTHER CREATIVE WAYS FOR LEARNERS

Some ideas include: having students label household items in their Native language and/or encouraging parent engagement in the learning process.

RON BRAVE

Arena Director

Biography

Ron Brave is from Pine Ridge South Dakota (SD), born in Igloo SD. Currently, Ron resides in Lawrence, Kansas working at Haskell Indian Nations University as a Custodian. Ron grew up in the southern tip of Black Hills in Igloo, SD. Prior to becoming an Arena Director, Ron was a member of the Black Hills singer's group.



"The Best Seat in the House"

Around 1979, Ron first volunteered to be the arena director at a Pow Wow in Pine City. Since 1979, Ron has accepted invitations as an arena director and recalls traveling to many Pow Wows. Currently, Ron describes his experience as an arena director as "the best seat in the house." From shaking hands to watching who's coming into the arena and being aware of his surroundings, are familiar duties he fulfills as an arena director. Behind the scenes, Ron studies the dance categories prior to attending a Pow Wow. Ron is continuously learning from his experiences, including cultures, languages and meeting new people

COVID-19

To cope with the impact from COVID-19 Ron has utilized speaking to his relatives and friends as a coping strategy and to continue staying positive. Ron remains hopeful for the future and patiently awaits until we are able to gather again. However, as a result of COVID-19, there will be many memorial songs and mourning specials during future Pow Wow's. Positively, Ron awaits to see new dance categories and songs at the next Pow Wow. In the meantime, Ron will continue to study the steps, songs and beat.

Community Building

During the difficulty of the pandemic, Ron suggest places of improvements to consider throughout Indian Country. Reconsidering approaches in Indian Centers, ensuring solid directors are working and resources are readily available to community members. Additional funding and adequate hiring process in workplaces. Lastly, ensuring Native homeless relatives are well and their needs are met.

Listen, Observe & Be Patient

Listen, observe and be patient are the first three words of advice Ron gave to our future Native leaders. Overall, Ron encourages Native leaders to get to know the people you meet, the culture of others and practice picking up their native language. Refer to our elders in our communities, utilize sage, cedar, sweetgrass, any other traditional medicine you pray with and continue to think about your community.

Credits

Shandiin Begay, Navajo Nation, MSW Candidate 2021, Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis

Adria Brown, Chickasaw, MSW Candidate 2020, Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis

Ron Brave, Interviewee, From Pine Ridge, SD, Haskell Indian Nations University

Permission Received by Ron Brave.

For more information, please email: bcasis@wustl.edu



WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY'S
..... 30TH ANNUAL POW WOW
STEPS TO SOVEREIGNTY, DECOLONIZE, INDIGENIZE, REVITALIZE

Tim Robinson
"It's an honor to
represent your
family, your tribe."

Tim's Community

A member of the Omaha Tribe
from Nebraska and a Haskell
Alumni who currently resides in
Lawrence, Kansas

- He has been in the
pow-wow circle since
1991
- Served in Haskell's
committee for the
Graduation Pow-wow
- Singer

Tim's Role

- Head Gourd Dancer

Advice For Others

"Stay home and maintain
social distancing."

Thank you

Acknowledgements to Tim Robinson &
Family

Date completed: 04/17/2020
Interview Compiled by: Sunny Clifford, Oglala
Sioux Tribe|MSW '21 and Mariah May,
Winnebago|MSW'20
Author of this report: Sunny Clifford

Tim Robinson's Story

APRIL 11, 2020

Tim Robinson is from the Omaha Nation and currently resides in Lawrence, KS. Tim was nominated as the Head Gourd Dancer for the 30th Annual Washington University in St. Louis pow wow. Tim was gracious enough to share his story on how COVID-19 is impacting his communities with us.

While this is the first time that all of us are experiencing a global pandemic for the first time in our life, it is important now more than ever, that we do what we can to support and take care of our children. While speaking with Tim, he mentioned that it is important that we keep our children fed and provide resources for students of all ages—K-college. There are things individuals, communities, and tribal communities are doing to make sure that our future leaders are cared for. See below what others are doing and what you can do to help support the children and students of our communities.

"WE HAVE TO DO OUR BEST, THAT'S ALL WE CAN DO RIGHT NOW."

