

SKYHAWK PRESS

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College Supply Drive

Crownpoint, NM – On September 5, 2023, The Office of the First Lady, in partnership with Diné College and Navajo Technical University, distributed college supplies to Navajo Technical University students today at NTU's main campus.

The Office of the First Lady and the Office of the President and Vice President distributed items to students inside the wellness center, including school supplies, food items, kitchen, and dorm items.

"I want our students to know that our Navajo leaders see them and their struggles, and we support them. We want our Navajo students to achieve academic and career success." Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren, Navajo Nation First Lady, stated. "With this distribution of college supplies, I hope our Navajo students are encouraged to stay in school and continue to achieve success."

A successful supply drive feels great, ensuring students start the school year with the tools they need to succeed, also helping teachers by providing them with proper classroom tools so they don't have to spend money from their pockets and providing school supplies, supporting students, teachers, and local schools.

"The NTU Student Services staff and students appreciate the Navajo Nation First Lady and her team hosting the Basic Essential Needs Distribution. The students left with many essential items that the First Lady could supply. Items included everything from food, school supplies, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene items, and more. Many of our students needed these items, especially when stores were not close by. Thank you!" said Jerlynn Henry, Dean of Student Services.

Navajo Technical University and the Office of the First Lady and Office of the President and Vice President would like to thank everyone who donated in the past few weeks.

The Office of the First Lady
along with her support staff
inside the NTU Wellness Center,
Crownpoint, NM



Miss NTU 2023-2024

CROWNPOINT, NM - On September 6th, 2023, Navajo Technical University would like to congratulate automotive prominent Samantha Antone for being crowned the 2023 – 2024 Miss Navajo Technical University.

Samantha Antone is from Baboquivari, AZ, but resides in Crownpoint, NM. Samantha is an Automotive major. She demonstrated and explained the use of Tohono O'odham Nation dress and clothes in traditional talent and skill. Samantha played a Navajo flute (6-hole), a totem made from Spanish cedar for her modern talent and skill.

Miss NTU's runner-up is Mellorie McKerry from Tuba City, AZ, dual majoring in Electrical Engineering and a minor in Building Information Technology. She demonstrated sheep parts and the use of meat in Navajo tradition as her talent and skill. Mellorie McKerry explained how Arduino Uno applications work using a Grove Beginner kit for her modern talent and skill as an electrical engineer.

D'Andre Harker is from Ganado, AZ, dual majoring in Automotive Technology and Information Technology. D'Andre demonstrated the National anthem as her traditional talent and skill in Navajo. She explained how to make and prepare blue corn mush as her modern talent and skill. D'Andre is Miss NTU's 2nd runner-up.

NTU Student Services congratulated Adiniidin Jones as she gave a farewell speech and gifted her a Pendleton purse and blanket while continuing her education at NTU. Adiniidin Jones said, "There is so much to give to everyone. Congratulations to the contestants, as it takes a lot of work and plays a significant role to show off your talent. Thank you to KCZY radio, live stream, and everyone in attendance. As Miss NTU, I've had the most extraordinary experience holding the crown during these events. Stay close to your tradition and culture."

NTU would like to thank the judges:

Danielle Dawes, 2023-2024 Miss Eastern Navajo
Sunny Dooley, Navajo Storyteller, 1982 Miss Navajo Nation
Cajuan Cleveland, 2021-2022, former Miss NTU

As Navajo Technical University's ambassador, Samantha closed the pageant with a prayer and appreciation. Thank you for your commitment and for representing Navajo Technical University. Congratulations!

Miss 23-24 Navajo Technical University, Samantha Antone being crowned and standing along with her colleagues



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2023 Fall Career Expo

October 24-25, 2023
From 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

NTU Wellness Center,
NTU Main Campus,
Crownpoint, NM

For more information
contact Shawna Begay
at shawna.begay@navajotech.edu or 505-387-7372

N4WPP ResTÓre Water Symposium

Nov. 5, 2023

UNM Gallup, NM

For more information,
contact:

Dr. Abhishek
Roychowdury at
aroychowdury@navajotech.edu

United Through Metal

Saturday, November 11,
2023 Starts at 6:00 PM -
9:00 PM

Juggernaut, Gallup, NM

Sponsored by: NTU
Skills USA

11th Annual Research Competition

Submission due on Nov.
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Competition will be on
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Ride With Navajo Technical University

The Department of Disabilities Support Service hosted a Horse Trail Ride as part of the Student Service Plan and National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month on September 06, 2023. The trail riders arrived on campus from the Standing Rock Chapter during their 16-mile journey. The journey continued onto NTU's main campus as students, staff, and faculty greeted the riders with food provided by Shambrelle Jones.

