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NTU Host Navajo Nation President Forum 2022

CROWNPOINT, NM - The Presidential Forum held at Navajo Technical University (NTU) in Crownpoint drew all 15 candidates competing in the primary on August 2nd, 2022. A large crowd was present at the Wellness Center. More people were present through online streaming and radio programming as the candidates debated and discussed various topics important to Navajo voters.

Sponsored jointly by Skyhawk and KTNN radio, Dr. Elmer Guy characterized the event as an opportunity for voters to hear what the presidential candidates have to offer to voters concerning the future of the Navajo Nation and its people.

"This forum was a great platform to give our candidates a voice to speak out and give opinions on topics relevant to the Navajo Nation," he said after the event. "We heard wonderful responses about how higher education is a priority to our candidate's goals and how we need to continue encouraging one another for our people."

Candidates that attended the forum included Earl L. Sombrero, Dolly Manson, Dineh Benally, Justin Jones, Buu Nygren, Emily Ellison, Kevin Cody, Sandra Jeff, Frankie Davis, current President Jonathan Nez, Leslie M. Tsosie, Ethel Branch, Greg H. Bigman, Frank Dayish, and Rosanna Jumbo-Fitch.

Some candidates expressed enthusiasm about the event after it was finished.

"It was an amazing experience, especially hearing different responses from each candidate. I wish I had a little more time to answer questions given," said Frank Dayish, Navajo Nation President Candidate and the current Vice President. "I wanted to give more. I wanted to say more. But I feel good."

"The classes were amazing," Rosanna Jumbo-Fitch said after touring the laboratories and classrooms on campus.

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“I love the technology that is at our fingertips. I know the younger generation will succeed in different areas of the Navajo Nation.” She continued by saying that “NTU surprised me. I like how the question was randomly timed and made you quick on your toes, which is how it should be.”

The current Navajo Nation President, Jonathan Nez, praised NTU’s time in the spotlight. “I believe NTU,” he said. “It’s in institutions like these that allow our people to see and attend these events. You see leadership. I believe in not being separated as a community; we should be united, which was why I was here tonight.”

During the campus tour provided for the presidential candidates, trade instructors pointed out some of the work students have participated in to improve the campus, such as gazebos built, outdoor classrooms, and modular classrooms. Summer intern students also made presentations, saying they were hoping they would one day become instructors, grant writers, and research program assistants that could serve the needs of the Navajo Nation.

Candidates also had the chance to visit NTU recruitment booths while attending the Presidential Forum. They had the opportunity to meet front-line staff, who were out and about providing information to potential students. In addition, each candidate had informational booths that allowed each to educate voters about their platforms and qualifications.



SAVE THE DATES

KIRTLAND OPEN HOUSE

July 20, 2022

10 am - 3 pm

NTU Kirtland Site

FOR MORE INFO:

Cynthia K Dayish

Site Coordinator

505.387.7359

cdayish@navajotech.edu

RAMAH NAVAJO CHAPTER & PINEHILL RECRUITMENT DAY

July 22, 2022

10 am - 2 pm

Ramah Navajo Chapter
Pinehill Chapter

FOR MORE INFO:

Brenda Yazzie

NTU Recruiter

505.488.3722

b.yazzie@navajotech.edu

NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENTIAL FORUM

July 26, 2022

5 pm - 8 pm

Wellness Center

2022 Presidential Forum was held in NTU Wellness Center on June 14, 2022.

SAVE THE DATES

RUNNING CAMP

July 25 - 28, 2022

9 am - 3 pm

Wellness Center

FOR MORE INFO:

Coach Leonard Lee

llee@navajotech.edu

505.701.5617

NTU 2022 CATFISH TOURNAMENT

August 6, 2022

5 am - 7 pm

Ganado Lake, AZ

FOR MORE INFO:

Jarvis Draper

928.882.3155

j.draper@navajotech.edu

George LaFrance

glafrance@navajotech.edu

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NTU rodeo athletes compete among the nation's best at 2022 College National Finals Rodeo

CASPER, WYOMING – Rooster Yazzie and Hiyo Yazzie represented Navajo Technical University, both of Brimhall, NM, at the College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR) in Casper, WY, June 12-18, 2022. The duo performed exceptionally well at the rodeo, featuring approximately 400 top college cowboys and cowgirls from across the country competing for the national championships individually and as teams. Navajo Technical University men finished in 28th place with 120 points at the 10-day event held at the Ford Wyoming Event Center.

