

IN THE LOOP

SSW STUDENT NEWSLETTER

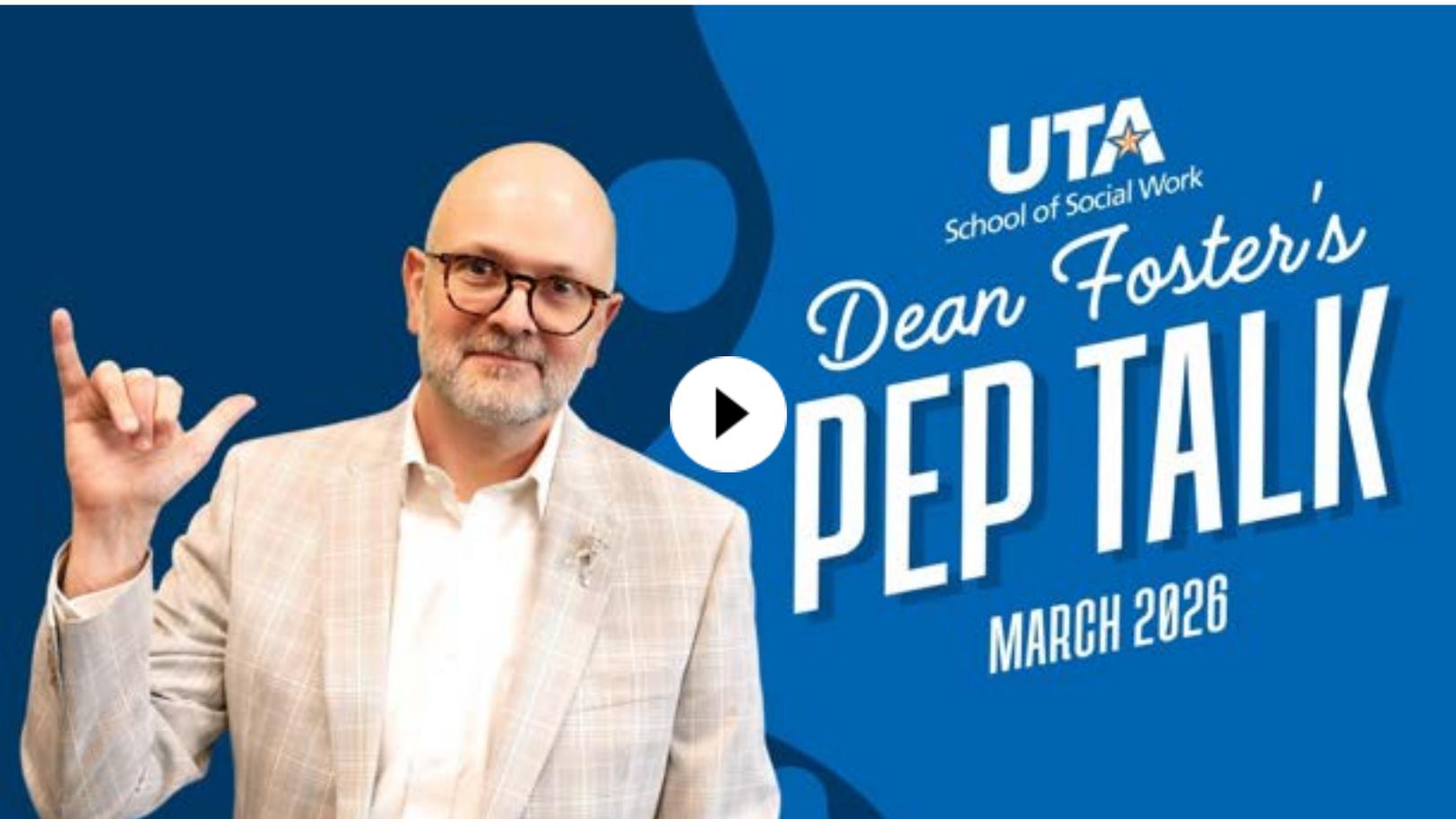
March 19, 2026

Advising Updates

The Office of Advising & Student Retention is offering several ways to get assistance as the new registration session opens. Go check out our [website](#) to see upcoming Group Advising sessions, Registration Labs and Peak Period Advising Sessions

The last day to drop courses is **April 3, 2026!** To drop courses, students need to use the drop form in MyMav. Visit the Registrar's Office [website](#) for instructions.