–TIM ROBINSON, 2020

What communities are doing to support students:

- Schools are providing meals for students
- Teachers are providing homework packets for students
- Online resources
- Family fun-pack
- Teachers recording story time
- Providing a safe place to stay for college students

For more resources to see how tribes are responding to COVID-19, please visit:
<https://sites.google.com/g.harvard.edu/covid-19-resources/home?authuser=0>

Pinagigi-Thank You

We would like to thank Tim Robinson for taking the time to share his story about how COVID-19 is impacting not only him, but his family and community as well.

Interview completed by: Sunny Clifford, Oglalga Sioux Tribe from Pine Ridge, MSW Candidate 2021, Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis &

Mariah May, HoCak from the Winnebago Tribe of NE, MSW Candidate 2020, Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis

Author of this report: Mariah May

If you would like additional information, please contact bcais@wustl.edu



INTERVIEW WITH JOHN AND ART OF THE ONEIDA VETERANS' COMMITTEE COLOR GUARD

On April 11, in lieu of the 2020 Pow Wow, Washington University students Heather Sindelar and Rachel Baxter interviewed Oneida Veterans Affairs Committee members John Breuninger and Arthur Cornelius on their Pow Wow knowledge and community effects of COVID-19

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Both veterans served in the Vietnam War and John served 28 years in the Indian Health Service. They've participated in so many Pow Wows over their lives, John describes the number as "Scientifically...too numerous to count...30, 40, maybe 50 Pow Wows." John says he has attended Pow Wows "ever since childhood."

CANCELING THE COLORS

John explains the Veterans' Affairs typically present the colors at 2-3 events per month, all of which have been canceled due to COVID. "It's one of the things we have to deal with," he says. "[But] we're honored to provide support and assistance." They've been delivering groceries and medications to elders as well as helping at funerals of those who have passed away due to COVID.

COPING WITH COVID

"Social distancing is not one of my claims to fame. I've been very active," says John. "Spirituality is extremely important right now. It's very important to maintain that relationship [with God or Higher Power.]" Referring to the importance of health, Art says, "At this point I'm thankful my wife and I are very healthy."

FINAL THOUGHTS

"As a leader...if you become aware of a need, you should step forward and not even hesitate, just step forward and let them know you're here for that need," says Art, regarding leadership in the time of COVID. John agrees, "I think it's incumbent on us as elders to practice what we preach. It's important for us as role models to...walk the walk and talk the talk." Both elders were thankful to give their advice and talked about the importance of honesty and candor as leaders in their community. "You've done a very, very significant thing here in asking people for their opinions," says John. "We speak about the [Oneida] Nation, but not for it--we speak for ourselves.... I am speaking from my heart."

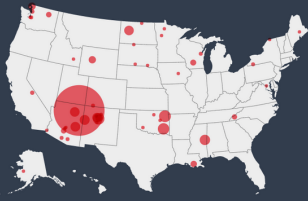
This presentation was created on April 24, 2020 by Heather Sindelar, MSW Candidate 2020, Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis. Interview was conducted by Heather Sindelar and Rachel Baxter, MSW Candidate 2019, Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis. For more information, please email bcais@wustl.edu

COVID-19 ~ INDIAN COUNTRY

RACHEL BAXTER

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in the Indian Health System

Total Cases: 1,879
Total Deaths: 71



Data as of April 22, 2020
Map created by Talia Quandelacy | Twitter: @nmrelleno
Source: Publicly available data collected by Indian Country Today

Washington University MSW students Rachel Baxter and Heather Sindelar spoke with Art Cornelius and John Breuninger, *Oneida Nation*, regarding COVID-19's impact in their community and the rest of Indian Country. This report covers current resources and possible solutions:

Oneida Nation

Impact

~ The biggest impact has been on the economy. Approximately 1900 employees have been laid off

Importance of Stewardship



~ Having compassion for our communities, our relationships for our elders, being inclusive of those who aren't able bodied, and mindful of those who can't "afford" a pandemic

Importance of Leadership



~ Leadership is displayed from how we react and respond when guidance is needed and decisions need to be made

Art ~ "As a leader if you become aware of a need, you should step forward, and not even hesitate, just step forward and let them know you're here for what they need"

John ~ "Spirituality is extremely important right now. It's important to maintain that relationship in these times"

Importance of Spirituality



~ Being able to connect with ourselves, those around us, the earth, within all of creation can provide strength when it comes to well-being during these times

~ Possible Solutions: Expand WIC products, snap benefits to CSA's, base pay for mothers and caregivers, expand resources to rural companies through broadband internet access

Author of this report, Rachel Baxter, MSW Candidate 2021. Rachel and Heather Sindelar, MSW candidate 2020 conducted the interview. Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis

We extend our thanks to John and Art for their time. For more information please contact bcais@wustl.edu



A GLIMPSE AT ISAIAH STEWART AND HIS WORLD

ARTIST, FATHER, HUSBAND, & POWWOW ENTHUSIAST

ISAIAH'S BIOGRAPHY

Tribal Affiliation: Lakota (Oglala-Sioux) & Mohawk
Career: Gifted in the arts - painting, ledger-art, & drawing
Community: Lives in Lawrence, Kansas with his wife Melissa and 6-year-old daughter, Phoenix
Education: Bachelor of Fine Arts from Kansas University

HIS POWWOW EXPERIENCE

His Identities Within the Powwow Circuit

- Prairie-Chicken Dancer
- MC
- Vendor

Wisdom Gained From the Powwow Lifestyle

- Sense of faith
- Artwork reflects his movement in dancing, and spirituality
- Observing the elements of the world guides him in life

HIS LESSONS OF RESILIENCY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Leadership Advice

- Use this time to learn more about yourself
- Improve relationships with others
- You're a speckle of dust within the wind; humility
- Never take anything personal

Designed by Katelynn Pipestem (Osage/Southern Cheyenne of Oklahoma) on April 28th, 2020

Interview conducted Katelynn Pipestem (MSW Candidate '21), Ashton Megli (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma; MSW Candidate '21), & Hazel Rogers (MSW Candidate '20)
Brown School Washington University in St. Louis
For more information, please email bcais@wustl.edu

ADVICE FROM ISAIAH STEWART,
LAKOTA (OGLALA-SIOUX) / MOHAWK

KEEPING POSITIVE DURING A PANDEMIC

Washington University 2020 Pow Wow Head Judge
isaiahstewart.com

LEARN

"As far as the way I live, if I want to learn something, I'm just like a child, I don't care if I look stupid doing it or fall and bump... those types of things just help me grow that much more. I'm just trying to hit my bucket list."



RHYTHM

Just like a child, you gotta create wonder in everything that you do. You gotta create excitement and you gotta kinda have a rhythm.... when I paint I try to create a rhythm through the brushwork, and so far as a daily routine, you need to have a rhythm as well.

ACCEPTANCE

"It's taking a step back. That's just the way things are, and I don't have any quarrels with it."



Prepared by Hazel Rogers ~ 4.28.2020

Interview conducted by Katelynn Pipestem (Osage/Southern Cheyenne of Oklahoma) MSW Candidate 2021, Ashton Megli (Chocktaw Nation of Oklahoma) MSW Candidate 2021, and Hazel Rogers MSW Candidate 2020
Brown School Washington University in St. Louis
For more information, please email bcais@wustl.edu

COVID-19 AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

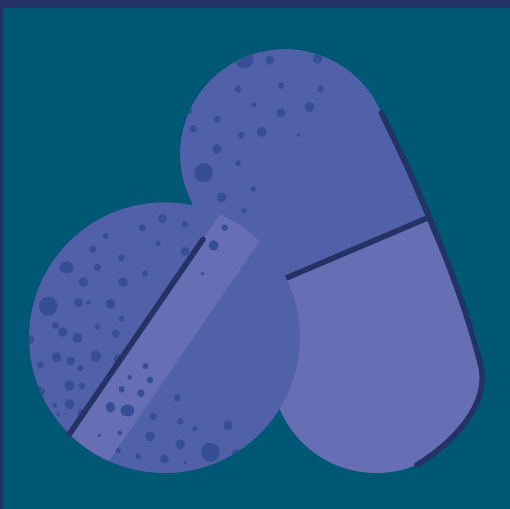
Native Leadership in a Global Crisis



Leveraging Sovereignty

Sovereign indigenous communities around the world are using decision-making power to take action in ways that protect us all: travel bans and restrictions, instituting new social support programs, and practicing isolation. The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, for example, instituted travel restrictions in March, 15 days before the state of Nebraska instituted any measures to slow disease spread.

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/covid-19.html>
<https://www.poncatribene.org/covid-19-travel-ban/>



Demonstrating Indigenous Values

Native communities around the country are building community resources and coming together around their shared values, particularly in protecting their elders and those most vulnerable in their communities, and in finding indigenous approaches to stopping the disease, such as using traditional medicines.

