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NTU 10th Annual Research Day Competition

CROWNPOINT, NM - On March 2, 2023, Navajo Technical University held its 10th Annual Research Day Competition for NTU students from various disciplines of study to showcase their research projects inside the Wellness Center. The event awarded cash prizes to the top three research projects submitted and displayed for visitors.

NTU student Darlene Wilson was acknowledged as the winner for her research "Restore: Addressing Decade-long Water Issues in the Navajo Nation." Her analysis was measured by recording the mass of water received at the permeate side, indicating the clean water production rate during desalination. The ground-water contained elevated arsenic and uranium in the Navajo Nation area.

The second-place winner for the research presentation was Tionna Tapaha for her project "Developing a Novel Droplet Sorting Device Using Electrophoresis." Tionna's project focused on single-cell sequencing to uncover the genomic and transcriptomic differences between individual cells. A benefit to the Native American community could be the enhancement of the clinical aspect of testing in hospital labs and a decrease in the waiting time for lab results.

The research project that earned the third-place award was by Chelsie R. Whitewater for analyzing "Antimicrobial Properties of Native Medicinal Plants." Her study collected data from seed plants such as Navajo Tea, Juniper, and Cliff Rose for seeds from Narrow Canyon, AZ, to support the Native American knowledge.

The annual event was held exclusively for NTU students who displayed their research and discussed it with those who attended. A five-member panel selected the best three posters for awards. The posters were evaluated based on intellectual merit, broader impact, organization, references, and communication. The event included 14 research projects from NTU's Environmental Science, Engineering, and Biology programs.

NTU Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Dr. Casmir Agbaraji, praised the event and its intent to develop skills for student participants. "This year, the research competitions were held only for our NTU students, and they all did an outstanding job with their presentations."

For more information,
contact:

Casmir I. Agbaraji, Ph.D.
NTU Dean of
Undergraduate Studies
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E: cagbaraji@navajotech.
edu



Casmir I. Agbaraji (Center) presented awards:

**1st place: Darlene Wilson
2nd place: Tionna Tapaha
3rd place: Chelsie R. Whitewater**

NTU AIHEC Conference 2023

Crownpoint, NM – On March 4-7, 2023, Navajo Technical University sent representatives to attend the 2023 American Indian Higher Consortium Conference (AIHEC) in Albuquerque, NM, at the Convention Center. Tribal College students from across the country traveled to this location to engage in student competitions in various categories. Students, faculty, and staff come together each spring to perform in academic, cultural, and artistic exercises, share stories and best practices, and participate in workshops and plenary sessions.

The AIHEC first-day registration began, and participation grew as students, coaches, and personnel picked up their badges inside the ABQ Convention Center. The AIHEC Student Congress (ASC) held a Pueblo Throw to show a warm welcome and a kind gesture—a way to demonstrate that the Native American lifestyle has survived. Pueblo families from Acoma and Laguna held a basket of goodies for students. The ASC and Tribal College Journal (TCJ) united to create a poetry slam to promote free individual expression and showcase literary talent and skills as well as the annual ASC T-shirt exchange. The poetry finalist was Danielle Plumage from Aaniih Nakoda College, and the Poet Laureate was Dayhenoa Yazzie from Dine' College. Navajo Technical University had its booth set up in the Exhibition Hall with Brenda Yazzie and Jarvis Draper.

