

The Heartbeat of the Powwow Returns to the University of Colorado.
Written by Melodie Miller

Title: The Heartbeat of the Powwow Returns to the University of Colorado

Nat Sounds: (Fade in ambient Native American flute)

Intro (Narrator): (Soft sound of Native American singers in the background)

I'm here at beautiful Farrond Field on the University of Colorado campus in Boulder for a powwow. It's a beautiful bluebird day without a cloud in the sky. The campus sits on the traditional territories and homelands of the Arapaho, the Cheyenne, and the Ute nations. The university is committed to improving and enhancing engagement with indigenous peoples locally and nationwide.

(Narrator): If you've never been to a powwow before, it's a prayer and healing ritual that dates back over 225 years. It's a sacred ceremony for indigenous Americans. The drums simulate the beating of the human heart.

VO Clip (Marty Chase Alone, Spiritual Advisor): "We're here to show you today what we do i to dance for the creator in a good way. "

Nat Sounds: (Fade in ambient regalia jingle sounds and powwow drummers)

Segment 1 (Narrator): Now, after 23 years, the powwow returns to campus as a celebration of faith and tradition for the indigenous peoples of Colorado.

Sadie Sago, one of the powwow organizers, is a fourth year PhD student here at CU.

Sadie told me she went to the last powwow 23 years ago, in 2001 with her parents when she was a small child.

Nat Sounds: (Fade in drums, flute and powwow drummers)

Interview Clip 1 (First Interviewee Saydie Sago): Bringing some Cheyenne, and Rapaho community from northern Rapajo members, southern Rapaho members, and Cheyenne members to come dance and be a partner. Of course, they were part of one of the many tribes that are historically tied to this part of the land and also Colorado. So we are inviting them back to their ancestral lands.

Narrator Transition 2: I spoke with Shaleen Redhorse, an aerospace engineering student here at CU. She danced powwows when she was younger. I know that my parents, I think, have been to actually the powwow 23 years ago.

Nat Sounds: (Fade in drums, flute and powwow drummers)

Interview Clip 2 (Second Interviewee Shellene Redhorse): So it's really nice to see it coming back, and I really hope we can continue this ongoing tradition. I've been going to powwows ever since I was one of the tiny tots. And, you know, my mom put me in a jingle dress dance, and I got up on the dance floor.

Narrator Transition 3: I spoke with Benny Shendo, the Vice Chancellor of Native American Affairs, about the future for Native American students in states outside of Colorado.

Nat Sounds: (Fade in drums, flute and powwow drummers)

Interview Clip 3 (Third Interviewee Benny Shendo): Not only increase our Native American enrollment, both undergraduate, graduate, but also faculty and staff, and because we only have two federally recognized tribes here in the state of Colorado. But then there's 46 other tribes that have historical connection to the state of Colorado. And so the state passed the law assigned by the governor will allow now any students from those tribes to come into state tuition.

Outro (Narrator): This could open the door to college for thousands of indigenous Americans. The University of Colorado has a 90% return rate of Native American students. The return of the powwow to campus is only part of the University of Colorado's commitment to honor the voices and traditions of Native American students, staff and faculty.

Interview Clip 4 (Third Interviewee Benny Shendo): It's a new day, you know, it's for us, and we're hoping to elevate the presence of our native students at all levels.

Nat Sounds: (Fade out ambient sound dancers and singers)

END

Credits and Acknowledgements: The powwow today was organized by the Oyate Native American and Indigenous student group, along with the Center for Native American Indigenous Studies (CNAIS), the Center for Inclusion and Social Change (CISC), the Native Graduate Student Group, and the Theater and Dance Department.

The University of Colorado acknowledges its location as a traditional territory and ancestral homeland of the Cheyenne, Arapaho, Ute, and many other Native American Nations.

Here is the link to my Radio Package on the Powwow.
<https://on.soundcloud.com/TrRTEphssreEsxeU8>

Powwow Staff: <https://cuboulder2024powwow.my.canva.site/>

1. Interviewee Name 1 –Saydie Sago is a fourth-year Ph.D. Student in Integrative Physiology (IPHY). She is a member of the Zuni Pueblo and Mescalero Apache tribes.
2. Interviewee Name 2 –Shellen Redhorse is an Aerospace Engineering student and American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) president at the University of Colorado Boulder. AISES is a student group that supports Indigenous students and professionals in STEM fields.
3. Interviewee Name 3 –Benny Shendo Jr. is the associate vice chancellor for Native American Affairs at the University of Colorado. He is a member of the Jemez Pueblo Tribe.