



**WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY'S**  
..... **30<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL POW WOW** .....

**STEPS TO SOVEREIGNTY: DECOLONIZE, INDIGENIZE, REVITALIZE**

Logo: Kassie Kussman (Cherokee)

**March 27 & 28, 2021**



Kathryn M. Buder Center  
for American Indian Studies

Brown School



Washington  
University in St. Louis

# 2021 Pow Wow Agenda

**March 27 & March 28, 2021**

11:00 am	Welcome
11:30 am	Gourd Dancing
12:00 pm	Grand Entry
	Competition Dancing – Youth (Saturday only) Teen (Saturday only) Golden Age (Saturday only) Adult Categories (Sunday only)
4:30 pm	Closing

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## **2021 Pow Wow Head Staff**

### **Host Northern Drum**

Young Buffalo Horse

### **Head Man**

Edmund Blackthunder  
*Oneida/Dakota*

### **Head Gourd**

Tim Robinson, Sr.  
*Omaha*

### **Head Judge**

Alva Fiddler  
*Mnicoujou Lakota*

### **Host Southern Drum**

Otter Trail Singers

### **Head Woman**

Laura Rice  
*Yurok/Potawatomi*

### **Arena Director**

Ron Brave  
*Lakota*

### **MC**

Christopher Hill  
*Northern Cheyenne*

Cortney Yarholar  
*Pawnee/Sac & Fox*

# Welcome to the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Washington University in St. Louis Virtual Pow Wow



Hello and Welcome to the virtual 30th Annual Washington University in St. Louis Pow Wow! Although we cannot be together physically this year, the Kathryn M. Buder Scholars and Pow Wow Committee appreciate your virtual attendance at our event. This year's Pow Wow honors and celebrates Indigenous communities across Turtle Island and is reflected in our theme which centers on Indigenous Steps to Sovereignty and our tagline is "Indigenize, Decolonize, and Revitalize". This theme demonstrates the resiliency of Indigenous communities and their efforts to restore Indigenous ways of knowing and being. Utilizing a Seven Generations philosophy, Indigenous communities continue to look towards the sustainability of their traditions and languages for future generations. In doing so, we are embracing the links to our ancestors that keep our indigenous traditions alive. Highlighting these efforts, members of the American Indian Student Association (AISA) created a poster display during the 2019-2020 academic year to bring awareness and appreciation for the cultures, values, ceremonies, and knowledge of Indigenous peoples.

We encourage you to join us in the celebration of American Indian/Alaska Native or Indigenous culture of a Pow Wow, which includes categories of different AI/AN dance styles, art, food, and music. As we continue to navigate our way through the COVID-19 pandemic, the Washington University Pow Wow Committee is focused and dedicated to the safety of all participants. The pandemic has been an adjustment, but it has also shown Indigenous Peoples' resiliency and innovation to adapt. Please take some time to explore the Buder Center's website where you can access the following: virtual information booths, the craft of Indigenous artists, utilize educational resources shared by our Pow Wow committee, the purchase of this year's Pow Wow T-shirts, and our crowdfunding page for donations to support this event.

If you need anything, Committee members will be available for technical support through both days of the Pow Wow. We are excited to host WashU's first virtual Pow Wow and hope that you have a great experience being part of our 30th Annual Pow Wow!

Igwien (Thank you),

**Jaisah Lee**  
(Oneida Nation)  
Co-Chair

**Kaleigh Edwards**  
(Caddo Nation of Oklahoma)  
Co-Chair

# 2021 Pow Wow Committee

## Co-Chairs

**Jaisah Lee** (*Oneida Nation*)

**Kaleigh Edwards** (*Caddo Nation of Oklahoma*)

## Assessment Committee

**Natalie Moyer**

**Ray Phillips** (*Omaha Nation of Nebraska/Ponca Tribe of Nebraska*)

## Educational Resources

**Rachel Baxter**

**Sunny Clifford** (*Oglala Sioux Tribe*)

**Sally Terranova**

## Contesting

**Katelynn Pipestem** (*Osage/Cheyenne*)

**Robin Santos** (*Tohono O'odham*)

**Tyra Wanatee** (*Meskwaki Nation*)

**Kennidee Boyer** (*Yankton Sioux Tribe of South Dakota*)

## Media/Marketing

**Chase Bryer** (*Chickasaw Nation*)

**Shandiin Begay** (*Navajo Nation*)

**Savannah Boyd** (*Navajo Nation*)

**Tess Eckert**

## Vendor/Art Booth

**Jordan Connell** (*Cherokee Nation*)

**Alejandra Gonzalez** (*Yankton Sioux Tribe of South Dakota*)

**Sharon Evans** (*Navajo Nation*)

**Tanae LeClaire** (*Yankton Sioux Tribe of South Dakota*)

## Buder Center Staff

**Kellie Thompson**

(*Seneca*)

Director

**Lindsey Manshack**

(*Choctaw Apache Tribe of Ebarb*)

Research Manager

**Lynn Mitchell**

Program Coordinator

**Wynette Whitegoat**

(*Diné*)

Assistant Director

**Eric Pinto**

(*Mississippi Band of*

*Choctaw Indians, Zuni*)