Daily morning general sessions were in the Kiva Auditorium with invocations, welcome addresses, and keynote speakers. The opening ceremony began with TCU school flags flying to show off school colors and pride. The parade proceeded into the Kiva Auditorium as the drum group played the Flag Song for the Buffalo Dancers. Miss AIHEC Shannon Hooper, an IAIA student majoring in Studio Arts, opened with the National Anthem, and an opening prayer in her language. She is from the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe of Nevada. Stephanie Rodriguez, Secretary for the New Mexico Higher Education Department, started by welcoming guests. Rodriguez covered topics and policies surrounding education, military affairs, and national laboratories. She ended her speech by promising to ensure that students can pursue education and career opportunities in New Mexico. Keynote Speaker Migizi Pensoneau (Ponca and Ojibwe) is a screenwriter known for his work on *Barkskins*, an original series by Fox and Nat-Geo, and *Reservation Dogs*, an upcoming comedy on FX. The writer also stars as “Roy Crooks” in *Rutherford Falls*. NTU had two alumni, Marcie Vandever and Fee Adams (Dine' College), who were also keynote speakers. NTU President Dr. Elmer J. Guy and Navajo Nation President Buu Van Nygren, delivered welcome remarks on the following day.

Different categories for competitions were held daily in various rooms inside the Convention Center, all beginning after the general session. Every other evening the events were held, from Honoring Our Students of the Year to the AIHEC Pow Wow—2023 AIHEC Pow Wow Grand Entry. The Master of Ceremony was Manny King, with the help of The Agency (Host Northern Drum) and Buc Wild (Host Southern Drum) to kick off the dance in Men's Traditional and Women's Traditional in the categories; of Conventional, Grass, and Fancy. All drums and dancers were welcome. The evening ended with hand games, in which teams participated in contests of guessing and hiding. The cultural activities with rich Native American history showcased talent and skills, and built camaraderie and sportsmanship among the TCUs teams. All significant events were live-streamed.

SAVE THE DATE

Movie Night

Every Monday,
7-9 PM

Game Room

NTU Main Campus

Contact Student Senate

at [ntustudentsenate](mailto:ntustudentsenate@navajotech.edu)

[navajotech.edu](mailto:ntustudentsenate@navajotech.edu)

Youth Camp

June 5-16, 2023

Application Due:

April 28, 2023,

For more information,

contact NTU Land Grant

Program at

505-387-7410

3rd Annual Sheep Shearing School

May 11-12, 2023

8:00 AM-5:00 PM

NTU Land Grant,

Crownpoint, NM

For more information

and to register, please

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2023 Spring Graduation

May 12, 2023

Starts at 10:00 AM

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“NTU students are doing meaningful research comparable to research universities as demonstrated by their performance at AIHEC Student Conference, and won the best three poster presentations, and did well in other competitions,” said Dr. Casmir Agbaraji, Dean of Undergraduate Studies. All students are from NTU that received a total of thirteen awards:

Tribal College Student Writing

Best Fiction:

- “First Man” by Anthony Ryan Edaakie

Best Creative Nonfiction:

- “Listening for Her Loom” by Alyssa Nakai

Best Poetry:

- “Dear Bluebird Flour” by Kyle White

Honorable Mention in Creative Nonfiction:

- Essie L. Yazzie

Honorable Mention in Creative Nonfiction:

- Jeremy Begay

Film Festival

Best Cinematography:

- Alyssa Nakai

Best Documentary:

- Aaron Francisco

Audience Choice Award:

- Aaron Francisco

Math Bowl

3rd place – Terrance Jim, Oscar Kyle, and Kyera Craig



NTU AIHEC 2023

I BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW...



An espresso maker was sent into space in 2015.



Baseball umpires used to sit in rocking chairs.



The Pope isn't allowed to be an organ donor.

NTU Rodeo Spring 2023

Crownpoint, NM – On March 11 - 18, 2023, the Navajo Technical University Rodeo Team competed in various competitions at Central Arizona College (CAC)'s annual rodeo in Casa Grande, AZ. The roster included 60 student-athletes from across the U.S., including Hawaii and Alaska, and three students from Canada.

Colleges can have up to six preselected students representing their team's total points. NTU's Men's Team and Women's Team each included three competitors.