<https://ndncollective.org/indigenizing-and-decolonizing-community-care-in-response-to-covid-19/>



Acknowledge Historical Trauma

Indigenous leaders recognize that, due to historical trauma and current context, indigenous populations are affected differently by the pandemic and that their response must differ, too. They are speaking out about the trauma endured by native communities and the particular needs of those communities as a consequence.

<https://nativegov.org/native-governance-center-and-covid-19/>

"Now is a good time to get to know yourself... When you get to know yourself, you can really come to understand others and what they go through and what they deal with... what challenges they may face... The spirit is different, your soul. I try to be guided by and live through, that as best I can... You have to look at the spiritual aspect as well."

"This really makes you realize how much you need to depend on one another and how much you need your faith as well... you gotta instill yourself with a driving force that will keep you grounded...We are guided by what we are connected with."

**-Isaiah Stewart, Lakota (Oglala-Sioux) / Mohawk
Washington University 2020 Pow Wow Head Judge**

Prepared by Hazel Rogers ~ 4.28.2020

Interview conducted by Katelynn Pipestem (Osage/Southern Cheyenne of Oklahoma) MSW Candidate 2021, Ashton Megli (Chocktaw Nation of Oklahoma) MSW Candidate 2021, and Hazel Rogers MSW Candidate 2020

Brown School Washington University in St. Louis

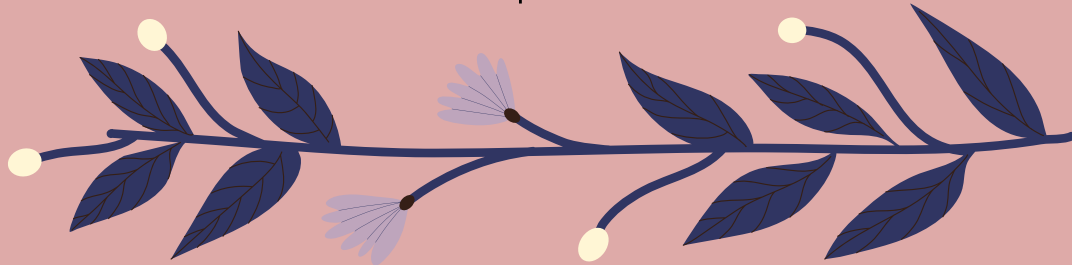
For more information, please email bcas@wustl.edu

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

An Interview with Sherry Echo-Hawk Taluc (Pawnee & Otoe Missouri)

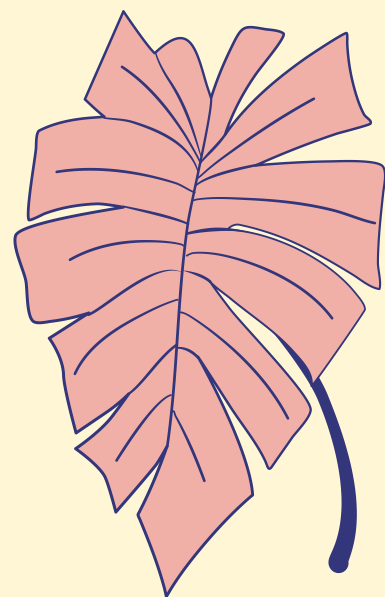
Brought to you by the 30th Annual WashU Pow Wow Vendor Committee: Angelica Santiago Gonzalez, Alejandra Gonzalez (Yankton Sioux), & Jordan Connell (Cherokee Nation)

Created on April 22nd, 2020



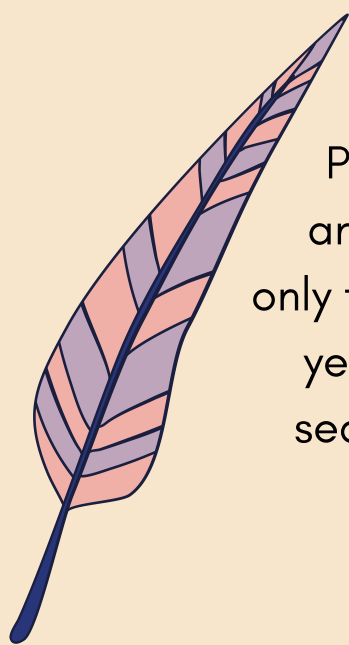
1 LIVELIHOOD

As a pow wow vendor, Sherry talked about the impact the Covid-19 quarantine has had on herself and others. For many, vending at pow wows is a primary source of income. Now that many pow wows have been cancelled, these individuals are unable to sell their products and earn a living