“I’m impressed with our students Rooster and Hiyo Yazzie for their accomplishments and representing Navajo Technical University at the CNFR,” said NTU Provost Dr. Colleen W. Bowman. She attended the event to support the students and express her gratitude for their representation at the event. “They both demonstrated their remarkable talents as student-athletes on a grand stage. NTU is grateful to have them as our students. They competed with heart and showed the country that they have what it takes to compete at the national level.”

At the event, Hiyo Yazzie had outstanding performances in the tie-down roping event leading to the championship round. In the second round of the rodeo, he roped and tied his calf in 8.7 seconds, earning second place in the competition. He was shy of advancing to the short round with his 20.9 second time in the third round. It placed him 16th overall for the CNFR. An invitation by New Mexico State University’s healer Jonathan Carrizal, he was added as a header in the team roping event. Unfortunately, the team was unsuccessful in their occurrence in the third round.

NTU steer wrestler Rooster Yazzie had an impressive performance in the third round putting his steer down in 4.6 seconds for a third-place tie in the competition. He was assisted by teammate Mathew Jodie who did not qualify but hazed the steer for Yazzie. Rooster received no times for the first two rounds and finished 36th at the event. NTU cowboys could not advance to the championship round, where the top 12 rodeo athletes competed for the coveted national title for each of the nine featured events.

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Hiyo Yazzie roped and tied his calf in 8.7 seconds, earning second place in the round.

"It was a great experience for me to compete among the best in the country in college rodeo, and I'm thankful to have this opportunity," said Rooster Yazzie in an interview with NTU Radio Station KCZY about his competition at the CNFR. "To compete at this level, I have to thank Navajo Technical University, my family, and everyone who supports me in this sport."

The CNFR was also broadcast by Navajo Technical University's radio station, 107.3 FM KCZY. The rodeo was announced live on the station by manager Cuyler R. Frank and KCZY DJ Glen King in the Navajo language back to its listenership of the Eastern Agency of the Navajo Nation. The broadcast was a first at the CNFR, which was broadcast primarily in the Navajo language with interviews in the English language.

"Rodeo is a popular sport in the Navajo Nation, and we appreciate being represented nationally by Rooster and Hiyo. They deserve the recognition," said NTU President Elmer Guy, mentioning the athletes and the university being acknowledged at the CNFR. "I would also like to thank our NTU radio station KCZY manager Cuyler Frank for broadcasting the event. This was a first for our institution. We continue to make strides for our students, and I'm grateful for everyone making an effort to grow our institution for our students and communities."

The NTU timed-event cowboys both qualified among top athletes from the Grand Canyon Region of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association. The top three of each rodeo event are selected to compete at the CNFR. Rooster Yazzie finished the 2021-2022 season in the steer wrestling event in third place with 671.5 points and sixth in the all-around standings. Hiyo Yazzie also finished third place in the tie-down roping with 471 points and seventh in the overall standings. In the Grand Canyon Region, the NTU Men's team completed the season in fourth place with a combined total of 2449 points.

Other Navajo college rodeo athletes at the CNFR from the Grand Canyon Region were Northern Arizona University student Stade Riggs who competed in saddle bronc riding. He finished at the event in 12th place with 197 points. Central Arizona College bull rider Brad Moreno completed the event in eighth place with one qualified ride of 68.5 points and competed in the team roping with teammate Jaken Todacheenie of Northland Pioneer College. Kiara Begay was also at the event for the University of Arizona in the Barrel Racing event finishing 12th place for the event.

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Pinehill Chapter

FOR MORE INFO:

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NTU Recruiter

505.488.3722

b.yazzie@navajotech.edu

NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENTIAL FORUM

July 26, 2022

5 pm - 8 pm

Wellness Center

RUNNING CAMP

July 25 - 28, 2022

9 am - 3 pm

Wellness Center

FOR MORE INFO:

Coach Leonard Lee

llee@navajotech.edu

505.701.5617

DO YOU HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE? CONTACT DALE MORGAN AT

DMORGAN@NAVAJOTECH.EDU

YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT WILL APPEAR IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH'S NEWSLETTER.