The Navajo Technical University Rodeo Team also attended the Cochise College Spring Rodeo Event at the U.S. Army MWR (Morale, Welfare, and Recreation) of Ft. Huachuca, on March 18, 2023. The rodeo included teams from the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA) Grand Canyon Region, such as New Mexico State University, Mesalands Community College, and Fort Lewis College. Hundreds of spectators packed Wren Arena for the annual event, which according to rodeo officials, was sold out for both days.

Navajo Technical University Men's Rodeo team finished 2nd place overall with 495 points. NTU's Hiyo Yazzie won with 20.2 on two 60 points, and Matthew Jodie placed 11th with a time of 16.1 overall in the Men's Tie-Down event. Hiyo Yazzie also went on to win the steer wrestling competition with 13.8 on two 60 points, and Matthew Jodie was a runner-up with 15.2 on two 50 points. The event for Cochise College Rodeo Men's all-around champion was Hiyo Yazzie of Navajo Technical University.

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

dmorgan@navajotech.edu

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

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Results from the CAC rodeo event:

NTU Men's Team

Matthew Jodie - Events: Steer Wrestling, Tie-down and Team Roping - Heeler

Hiyo Yazzie - Events: Steer Wrestling, Tie-down and Team Roping - Heeler

Wade Brown - Events: Saddle Bronc Riding and Team Roping - Heeler

NTU Woman's Team

Amytheiss Marvin - Event: Breakaway, Goat tying, & Team roping - Header

LaBelle LaFrance - Event: Breakaway

Results: Saturday, March 11, 2023, 9 AM Slack, 2 PM Performance

- Hiyo Yazzie 1st place Tie-down with a time of 9.5 seconds (145 points) and 2nd place Steer Wrestling with 6.4 seconds (126 points).
- Matthew Jodie's 15th place Tie-down with a time of 19.1
- Men's Team Total points 271, placing 4th overall
- Amytheiss Marvin 20th place Goat Tying with a time of 21.1

Results: Sunday, March 12, 2023, 9 am Slack, 2 PM Performance.

- Matthew Jodie 1st place Steer Wrestling with a time of 6.5 (145 points) and 14th place Team Roping with a 19.5 (9.5 with a broken barrier +10)
- Hiyo Yazzie 2nd place Steer Wrestling with a time of 6.8 (126 points), 2nd place Tie-down with a 9.2 (126 points) and 3rd place Team roping with a 7.0 (107 points)
- Men's Team Total points 504, placing 2nd overall.

The winners for the CAC Weekend Rodeo:

Champion Steer Wrestler Hiyo Yazzie - Buckle Presented

Champion Tie-down Roper Hiyo Yazzie - Buckle Presented

All-Around Champion Title Hiyo Yazzie - Buckle Presented

NTU Steer Wrestling won 1st and 2nd place! Matthew Jodie won the Bulldogging with Hiyo Yazzie right behind him. Overall, Navajo Technical University Men's Rodeo Team placed 2nd with more than 500 points. Hiyo won the average in Steer Wrestling (placing 2nd both days) and Tie-down (1st Saturday and 2nd place Sunday), and the All-Around Title.

Results from Cochise College in Fort Huachuca:

Men's Tie-down Event:

- Matthew Jodie, long go, with a time of 16.1 seconds for 11th place.
- Hiyo Yazzie, long go, with a time of 11.0 seconds tied 4th place points given.
- Hiyo Yazzie, short go with a time of 9.2 seconds for 1st place 60 points.

Steer Wrestling in Crownpoint, NM

- Matthew Jodie, long go round, with a time of 9.0 seconds for 5th place 20 points.
- Matthew Jodie, short go round, with a time of 6.2 seconds for 3rd place 40 points.
- Hiyo Yazzie, long go, with a time of 7.9 seconds for 3rd place 40 points.
- Hiyo Yazzie short go with a time of 5.9 seconds for 1st place 60 points.

Women's Goat Tying Event:

- Amythiess Marvin in the long go round, with a time of 22.6 seconds for 18th place.

Team Roping Event:

Brad Mareno (CAC) and Hiyo Yazzie in the long go round, with a time of 7.6 seconds tied for 2nd place.

