About the Logo

Mouse Woman, a respected character in Tsimshian legends, can appear either as a mouse or the tiniest of grandmothers. She is a wise figure who often aids people in peril, taking small compensation for the help she gives.

~ John Sixbey

Our Goals

• Promoting survival skills in medical or health professions school
• Interpersonal problem solving support
• Sharing tribal customs
• Incorporation of traditional medicine into western medical practice
• Planning and participation in AI/AN community events
• Support of AI/AN pre-medical and pre-dental students
• Forums to discuss AI/AN health problems
• How to remain "Indian" with traditional values while in school
• Medicine Wheel Society
c/o Native American Center of Excellence
University of Washington—School of Medicine
Box 356340
Seattle, WA 98195-6340

Native American Center of Excellence
The University of Washington School of Medicine
About Medicine Wheel Society

The Medicine Wheel Society (MWS) is a social network among American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) medical students, other health professions students, alumni, faculty and friends. Its primary purpose is to provide means by which AI/AN health professionals associated with the University of Washington can interact to provide a support network for AI/AN medical school students.

The student organization has expanded to include AI/AN students in all other health fields; as well as practicing health professionals and faculty interested in lending support and information.

MWS’ Focus

The Medicine Wheel Society's main concern is to ensure that each entering health professions student graduates from his/her respective program so that s/he can go on to practice their skills for the benefit of the various communities.

About the Individuals

The Medicine Wheel Society is an organization that brings together the people, the tradition and customs, and the spirit that enables our American Indian/Alaskan Native medical students to maintain their sense of community.

The group consists of American Indians/Alaska Native and non-Native students at the University of Washington School of Medicine who work to promote AI/AN culture, education and advances in healthcare.

The Medicine Wheel Society is open to all students and offers pre-medical and medical students, alumni, faculty, and health professionals at the UW opportunities to interact socially and in community projects.

“...The Medicine Wheel Society helps students make the transition into a new system while keeping their heritage. Students can thus maintain their diversity and succeed as Native Americans...”
~ Robert Lamebull McDonald, M.D
Class of 2001

Our Activities

With an emphasis on maintaining the culture while in school, the Medicine Wheel Society host a number of social events throughout the year where members and guests can share traditional customs and beliefs among their peers.

In addition, the Medicine Wheel Society is involved in several outreach programs throughout the Seattle area and the United States. Members attend local and regional Pow-Wows to pass information to the Indian population about opportunities available in the health professions.

Members attend conferences and workshops throughout the year as part of their education and to provide information to college undergraduates.

Members also visit local schools as role models to younger Indian students. Programs vary depending on which school the member is attending.

Additional Activities

♦ Blanket Ceremony /Graduation
♦ Fundraising
♦ Potlucks
♦ Powwows
♦ Ronald McDonald House-Family Game Night & Dinner
♦ Elder’s Dinner/FDS (on hold)