This event is designed to recognize students in need, encourage them, and support them to succeed and graduate to positive lives by disseminating information about suicide prevention. The event also included a t-shirt and promotional items given to each participant on a first-come, first-serve basis.

At Navajo Technical University, we provide an excellent educational experience in a supportive, culturally diverse environment. We believe in empowering all community members to grow intellectually, culturally, and economically.

For more information, contact:

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Virginia Edgewater
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Riders depart Standing
Rock Chapter, NM, to
Navajo Technical Uni-
versity in Crownpoint,
NM



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

dmorgan@navajotech.edu

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

I BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW...

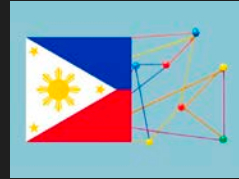


There are parts of Africa in all four hemispheres.

The Philippines consists of 7,641 islands.



Some octopus species lay 56,000 eggs at a time.



Navajo Pearl Anniversary Parade - Navajo Technical University

Window Rock, AZ – On Saturday, September 9, 2023, Navajo Technical University participated in the 75th Annual Navajo Nation parade. Everyone from across the Navajo Nation gathered along the parade route on Highway 264 to enjoy over 100 parade floats.

The parade began at 8 AM with a flyover as thousands gathered to witness the Navajo Nation's most attended event. There were many floats from local businesses, schools, and groups in and around the Navajo Nation. The NTU Charter bus, Miss Newly crowned NTU, and Sammy the Skyhawk appeared and greeted the people.

We are excited to see you next year. Seeing the Navajo Nation enjoying itself was great.

Also, NTU would like to show our appreciation to those who participated in the Navajo Nation Fair this past weekend; good job, and thank you for supporting your local University.

It begins from within! Go Skyhawks!

For more info contact:

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Student Life and Activity Coordinator
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NTU students, staff, and faculty participate in the 75th Annual Navajo Nation Parade in Window Rock, Az.



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Nov. 5, 2023

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For more information,
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Idaho National Laboratory Visits NTU

Crownpoint, NM - On Monday, September 11, Idaho National Laboratory (INL) visited Navajo Technical University to recruit some NTU students into their summer internship programs.

INL recruits up to 600 college students every summer to fulfill their paid internships in Idaho Falls, Idaho, with some remote work possible for specific programs. The internships range from 8 to 16 weeks, depending on the student's schedule. During the visit, Eddie Celis from INL talked with some students in electrical engineering and chemistry programs with a potential focus on renewable energy.

"We are changing the world here at Idaho National Laboratory. From discoveries in advanced nuclear energy to carbon-free energy options and protecting our nation's most critical infrastructure assets," stated Eddie Celis, INL University Recruiter, Talent Acquisition.

Idaho National Laboratory is one of the 17 national laboratories in the U.S. Department of Energy Complex. With more than 5,900 researchers and support staff, it is focused on innovations in nuclear research, renewable energy systems, and security solutions that are changing the world.

Applications are now open. Requirements are that students must have at least a 3.0 GPA and are fully enrolled students in either undergraduate or graduate programs.

"The talented team at INL constantly pushes the limits to redefine what's possible. INL offers diverse paid internships to high school, undergraduate, and graduate-level students. These internship opportunities enable students to collaborate with experienced scientists and engineers to develop innovative solutions to challenging, real-world projects," said Eddie Celis.

For more information, contact:

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**NTU students gain first
hand experience on summer
internship programs
from INL recruitment.**



“Creating Hope Through Action” Guest Speaker

Crownpoint, NM – On September 14, 2023, Navajo Technical University hosted Mr. Arnold W. Thomas, MSW, Vice Chairman Duck Valley Reservation ID/NV. Mr. Thomas, a survivor of suicide, spoke about the information on suicide prevention and education inside the NTU Wellness Center.