NTU Head Coach Nicole Pino and the rodeo team competed in the events and are part of the athletic department. Although different than traditional sports, rodeo student-athletes are held to the same standards and expectations as other sports like baseball, basketball, softball, and track. Students bring their horses and they are responsible for caring for their animals.

For more information, contact:

Nicole Pino
NTU Rodeo Head Coach
P: 505-387-7385 ext.1029



NTU RODEO SPRING 2023

ACF National Qualifier Competition

Crownpoint, NM – On March 13, 2023, Navajo Technical University's Culinary Arts Program participated in the American Culinary Federation (ACF) Student Chef Team of the Year National Qualifier Competition and the Student Pastry Chef of the Year at Johnson County Community College (JCCC) in Overland Park, KS. Skilled culinarians from across the country competed for a spot in the national competition over the weekend.

With five fully equipped culinary labs and modern kitchens, JCCC's top-rated Wylie Hospitality and Culinary Academy is a sought-after facility for culinary competitions of this magnitude. Competitors play a vital role in culinary arts as they continually raise the standards of excellence. Chefs hone their craft than by putting their skills and knowledge to the test in a competitive format.

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The NTU student team consisted of Angelena Shepherd, Vivianne Joe, Kelly Bitsoi, Daniel Boyd, and Jeremy Gene. Alayne Kinlecheenie was competing for the Student Pastry Chef of the Year and also finished within the top 10 in the country but needed to accumulate more points to continue on to the finals.. The student team became the Western Region Champions but needed to score more points to continue. The students finished within the top 10 in the country.

“Everyone involved put in an amazing amount of time and effort to compete” said Chef Brian Tatsukawa, an NTU Culinary Arts instructor. “Our students competed against much larger programs than ours.”

Let's Go, Skyhawks!

For more information, contact:

Chef Brian Tatsukawa
Navajo Technical University Culinary Instructor
P: 505-387-7413
E: btatsukawa@navajotech.edu

NTU Student Chef Team consisted of Angelena Shepherd, Vivianne Joe, Kelly Bitsoi, Daniel Boyd, Jeremy Gene, and Alayne Kinlecheenie.



Program Review at NTU

Dr. Jennifer Wheeler and Dr. Dianna Dekelaita-Mullet, co-chairs of the faculty-run Program Review Committee, held hearings on February 8-9, 2023. These meetings were successful and well-attended, and six of the seven programs under review were well-prepared and made excellent presentations. Anita Roastingear recorded the hearings and took notes on the proceedings. Tilda Woody organized and prepared the hearing agenda. Sheena Begay sponsored lunch for both days. Dr. Henry Fowler and Dr. Wheeler acted as masters of ceremony. Other contributing members were Sharon Nelson and Anusuya Vellingiri.

Programs under review were Business Administration, Environmental Science, Geographic Information Technology, Law, Math, and Hotel and Restaurant Administration.

Dr. Wheeler and Dr. Dekelaita-Mullet completed a summary report for the President's Cabinet to be presented on April 10. They will share that report at a Faculty Congress meeting in May.

The Program Review process is an Higher Learning Committee (HLC) requirement for accreditation. Programs are reviewed on a five-year cycle.

NMHEAR Presentation: Online Assessment at Navajo Technical University

Dr. Coleen Arviso and Dr. Dianna Dekelaita-Mullet made a presentation on online assessment practices and outcomes at the Albuquerque New Mexico Higher Education Assessment and Retention (NMHEAR) Conference on February 17, 2023. A big challenge in online assessment is finding meaningful ways to engage students. The presenters offered several evidence-based evaluations that have been successful with students at NTU. Examples of this are structured observations, presentations that tie concepts to student's lives, and personal storytelling. The presentation was well attended, well received, and a conference favorite. Contact Dr. Arviso and Dr. Dekelaita-Mullet for more information.

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