SAVE THE DATES

NTU 2022 CATFISH TOURNAMENT

August 6, 2022
5 am - 7 pm
Ganado Lake, AZ

FOR MORE INFO:

Jarvis Draper
928.882.3155
j.draper@navajotech.edu

George LaFrance
glafrance@navajotech.edu

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NTU Diné Maker Fair

Crownpoint, NM – On June 30, 2022, Navajo Technical University and Wingate High School students presented the projects they had completed over the summer Stem and Skills program.

Students kicked off the presentation in Engineering with Dr. Peter Romine as the lead instructor. Students designed their work with 3D printing technology and created robotic self-driving cars. For example, students can devise AI models for object detection and navigation that are used in self-driving vehicles while applying domain knowledge and engineering skills to uniquely develop an impactful system used in everyday technologies, such as a Roomba. Dr. Peter Romine incorporated Electrical Engineering into Dine' Maker Fair, which helped students with hands-on projects.

Christine Reidhead and the marketing students developed their own business and introduced a marketing plan for promotion. Some students learn to run a business, operate, direct, oversee, and manage. Both marketing and culinary arts students worked on a video together to create a hands-on task for the summer program. Each video was edited and scripted by each student for about a minute long.

Welding instructor Christopher Storer and his students learned to create flowers in metal form. Rose stems are made from rebar. In comparison, the other flowers are made from sheet metal. Heat hot enough makes the metal bend while making it bloom. Students did projects that are exotic as pineapple trees. Carpentry instructor Tom Bebo, and his interns, Colby Abeita and Tonya Yazzie, helped the high school students make a gazebo. It is located on the east side of the multi-purpose building. The provost first introduced the gazebo to help create outside learning centers. Outside classrooms. There are two gazebos; one located on the main campus and the other in Zuni. The gazebos are solar-powered.

Students in Culinary Arts made their debut making Navajo Tacos with three main ingredients. Friends and family were the judges. Choices of the main ingredients included; chicken, turkey, and bison. Served in a small proportion in a cup. Topped off, students made cupcakes; key lime, tiramisu, and red velvet. Chef Brian Tatsukawa oversaw the project. The project consisted of cooking as well as sanitation duties.



Congrats to all the students, interns, instructors, and everyone who helped!

NTU Congratulates Navajo Nation Police Department Class 57

CROWNPOINT, NM - On June 25, 2022, Navajo Technical University hosted the Navajo Nation Police Academy Graduation at the Skyhawk Gymnasium. Navajo Nation President Nez, Navajo Police Deputy Chief Ronald Silversmith, and NTU Provost Dr. Colleen W. Bowman congratulated Class 57 on a remarkable success. Our leaders and trainers gave their best so that these Navajo men and women could be capable and excellent members of the Law enforcement community.

Class 57 experienced its first academy training day on December 6th, 2021. Those who remain are committed and determined to continue their journey. They will undergo 26 weeks of training and will be the 6th class to graduate from the Navajo Police Training Academy.

"It's like what I say about law enforcement, time at work will be away from families, time away from birthdays, but the hard work pays off." Chief of Police Ronald Silversmith said in reply.

The Navajo Nation is the only tribe in the world where a Police Academy exists. The Navajo PD receives 239,376 calls a year.

Dr. Colleen W. Bowman appraised the recruits, "I am so proud of our Navajo Police Officers that graduated. They are valued in this generation. They are frontline warriors, and they fight the enemies that are known and some unknown."

The commencement continued with special awards, which included driving, firearms, physical fitness, and leadership. All areas of training underwent 40 hours.



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Shevon Levy, Stetson Johnson, and Wendie Largo showing off their awards with President Nez.

- The 1st award is for driving. The driving training center is located in Artesia, NM, where they underwent 40 hours of driving emergency and non-emergency vehicles. Stetson Johnson from Crownpoint district received the driving award.
- The 2nd award is for firearms, where they use tools of the trade; rifle and shotgun. Again, Stetson Johnson demonstrated outstanding performance above his peers.
- 3rd is for physical fitness, which requires constant pace and is essential to the job. All recruitments received the award.
- The 4th award is for academics—testing and studying, which required them to be amongst themselves rather than in a group. Shevon Levy from the Shiprock district received the awards.
- Lastly, the 5th award goes to leadership. The recruit displaying characteristics, leadership qualities, and is voted by their peers as well as the cabinet staff is Wendine Largo from the Shiprock District.

President Nez said, “I would like to thank you all for your commitment and sacrifice as officers. As Navajo, we are the kind of people that work with you and who support you. We will see them as leaders one day. I give recognition to the instructors and the recruits.”