Research Assistant

# Meet the Head Staff



**Head Man Dancer Edmund Blackthunder** (Wakant'ia) Hello, my name is Edmund Blackthunder, Oneida/Dakota, My Folks are the late Elijah (Sisseton-Wahpeton Dakota) and Thelma Blackthunder (Oneida). I was born and raised on the Lake Traverse Dakota Reservation, my Dakota name translates to "Eaglestaff". I currently reside in Oneida, Wisconsin, having earned a Bachelor of Business Degree from Mount Scenario College, I was first employed with University of Wisconsin Green Bay, and now Oneida Nation of Indians of Wisconsin. We often travelled the powwow

circuit and was fortunate to meet many friends and relatives, many of whom continue to guide us in a positive way. Dancing Men's Northern Traditional has provided the opportunity to meet people from all the different tribes throughout powwow country, I'm thankful for all the ones who have encouraged me in some way, to make me feel good and for making it another year. It would be a great honor to help with your powwow in any way possible, Yaw^ko Edmund Blackthunder.

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**Head Woman Laura Rice** (Potawatomi, Kickapoo, Sac & Fox, Yurok, and Wintun) was raised in the Bay Area, California. She has lived in Kansas since 2007. Her Indian (Potawatomi) name is Cham-e-quah. She graduated from Stanford University with her BA in Native American Studies and earned her Masters of Social Work degree, with a concentration in Children, Youth, and Families, from Washington University in St. Louis as a Buder Scholar. Laura has worked in various fields as a social worker including Tribal child welfare, maternal child health home visitation services, and early childhood development and mental health.

She really enjoys the helping professions and is pleased to be assisting Native students with their academic endeavors as a Retention Program Technician at Haskell Indian Nations University. She has been involved in Social Work Club as well as Native American Church Club at Haskell.

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**Head Gourd Dancer Tim Robinson, Sr.** is a member of the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska and an active member of the Lawrence, KS, community, where he resides with his family. Tim is passionate about the Powwow Trail and can often be found drumming and dancing at powwows across the nation. Tim is never happier than when he is sitting behind the drum with his brothers singing or dancing. His favorite dance style is the Men's Southern Straight and the Gourd Dance. He is a member of the Kiowa Gourd Dance Society and the Omaha Ti-pah Society and is a whistle carrier. He has served as Head Man and Head Gourd Dancer for many different powwow committees and has been a

beloved member of the Washington University Powwow's Head Staff for several years. Tim would like to thank the WashU Pow Wow Committee for selecting him as Head Gourd Dancer. He also wishes that everyone is safe and healthy throughout this time during the pandemic.

# Meet the Head Staff, continued



**Host Northern Drum Young Buffalo Horse** originated from a group of Lower Sioux and Ojibwe people from Red Wood Falls, Minnesota. Today, the group resides in Oklahoma and is an intertribal group of multiple ages that endeavors to hold their traditions of singing and influence young people to keep in touch with their culture and continue their traditions. Young Buffalo Horse

actually participated in the 2013 and 2012 WashU Pow Wows. Recently they participated in the Haskell Welcome Back Pow Wow, the Intertribal Indian Club of Tulsa Pow Wow, and the Cherokee National Holiday Pow Wow. In July, they won second place at a singing contest at the Thunderbird Casino Pow Wow.

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**Host Southern Drum Ottertrail** was formed in 1992. This intertribal southern style Pow Wow singing group eventually grew to include many other singers from across the U.S. including Mr. Don Neconie and his son, Pete 'Echohawk' Neconie, who were instrumental in the teachings of southern plains music. Ottertrail received their name from a suggestion given to them by the late Johnny Lone Chief Hughes, (Otoe, Kaw). The name symbolizes some aspect of southern style plains culture and it

indeed represents a very important item of clothing worn by the southern straight dancer, the otter drag or trail. Their first CD, 'Live at Hunter Mountain '95', helped establish them across the U.S. They have been invited to participate as host drum at many gatherings as well as entering many drum contests all across Pow Wow country. Along the way, they have garnished many winnings, and most importantly, many friendships and relations.

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**MC Christopher Hill** is a proud citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, a member of Tukvptce Tribal Town, and is Wind clan. Hill is a graduate of Oklahoma State University and works at the Otoe-Missouria Tribe. Christopher has over 30 years of experience serving as an MC at numerous pow wows, hand games, gourd dances, stomp dances, auctions, Native American Church singings, parades, storytelling events, and award banquets throughout Indian Country. He enjoys singing, working with Native youth, and trading Bigfoot stories.

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**Arena Director Ron Brave** (Lakota) has been an Arena Director since he was 17 years old in numerous Pow Wow's.