Watch the Dean's March Pep Talk to Students!



Opportunities & Events

Social Work Advocacy Day Prep Rally

UTA School of Social Work **SAHSW**

Prep Rally

JOIN US IN PERSON OR ONLINE

Date: March 23rd
Time: 6:00pm
Room: SWSH Rm 132

FREE PIZZA, DRINKS, & COOKIES

- Special Guest:
NASW-TX Government Relations Director, Bryan Mares
- Learn how to effectively engage with legislators
- Understand key policy issues impacting social work
- Connect with fellow students passionate about making a difference

**Empower. Educate. Advocate.
Together for Change.**

Don't miss out-RSVP today!

Scan here or click the link to register
[Click Here to Register](#)

For accommodations, please contact:
kell.rogers@uta.edu

Get Ready for Social Work Advocacy Day!

In collaboration with the School of Social Work, Student Association for Macro Social Work, and the Social Work Student Council, the Phi Alpha Honor Society for Social Work is leading a prep rally for Social Work Advocacy Day.

Join in person or online!

- **Date: Monday, March 23, 2026**
- **Time: 6pm**
- **Room: SWSH Room 132**
 - **Free pizza, drinks, and cookies!**

Special Guest: Bryan Mares, NASW-TX Government Relations Director

Learn how to effectively engage with legislators, understand key policy issues impacting social work, and connect with fellow students passionate about making a difference.

Don't miss out - RSVP today! To RSVP, [click here!](#)

Social Work Spring 2026 Virtual Symposium

SPRING 2026 SYMPOSIUM

Strengthening Social Impact through Collaborative Action

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

9 AM - 12:30 PM | Virtual

CEUs | Sessions | Speaker

RSVP

For Accommodations
Contact: sswengage@uta.edu

Monica Dorsey
Keynote Speaker

UTA
School of Social Work

The School of Social Work invites you to our Social Work Spring 2026 Virtual Symposium. This year's theme, “**Strengthening Social Impact through Collaborative Action,**” focuses on the importance of collaboration in social work to address complex social issues, strengthen communities, and amplify social impact.

Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2026
Where: Teams

To register for the Symposium, use this [LINK!](#)

Social Work Advocacy Day 2026

JOIN US FOR 2026 SOCIAL WORK ADVOCACY DAY

UTA School of Social Work

United in Purpose, Unique in Perspective

Friday, April 17, 2026
Texas State Capitol (Austin, TX)

Thursday, April 16, 2026
Where Social Work Takes Us:
Austin, TX - Advocacy & Networking Reception

Student Fee: \$10
Alumni Fee: \$25

What's included:

- Lunch
- SSW Advocacy Day Shirt

Scan code to register:

If accommodations are needed to fully participate, please email sswengage@uta.edu by March 15, 2026.

nasw
2026 CHAIRS

Join us for Social Work Advocacy Day on **April 17, 2026, in Austin, TX**, for a day of education, advocacy, and connection.

This year's theme, **United in Purpose, Unique in Perspective**, celebrates the power of social workers coming together to drive change while honoring the diverse experiences and perspectives.

Student Fee: \$10 (includes event registration, a UTA SSW Advocacy Day shirt, and lunch)

Registration Deadline Extended to March 23rd!

To join us in Austin, please complete this [registration form](#).