All recruits received a technical certificate. A joint effort between NTU and the Navajo Nation Public Safety Department offers a technical certificate of Law enforcement. The 22-week program provides both academic and physical skill components that are required for Navajo Nation Law enforcement.

Congratulations to all and good luck!



NTU is Approved by HLC to offer Three New Programs

CROWNPOINT, NM - On May 24, 2022, Navajo Technical University (NTU) continues to educate its Navajo Nation community and beyond. Recently, the Institutional Actions Council (IAC) of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) approved NTU's request to offer three new programs.

NTU provided additional detail and information about grants from the American Indian College Fund and the Bureau of Indian Education. This response helped approve the program from the IAC.

1. A Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry
2. A Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Science
3. An Associate of Applied Science Degree in Nursing

The Chemistry program will be funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). The Computer Science program will be funded by the American Indian College Fund (AICF). In contrast, the Nursing program will be financed by Carl Perkins and New Mexico Nursing Expansion grant.

"There is a high demand for graduates with STEM and medical degrees, so offering Chemistry, Computer Science, and Nursing programs will open a wide range of career opportunities for NTU students," said Dr. Casmir Agbaraji, Dean of Undergraduate Studies, NTU.

Dr. Frank Stomp, Associate Professor of Information Technology, gave a shoutout, "Navajo Technical University will be the first Tribal school to offer a B.S. degree program in computer science. This program is expected to start in Fall 2022."

"As a member of the Navajo Nation community, I'm so pleased to share this news with you as we've achieved two levels of approval to begin course offerings for the Associate of Applied Science Registered Nurse (RN) Program at Navajo Technical University from the New Mexico Board of Nursing Approval and the Higher Learning Commission. We are working hard to maintain our current Registered Nurse faculty, finalize all course offerings and begin the process of recruiting interested students," said Dr. Michelle Kahn-John, Nursing Director.

Dr. Thiagarjan Soundappan, Associate Professor of Chemistry, appraised the new Bachelor of Science program. "Navajo Technical University (NTU) is the first Native American University to offer the B.S. in Chemistry Program in the FALL-2022. The chemistry curriculum is designed to meet Navajo Nation students' needs. Those who plan to complete their formal education with a bachelor of science (B.S.) degree in chemistry and those who wish to pursue an advanced degree, such as the PREMED program, and graduate studies, respectively."

Congratulations to the Chemistry, Nursing, and Computer Science Faculty! Excellent work!

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NTU is at multiple locations, including Zuni, NM; Kirtland, NM; Chinle, AZ; Teec Nos Pos, AZ; and Crownpoint, NM. Assistance Tuition is available for tribal members and non-tribal members.

NTU Congratulates the Culinary Program for ACF Accreditation

CROWNPOINT, NM - On June 13, 2022, Navajo Technical University Culinary and Professional Baking Program passed the American Culinary Federation (ACF) Accreditation. The ACF is a self-review process for improving the academic quality of culinary arts/baking and pastry programs.

The review takes place every 5 – 7 years and looks at some significant activities within the program.

- A self-study of the culinary/baking program
- A peer review of the program by gathering evidence of quality and verifying documentation
- A decision/action by the ACF to grant, accept or defer a request to accredit a program.

Upon becoming a student and until graduation, the student becomes a member of the ACF. Every member helps one another to find work. It is the most prominent professional chefs' organization in the U.S. It is now made up of more than 14,000 members, which has expanded across four regions of 170 chapters in the area.

Today, ACF is the leader in offering resources through educational funds, training programs, and apprenticeships. The ACF Culinary Team USA officially represents the U.S.A. in all major international competitions.

"NTU being accredited through this organization, will help the students' progress to a higher level in the industry at a faster rate," Robert L. Witte, Master Technical Instructor of Culinary Arts said. "NTU has accomplished what no other culinary program has in the state, being accredited has the highest honor, and given EXEMPLARY STATUS."

NTU would like to congratulate Chef Brian Tatsukawa, Chef Walter Cloud, Chef Sheila Begay, Chef Melvina Jones, and Chef Lorencita Billiman.

Navajo Technical University continues to honor Diné culture and language while educating for the future.

BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW...



Potato chips causes more weight gain than any other food

A crocodile cannot stick its tongue out

An average raindrop falls at the speed of roughly 7 miles an hour