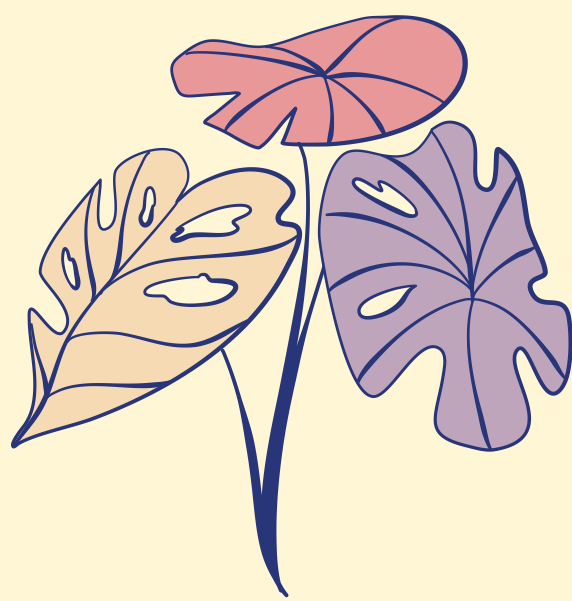
COMMUNITY 2

Pow wows are a time for people to come together and be with one another. For many, this may be the only time they see friends and relatives throughout the year. Sherry remarked that missing out on pow wow season was hard to cope with because it meant she wouldn't be able to see many of the people she looked forward to seeing every year



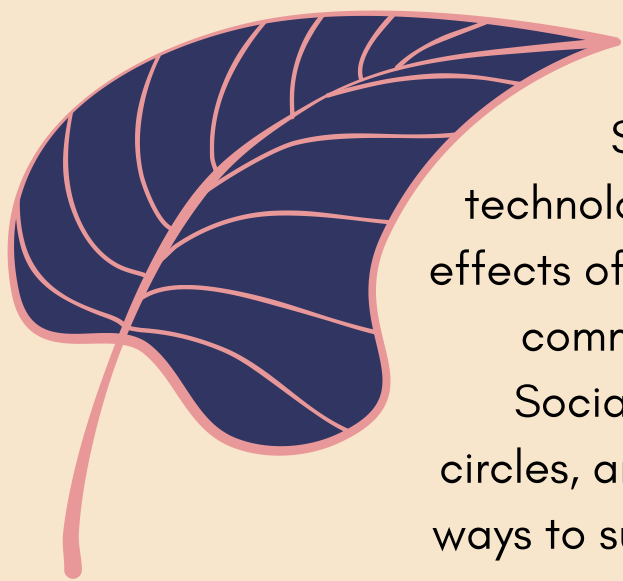
3 NDN COUNTRY

Covid-19 has the potential to have disastrous affects on Indian Country. Losing community members means losing culture and spiritual health. Already, the effects of this disease have been felt by many tribes and continue to test the strength of our communities



SOLUTIONS 4

Sherry highlighted the ways in which technology can play a role in mitigating the effects of Covid-19 while allowing Indigenous communities to maintain connectedness. Social distance pow wows, virtual talking circles, and online trading posts are all great ways to support the emotional and economic wellbeing of our relatives



Impacts of Covid-19 on Indigenous Urban Residents

An interview with **Sherry Echo Hawk -Taluc** (Pawnee, Oto Missouri)



"Online support is very helpful for tribal communities and powwow communities"

Brought to you by: Alejandra Gonzalez, Angelica Santiago Gonzalez, Jordan Connell, Vendor
Committee members .
4/15/2020



THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY

"We don't get to see each other anymore, [covid-19] this is out of our control"

Sherry explained how the use of technology has helped her keep in touch with family during the covid-19 pandemic. This is a time to reconnect with family, friends, and other relatives who all consist of our communities.



SOCIAL DISTANCING & SELF-QUARANTINE

Sherry and family are currently following all CDC guidelines, which is challenging for Sherry who used to a busy life style. After the Bird Flu pandemic, Sherry realized the importance of pandemic preparedness.



NO AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER = LOSS SENSE OF COMMUNITY

In the winter of 2005, the American Indian Center of Mid-America located in St. Louis, MO closed. With this organization non-operational went the sense of community for urban Indigenous residents, along with access to possible resources. Sherry looks forward to Washington University's Annual Pow-Wow every year.