People listened as Mr. Richard Anderson Sr., Diné Chanter/Practitioner, Vietnam Disabled Veteran, opened with a traditional prayer as Mr. Arnold W. Thomas, a successful blind owner and White Buffalo Knife Corporation Chief Executive Officer in Salt Lake City, began his motivational speech—a member of the Shoshone Paiute Nations of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation in Owyhee, Nevada. Mr. Thomas is the current Vice-Chairman of his Tribal Nations. “I understood I needed to let go of the anger, guilt, and shame that stems from suicide. I wanted to release and let go of some of that anguish, so I started looking around different churches, different faiths,” said Thomas. He said he wasn’t spiritual or religious before the attempt.

Additionally, he is a member of the Sundance Society, The Native American Church, a traditional Pipe Carrier, and enjoys participating in various traditional ceremonies. In 2012, Mr. Thomas received National certification as the first-ever Chaplain from the American Indian Tribal Faith traditions. He has inspired many by sharing his journey in life. “For me, the mental, the emotional, the physical, and the spiritual healing I’ve gone through over the years has helped me reach a balance,” Thomas said, “so I could share that with everyone else,” as he concluded.

The Navajo Technical University students, staff, and faculty had a chance for a Q&A with Mr. Arnold Thomas for an open mic on the Crownpoint campus. Mr. Thomas interacted with the audience, inspiring them to define success, identifying and overcoming self-destructive behaviors and leadership qualities. Cuyler Frank, KCZY Radio Station Manager, emceed the event as Navajo Technical University recognizes students in need, encourages them, and supports them to succeed and graduate to positive lives by disseminating information about suicide prevention.

Mr. Joseph Sandoval, Prevention Specialist with Navajo Treatment Center for Children and their Families, closed the event with a prayer and a cedar blessing that will bring cleansing and healing and guard against all negative influences and the person against dark thoughts while attracting positive energies.

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NTU Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist
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Mr. Richard Anderson Sr., speaks on suicide prevention and education inside the Wellness Center, Crownpoint, NM

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Navajo Tech and Whiteriver's Strongest

Whiteriver, AZ - On September 1, 2023, Navajo Technical University Weightlifters took on a mission to travel to the White Mountain Apache Reservation to compete in the "Whiteriver's Strongest" Strongman and Strongwoman competition presented by the Apache Diabetes Wellness Program.

The competition occurred at the NDDe Bii Fitness Center in Whiteriver, AZ, where they demonstrated their abilities to execute challenges such as farmer's man carry, atlas stone, safety squat, Viking press, and fire truck pull. The NTU group looks forward to competing in upcoming challenges and always trains for the next big day.

Aj Velasquez, being a White Mountain Apache tribe member, felt honored to represent NTU; It was Aj Velasquez's eighth strongman competition. "This event was tough but also an amazing experience. Our weightlifters represented NTU proudly and gave their best. Every one of them started the competition and finished it. GREAT JOB," AJ stated.

Navajo Technical University Weightlifters Placed:

5th Place - Navarro Burnside
7th Place - Andre Beno
8th Place - Avery J. Velasquez
8th Place - Randy Washee
9th Place - Jonathan Dennison
10th Place - Ray

The event was in conjunction with the White Mountain Apache Fair and Rodeo. Go Skyhawks!

NTU Home Page
<http://www.navajotech.edu/>

Career Services
<http://career.navajotech.edu/>

For information on future student activities or trips, please contact:

Michael McMillan
Student Life and Activity Coordinator
P: 505.387.7444
E: mmcmillan@navajotech.edu

**The NTU weightlifting club
pose with other contestants
at the NDDe Bii Fitness Cen-
ter in Whiteriver, AZ.**



2023 Nation Suicide Awareness Gourd Dance and Social Powwow

Crownpoint, NM – On September 15, 2023, Navajo Technical University hosts a gourd dance and social powwow inside the wellness center for National Suicide Awareness Month, presented by the NTU Substance Abuse Prevention Program & Rock'n Life SAP Initiative.

Master of Ceremony Emerson Tully coordinated the event with Val Uentilli as Miss NTU Samantha Antone gave a speech about celebrating with family and supporting her classmates and graduates as they pursue their careers. The drum is placed in the center of the wellness center. Participants took their places around the perimeter as prayers went up for the NTU Head Man, Troy Rocke, and Head Woman, Aurelia Etcitty, both from Kirtland, NM. During most of the song, the dancers dance in place, lifting their feet in time to the drum-beats and shaking their rattles from side to side. At specific points in the singing, the drum beat changes to more complex beats. Gourd dancers filled the wellness center, acknowledging NTU veterans, staff, faculty, and students.