Andrew Marks Student Advocacy Award



The poster features the NASW logo at the top right and a colorful circular logo with 'SSWAO 2026' in the center. The main text reads: 'ANDREW MARKS STUDENT ADVOCACY AWARD 2026'. Below this, it says 'Open to BSW & MSW Students!' and 'Winners receive a \$150 Visa Gift Card and FREE registration to the 2026 NASW-TX Conference.' It then invites students to self-nominate by submitting a brief description of an advocacy effort. A list of required submission items includes: Problem or Issue, Population Affected, Advocacy Action & Your Role, and Outcome of the Advocacy Action. It states 'Winners announced at Social Work Advocacy Day on April 17, 2026!!' and 'Nominations due March 27, 2026' with a hand-drawn arrow pointing to a QR code.

In memory of Texas State University Professor Andrew Marks, LMSW, this award honors his dedication to social work advocacy and empowering students to engage in the legislative process.

The award is given to one BSW and one MSW student during Social Work Advocacy Day. Students self-nominate by submitting a brief (500-word max) description of a non-work-related advocacy effort they've undertaken to create change at the local, state, or national level.

Award winners will receive a certificate of recognition, a \$150 Visa Gift Card, and FREE registration to the 2026 NASW-TX Conference in Galveston.

Submissions are due by **March 27, 2026**.

[Apply here!](#)

Spring 2026 Group Work Series: Essentials of Clinical Group Work Practice: Effective Use of Self

SPRING 2026 GROUP WORK
CONTINUING EDUCATION
WORKSHOP

LOYOLA
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Essentials of Clinical Group Work Practice: Effective Use of Self

Friday, March 20th, 2026
1 pm - 4 pm Central (Chicago) Time | Zoom | 3 CEUs

The professional use of self entails a group worker's planned, purposeful engagement in behaviors that strengthen a group's process, facilitates stages of development, and models effective communication. Similarly, how the worker responds to early member ambivalence in their groups can either promote or inhibit the development of beneficial group norms. This workshop combines a didactic component, using a lecture style (power point) method of instruction, and an experiential component where participants develop skills in their use of self in groups.

At the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Have knowledge and skills in the use of a practice model focusing on the professional use of self in group work.
- Know how to differentially use their professional self throughout various stages of group development.
- Learn to be able to discern between responses that can be used in service of the group and promote group development and those that should be contained.
- Respond to ambivalence in groups in a way that promote openness and risk-taking by members in their groups.

Fees: General \$25
Loyola Management Supervisors \$70
Students \$25
20% discount if enrolled in 3 or more sessions.

REGISTER HERE
www.loyola.edu/ce/2026/03/20/essentials-of-clinical-group-work-practice-effective-use-of-self



William Peltzer
Dr. William Peltzer, Distinguished Professor of Social Work, Emeritus, University of South Florida, is the Director of the Center for Group Work at Loyola University of Chicago. He has over 30 years of experience in the field of group work and has published numerous articles and books on group work practice. He is currently teaching in the Department of Social Work at Loyola University of Chicago. He has also been a frequent speaker at national and international group work conferences and has been a past president of the International Association of Group Workers and the American Group Therapy Association.

Sponsored by:
Loyola University of Chicago
Department of Social Work

Contact: Caroline Gessalin at cgessalin@luc.edu
for additional info and scholarship options.

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 - Learn to be able to discern between responses that can be used in service of the group and promote group development and those that should be contained.
 - Respond to ambivalence in groups in a way that promote openness and risk-taking by members in their groups.
- **Friday, March 20, 2026**
 - **1PM - 4PM Central (Chicago) Time | Zoom | 3CEUs**
 - **Student Fee: \$25**
 - ***20% discount if enrolled in 3 or more sessions**

[Register here!](https://www.loyola.edu/ce/2026/03/20/essentials-of-clinical-group-work-practice-effective-use-of-self)

Spring 2026 Group Work Series: The School-Aged Child in Groups

SPRING 2026 GROUP WORK
CONTINUING EDUCATION
WORKSHOP

The School-Age Child in Groups
Friday, March 27th, 2026
1 pm - 4 pm Central (Chicago) Time (Zoom) | 3 CEUs

School-aged children spend much of their lives in groups through participation in families, classrooms, teams, clubs, and friendships. Groups provide opportunities to practice socializing, regulate emotions, try out and shape identity and feel accepted and acceptable. This workshop focuses on understanding and applying strategies for effective group-work with school-aged children. It addresses issues related to screening, planning, group beginnings and endings, norm development, use of activities, evaluation and accommodations for a variety of participant needs. The session incorporates didactic instruction, practice examples, and experiential activities, and is relevant for those working within the school system, residential facilities and community-based programs.