INDIGENOUS VALUES CREATE QUALITY LEADERS

Sherry expressed the importance of keeping in mind our traditional teachings during this pandemic. She noted how these teaching will young Indigenous professional become the next leaders in Indian Country..



For additional information please contact bias@wustl.edu

DISCOVER MORE AT:
[HTTPS://WWW.CDC.GOV/FEATURES/AIANHERITAGEMONTH/INDEX.HTML](https://www.cdc.gov/features/aiheritagemonth/index.html)

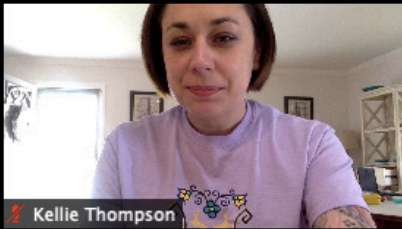
Special thank you to Sherry Echo-Hawk Tulac for taking her time to share her story and perspective with us!

Interviewer: **Alejandra Gonzalez (Yankton Sioux) MSW Candidate 2021, Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis**

Mitakuve Ovasin...



Luv u Megatron



Kellie Thompson



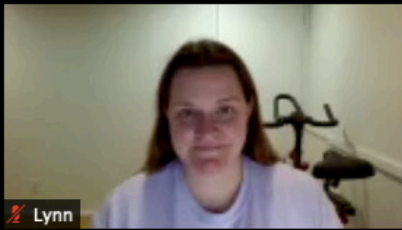
Wynette Whitegoat



Rachel Baxter



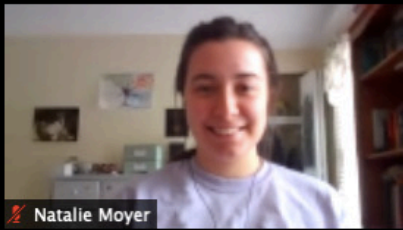
Jenifer Van Schuyver (She/Her)



Lynn



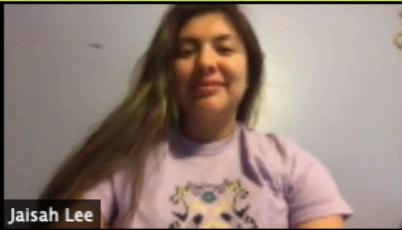
Alejandra



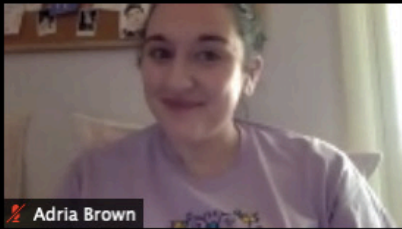
Natalie Moyer



Jordan Connell



Jaisah Lee



Adria Brown



Kelley McCall



chase (he/him)



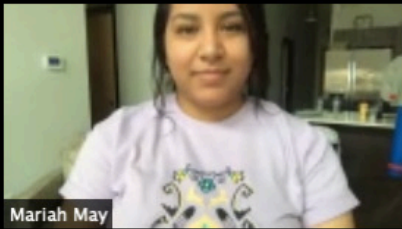
Eric Pinto



Eric Pinto



Mariah May



Mariah May



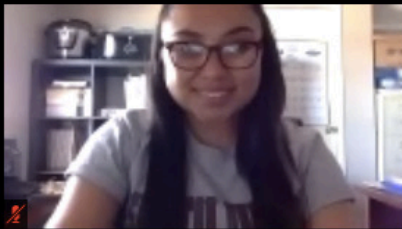
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Eric Pinto



Eric Pinto



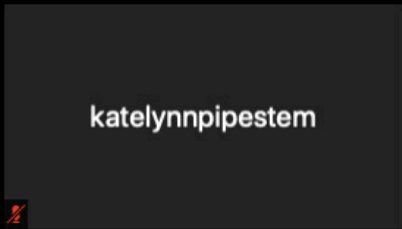
Angelica



Angelica



Angelica



katelynnpipestem



Connecting to audio ...



Kathryn M. Buder Center
for American Indian Studies

Brown School

The 2020 Washington University in St. Louis Pow Wow Committee and the Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies would like to sincerely thank all individuals who participated in the interviews.



WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY'S
..... 30TH ANNUAL POW WOW
STEPS TO SOVEREIGNTY · DECOLONIZE · INDIGENIZE · REVITALIZE

Please contact Kellie Thompson at kellie.thompson@wustl.edu or bcais@wustl.edu for more information.

 Washington University in St. Louis

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