A Sense of Community

STUDENT PROFILE

“Somehow, I want to make an impact on my tribal community and our environment.”
—Mitchell Bear Don’t Walk JЕ ’16

Yale College has an enrollment nearly seven times the population of Saint Ignatius, the town on Montana’s Flathead Reservation where Mitchell Bear Don’t Walk JЕ ’16 was raised. And yet Rose, as she is known, has brought Saint Ignatius with her to Yale, in her passion for her Native American heritage and the environment.

Rose is affiliated with the Confederated Salish tribe and the Crow Nation of Montana. At Yale, she has emerged as a leader among the Native American student community, which has grown steadily in the past decade. (The forty Native American students in the Class of 2015 comprise the largest such class attending any Ivy League institution.) She calls her work as a peer liaison for the Native American Cultural Center “an awesome opportunity to create good relationships in the community.” As its outreach coordinator, she is helping the Association of Native Americans at Yale plan an All-Ivy conference for the spring. She also co-founded the Blue Feather drum group, which now boasts about twenty members.

Rose has yet to choose a major, but she has taken courses in American Indian law and ecology and enjoys creative writing, American studies, and environmental studies. “At home, people have always worked hard to maintain the forest and the land,” she says. “Somehow, I want to make an impact on my tribal community and our environment.

“I love the amount of support here — there’s a true interest people take in students,” she says. “I never could have never made it here without financial aid.”

A robust financial aid program brings exceptional students like Rose to Yale, regardless of their financial circumstances. To learn more about ways to support these students, please visit giving.yale.edu or call 800.395.7646.