At the end of this session, participants will be able to (3) it bullet:

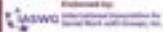
- Understand the specific opportunities and challenges involved in facilitating groups for school-aged children both within and outside the school setting.
- Apply the Developmental Model of Groups to work with school-aged children.
- Plan for needed accommodations based on developmental differences, specific interests of participants, environmental considerations and other issues specific to children's groups.
- Understand how to effectively conclude groups with consideration of maintaining gains.

Fees: General \$85
Loyola Alumni/Staff Supervisors \$30
Students \$20
20% discount if enrolled in 3 or more sessions

REGISTER HERE
www.loyola.edu/ce/2026/03/27



Barbara Munkit, PhD, MSW
Barbara Munkit has been involved in group work throughout her career. She has worked in a variety of settings including residential treatment centers, foster care, and community-based organizations. She has a strong background in working with school-aged children and has facilitated numerous groups in both school and community settings. She is currently a professor and teaches a course on group work in the Department of Social Work at Loyola University Chicago.

Endorsed by  **Carolee Gessalin at cgessalin@luc.edu** for additional info and scholarship options.

School-aged children spend much of their lives in groups through participation in families, classrooms, teams, clubs, and friendships. Groups provide opportunities to practice socializing, regulate emotions, try out and shape identity and feel accepted and acceptable.

This workshop focuses on understanding and applying strategies for effective group work with school-aged children. It addresses issues related to screening, planning, group beginnings and endings, norm development, use of activities, evaluation and accommodations for a variety of participant needs.

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- Apply the Developmental Model of Groups to work with school-aged children.
- Plan for needed accommodations based on developmental differences, specific interests of participants, environmental considerations and other issues specific to children's groups.
- Understand how to effectively conclude groups with consideration of maintaining gains.

- **Friday, March 27, 2026**
- **1PM - 4PM Central (Chicago) Time | Zoom | 3CEUs**
- **Student Fee: \$25**
- ***20% discount if enrolled in 3 or more sessions**

[Register here!](https://www.loyola.edu/ce/2026/03/27)

School of Social Work Virtual Peer Support Clinic

UTA Virtual Clinic
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

PEER SUPPORT GROUP SESSIONS

4-Week Peer-Led Group Series

Join a supportive, non-judgmental space to connect with peers, share experiences, and build coping skills

GROUP TOPIC
Grief, Loss, and Trauma
EMOTIONAL REGULATION, STRESS MANAGEMENT, GROUNDING, AND BUILDING RESILIENCE

Sessions starts March 30, 2026!

How This Can Help You

- Emotional Awareness
- Grounding Techniques
- Coping Skills
- Ability to reflect without judgment
- Support from peers with shared experiences

Session Times

Monday @ 12 PM CST
Tuesday-Thursday @ 12 PM CST & 6 PM CST

Session Format

- Peer-Led Groups
- Attend one session each week
- 4-week series commitment encouraged
- Virtual & confidential

Scan QR Code or click [HERE](#) to join!