**MC Cortney Yarholar** (Sac & Fox, Pawnee, Otoe, & Muscogee Creek) is I am an enrolled member of the Sac & Fox Nation, as well as descendant of Pawnee (Kitkahaki band), Otoe (Owl clan) and Muscogee Creek (Racoon and Deer clans). Maternally, my great grandparents are the late Lee Bass Sr. and Helen Rubideaux-Bass, grandfather the late Lee Bass Jr. My grandmother Sylvestine Shields and step grandfather the late George Shields Sr. are Pawnee. Paternally, my grandparents are Tom and Sally Yarholar (Thlopthlocco). My parents are

Clarence and Patricia Yarholar. I am thankful for my mother and father who have always been with encouragement and love. They have demonstrated a healthy relationship and have grown through their faith and commitment serving our savior Jesus Christ through the Methodist Church. I descend from a long line of pow-wow dancers and singers through maternal great grandparents Sidney Moore Sr. and Pearl Peters-Moore. I am blessed with a beautiful, strong, intelligent wife Courtney Tsotigh-Yarholar (Kiowa). Together we have two incredible children, Jude Scout Yarholar, 11 years old and Nora Joy, 6 years old.

In 2006, I obtained a Master of Social Work from Washington University in St. Louis where I attended as a Buder Scholar. I currently work as Director of Organizational Development with the Boys and Girls Club of America, Native Services Unit. I'm also the owner and operator of a small consulting company, Evergreen Training & Development LLC. I have had the opportunity to serve American Indian youth and families across Indian country in multiple capacities with several national Technical Assistance Centers focusing on the prevention of suicide by promoting community-based culturally competent children's mental wellness initiatives. I am honored to have been asked to serve as the MC for the 30th annual Washington University in St. Louis Virtual Pow Wow. I hope it is an enjoyable experience for all. God bless.

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**Head Judge Alva Fiddler** is Mnicoujou Lakota from Eagle Butte, S.D. on the Cheyenne River Sioux reservation. She Grew up dancing on the powwow trail with my family since she could walk. She comes from generations of dancers and passes the family traditions on to her Son. A women's Northern Traditional dancer with championships from Gathering of Nation, Denver March, Shakopee Wacipi, World Championship Schemitzen CT, Red Earth, OKC, and many more

powwows across the U.S. and Canada. Through her travels, she has gained knowledge about other tribes and dance styles across indian country, which led to being asked to serve as head head judge at Shakopee Wacipi in Prior Lake, MN, Muckleshoot Veteran Powwow, Auburn, WA. ASU Powwow, Tempe, AZ, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA, and Chumash Powwow, Santa Inez, CA. She continues to travel to powwows while working full time and going to school for a B.S. with a major in Computer Software at University of Arizona-Global Campus.



# Native Heritage

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# Logo Contest Winners

The Pow Wow Committee held its Logo Competition for the 30th Annual Washington University in St. Louis Pow Wow. Here is the winner:



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represents our beautiful beadwork. The designs around the sides represents silversmithing skills inspired by overlay jewelry designs. Those elements together make up a pottery vessel that holds all of these important skills. These are all symbols of our indigenous knowledge. By passing this knowledge on to the next generation we are revitalizing our culture and giving them the skills to indigenize and decolonize the world around them.

## 1st Place

### Kassie Kussman (Cherokee)

My artwork As a way to illustrate indigenous ways of knowing / knowledge I used objects and designs that are representative of many different tribes from Turtle Island. In the center is a woven basket pattern in medicine wheel colors. The bison and deer represent hunting, the corn for our harvest, and the eagle feathers for ceremony. The flower motif at the top



**Special Thanks to *Hobi & Sadie Haque***  
**for Printing Our Pow Wow T-Shirts**

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The International Center for Energy, Environment and Sustainability (InCEES) at Washington University is a proud sponsor of the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Pow Wow. Now in its fourteenth year, InCEES continues to work in close collaboration with leaders across disciplines, industry, and government to address the world's most pressing climate, environmental, and sustainability issues. Follow us on Twitter: [@INCEESWUSTL](https://twitter.com/INCEESWUSTL) or check out our website at [inceeds.wustl.edu](https://inceeds.wustl.edu).



## Washington University in St. Louis

### INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

In 2018, InCEES began developing a relationship with Bloomberg Philanthropies that helped attract support to Washington University to pursue a set of climate-focused initiatives on campus and with the City of St. Louis. From those meetings, the Midwest Climate Summit debuted in Fall 2020. More than 1,000 leaders from higher education (including tribal colleges), non-profit organizations, corporations, and government took part in the Midwest Climate Summit. The series of virtual workshops, presented with support from Bloomberg Philanthropies, was designed to increase ambition for and accelerate climate action in the Midwest. The Summit will reconvene in Fall 2021 and is exploring ways to accelerate climate impacts across the Midwest. Please join the conversation and follow the Summit's progress at [midwestclimatesummit.wustl.edu](https://midwestclimatesummit.wustl.edu)



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*The Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies has been approved for a Grants for Arts Project award to support the Washington University Pow Wow.*



*A Special Thank You!*

*The Pow Wow Committee would like to take a moment to express our gratitude to the people who helped make our Pow Wow a success. We appreciate their time, donations, financial assistance, and attention.*

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*The Buder Center for American Indian Studies is a premier graduate program in Social Work. We are committed to preparing and supporting future American Indian leaders to practice in tribal and urban settings, making significant contributions to health, wellness, and the sustained future of Indian Country.*



**Washington University in St. Louis**

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