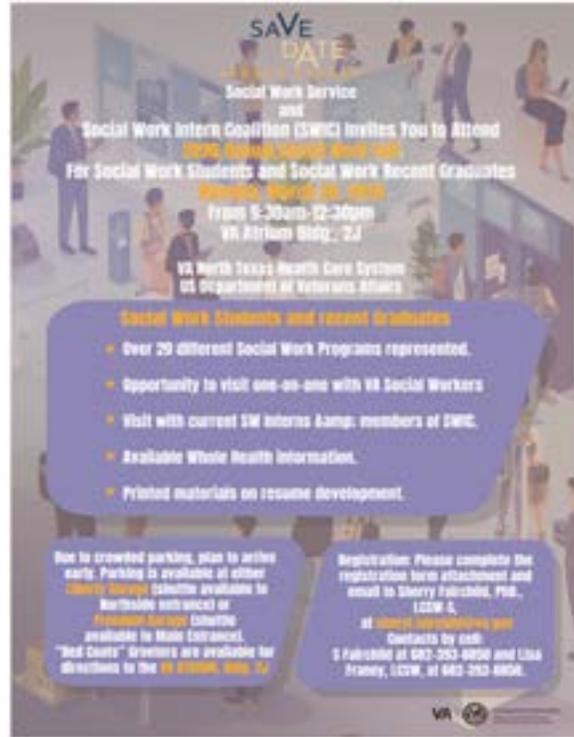
UTA School of Social Work Virtual Peer Support Clinic is offering mindfulness-based and resilience-focused groups.

These virtual sessions provide a supportive space for participants to explore coping strategies, emotional resilience, and mindfulness techniques while navigating the many challenges of life. This experience can support both **personal and professional growth** for students in our social work program.

- Sessions begin on March 30, 2026
- Session Times:
 - Monday at 12PM CST
 - Tuesday-Thursday at 12PM CST & 6PM CST
- Virtual & confidential

To join, sign up [here](#)!

Annual VA Social Work Fair

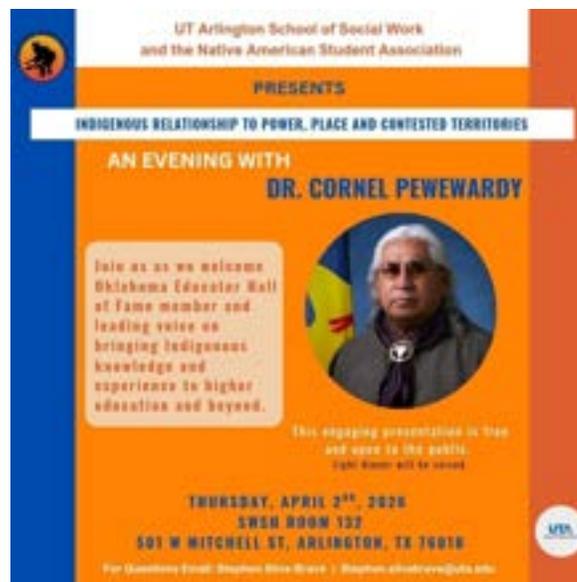


The upcoming VA Social Work Fair event is an excellent opportunity for social work students and recent Graduates to visit with our Social Work Professional Staff to learn about the various SW Programs in both Social Work Service and Mental Health Service at the North Texas VA Health Care System. A second opportunity is to learn about the VA North Texas Health Care System Social Work Internship Program.

- **Monday, March 30, 2026**
- **9:30AM - 12:30PM**
- **Dallas VA Medical Center (Atrium, Bldg. 2J)**
- **4500 S. Lancaster Rd., Dallas, TX 75216**

To register, students will need to complete the **registration form** and email it to Sherry Fairchild (Sheryl.Fairchild@va.gov).

Indigenous Relationship to Power, Place, and Contested Territories



The School of Social Work and the Native American Student Association invites you to an evening

with Dr. Cornel Pewewardy, Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Central Oklahoma, former Vice-Chairman of the Comanche Nation, 2024 Oklahoma Educators Hall of Fame and 2025 Lawton Arts & Humanities Educator in the Arts Award.

- **Thursday, April 2, 2026**
- **7pm-8:30pm**
- **SWSH Room 132**

Light dinner will be served

DFW Alliance in Mental & Behavioral Health Research Symposium: Development, Mood, Psychosis, and Addiction

The 2026 DFW Alliance in Mental & Behavioral Health Research Symposium: Development, Mood, Psychosis, and Addiction. This event is hosted by Metrocare’s Altshuler Center for Education and Research (ACER) in partnership with faculty from UT Southwestern, UT Dallas, UT Arlington, University of North Texas, and East Texas A&M University - Commerce.

The Symposium brings together academic and community-based investigators to expose research informing mental and behavioral health care—and is designed to strengthen cross-institutional relationships to catalyze future research collaboration.

- **Friday, April 10, 2026**
- **8:30AM - 3:00PM**
- **Scottish Rite Hospital for Children**
- **T. Boone Pickens Training and Conference (2222 Welborn St., Dallas, TX 75219)**

Registration Fee: \$50

To learn more and register, visit the [**Metrocare Services website**](#).

The Big Event: UTA's Largest Day of Service

The Big Event:
UTA's Largest Day of Service
And this year, your service has a global goal.

April 18, 2026

As North Texas prepares to host the FIFA World Cup 2026™, UTA is proud to partner with the North Texas FWC Organizing Committee and the City of Arlington to integrate sustainability into our day of action. Join UTA Volunteers as we lead regional efforts in environmental stewardship and community impact. Be part of this powerful tradition of giving back and help us build a lasting legacy that the world will see in 2026.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER
and select preferred service site.

@fwc26dallas

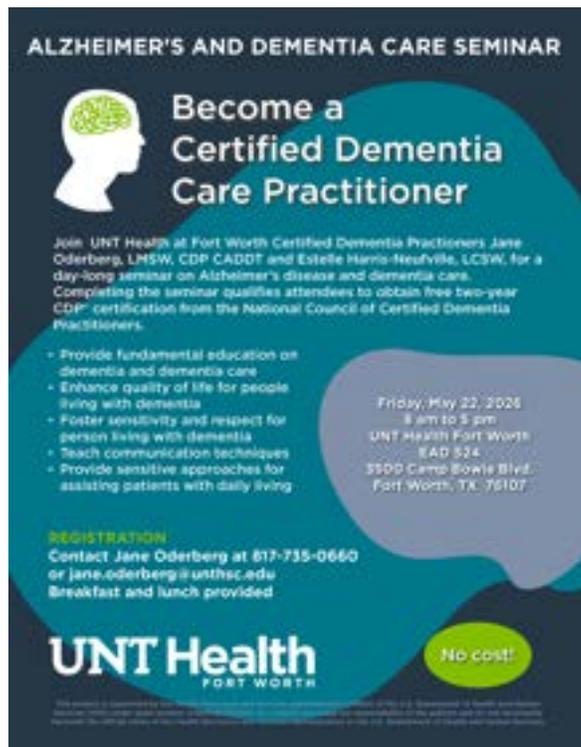
Logos: UTA, UT Southwestern, CHOC/TAMU, City of Arlington

As North Texas prepares to host the FIFA World Cup 26™, UTA is proud to partner with the North Texas FWC Organizing Committee and the City of Arlington to integrate sustainability into our day of action.

Join UTA Volunteers on **April 18, 2026**, as we lead regional efforts in environmental stewardship and community impact. Be part of this powerful tradition of giving back and help us build a lasting legacy that the world will see in 2026.

Register [HERE](#) and select preferred service site!

Become a Certified Dementia Care Practitioner



Join UNT Health at Fort Worth Certified Dementia Practitioners Jane Oderberg, LMSW, CDP CADDT and Estelle Harris-Neufville, LCSW, for a day-long seminar on Alzheimer's disease and dementia care.

Completing the seminar qualifies attendees to obtain free two-year CDP® certification from the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners.

- **Friday, May 22, 2026**
- **8AM - 5PM**
- **UNT Health Fort Worth EAD 524 (3500 Camp Bowie Blvd. Fort Worth, TX 76107)**
- **Breakfast and lunch provided!**
- **NO COST!**

To register, contact Jane Oderberg (jane.oderberg@unthsc.edu)

Student Organization Corner

Join the Social Work Student Council General Body Meeting



General Body Meeting

Thursday, March 26, 2026
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
SWSH Room 132

What is The Social Work Student Council?

- Why join the Social Work Student Council?
- Are there Benefits?
- What is the merit program?

Join us for pizza, fun, and community!



Follow Us on Instagram



GroupMe(SWSC General Body)

Join the Social Work Student Council for their general body meeting on:

- **Thursday, March 26, 2026**
- **12pm - 1pm**
- **SWSH Room 132**

Students are welcome to join in person or virtually for pizza, fun, and community!

2026 Native American Student Association Powwow at UTA



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

2026 Native American Student Association Powwow at UTA

Our organization is looking for students, staff, and community members to help us have a successful event.

April 4, 2026
Mavericks Activity Center
 For Questions Email: [Carletta Granado](mailto:Carletta.Granado@clc5781@mavs.uta.edu)
clc5781@mavs.uta.edu

SIGN UP →

The Native American Student Association at UTA is preparing for our 2026 Powwow on **April 4, 2026**, at the Maverick Activities Center, and we are seeking volunteers to help make this important event a success.

This is an all-day event, but volunteers may sign up for one-hour shifts. We currently have approximately **100 volunteer slots available** throughout the day, and individuals are welcome to sign up

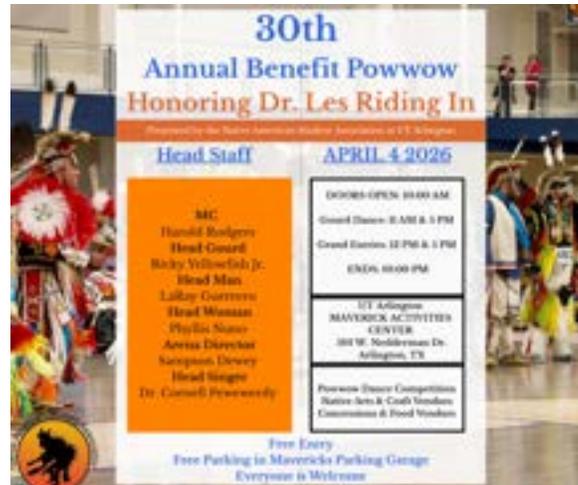
for multiple shifts.

We will host one or two optional virtual volunteer meetings, as well as an in-person volunteer meeting on March 26 at 7:00 PM at the Maverick Activities Center. Attendance is encouraged but not required.

Sign up [HERE!](#)

This is a meaningful opportunity for students, departments, and organizations to support cultural education, community engagement, and cross-cultural connection. We welcome individuals, families, and student organizations to participate. It is also a wonderful opportunity to bring your organization members and experience a vibrant cultural gathering together.

30th Annual Benefit Powwow Honoring Dr. Les Riding In



Presented by the Native American Student Association at UTA.

Powwow dance competition, Native arts & crafts vendors, concessions & food vendors!

- **April 4, 2026**
- **Doors open: 10AM**
- **Gourd Dance: 11AM & 5PM**
- **Grand Entries: 12PM & 6PM**
- **Ends: 10PM**

Free entry, free parking in Mavericks Parking Garage, everyone is welcome!

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK RESOURCES

ACADEMIC ADVISING

PRACTICUM PLACEMENT

CONNECTIONS LAB

SW LIBRARIAN

LICENSURE

DEAN'S LETTER FOR LICENSURE

CARE FUND

CARE REFERRAL

UTA RESOURCES

- [UTA Academic Calendar](#)
- [Library Resources](#)
- [Office of International Education](#)
- [Apply for Graduation](#)
- [Free Windows Apps with Student ID](#)
- [Student Access & Resource \(SAR\) Center](#)

- [UTA Counseling & Psychology Services \(CAPS\)](#)
- [Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#)
- [Emergency Assistance Fund](#)
- [Health Services](#)
- [UTA/Tri-C Food Pantry Distribution](#)

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