Rockin' Life Suicide Awareness and Prevention set up booths inside the Student Union Building lobby area along with the McKinley County DWI program, Four Corners Detox Recovery Center, Blue Cross Blue Shield Centennial Care, and many others.

Grand entry started as the Shiprock Agency started singing and posting colors from Honoring Women Warrior CG, based in Farmington, NM. Introductions of Head Staff and Royalties included Miss NTU, Miss Easter Navajo, and other local royalties by MC Emerson Tully—also, the purpose of the Gourd Dance and Social Powwow.

Gourd Dancers started the event with songs of prayer for those who have lost their lives to suicide and themes of strength for those who are fighting every day with themselves to live on. Suicide is a complex topic that we all must be aware of and address with each other to help those in crisis and their loved ones. If you or someone you know is struggling or in trouble, help is available: Call or text 988 or chat at www.988lifeline.org

If you feel more comfortable talking to someone in person here at our campus, then NTU has student services available for you to utilize. NTU counselors and substance abuse prevention specialists are happy to accommodate you and your needs.

Dancing to the sound of drum beats as the audience watches along inside the NTU Wellness Center, Crownpoint, NM



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Navajo Technical University and Sandia Labs Partnership

Crownpoint, NM – On September 22, 2023, Navajo Technical University (NTU) and Sandia National Laboratories met in the Student Union Building. The event is designed to introduce each other's business ideas and to strategize future collaborations.

NTU builds on Sandia's growing partnership as Dr. Elmer J. Guy made the welcome address inside the Student Union Building to discuss further the collaboration on infrastructure, student internships, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and other items, which is accomplished by Sandia leaders and processes that streamline connections with university faculty and students and provide joint research seed funding for specific technical programs.

"NTU welcomes a strengthened relationship with Sandia. The Navajo Nation needs a pool of diverse talent, the brightest minds, and cutting-edge ideas to tackle the issues of today and tomorrow." – Dr. Elmer J. Guy.

Dr. Elmer J. Guy spoke of Navajo Technical University as a tribal-controlled postsecondary career and technical institution with a main campus in Crownpoint and two smaller campuses in Chinle and Teec Nos Pos, Arizona. Will Elias, Executive Director & Chief Legal Officer, listened as he heard of NTU programs focusing on advanced manufactured metal parts, certification of 3D-printed metal parts, inspection methodologies and techniques, including equipment operation, and optical metrology, including testing and characterization of materials; all skills that can benefit Sandia's mission.

"Sandia provides the next generation of great scientists and engineers with hands-on experience and the opportunity to innovate with world-class personnel through numerous internship opportunities. Partnering strategically with these universities enables the creation and growth of research and development capabilities and enhances the trajectory of the scientific landscape," Will Elias stated.

Stan Etcitty, a Senior Scientist at Sandia National Laboratories in the Nuclear Fuel Cycle & Grid Modernization Center from Shiprock, NM, presented himself and gave his introduction and interest. Stan helped strategize the event, and parallel tours were offered, one to the chemistry lab for a tour and a discussion and the to the Advance Manufacturing Lab for a time and a chat.

Jared Ribble, Director of IT, presented his ideas with data transfer and expanding the university's broadband infrastructure to provide more broadband service to the Navajo Nation in collaboration with Sandia Lab's Kevin Dixon, Director of Applied Information Sciences, which would help with AI/Machine Learning Curriculum. This training strategy trains a machine learning model from more accessible to more complex data. This computer subnetwork is structured to be secure.

Sandia also works with NTU to expand programs in other disciplines, including chemical and mechanical engineering. The Navajo Nation chartered NTU as a university under the auspices of the Tribally Controlled Community Colleges and Universities Act. In addition to Sandia Labs, we have research projects with many mainstream universities and private sector partners.

H. Scott Halliday, Center for Advanced Manufacturing, talks to Sandia leaders on specific technical programs.



American Welding Society

Crownpoint, NM – On September 25, 2023, Timothy M. Donovan of the American Welding Society and Certified Welding Inspector has been the Chief Building Inspector for three years in Los Alamos. Timothy taking the time to make a trip to Navajo Technical University, Mr. Donovan passes information to our NTU welding students about the AWS and CWI memberships, where students can sign up for free for up to four years. These programs' membership can assist students and educators with early career options, student resources such as scholarships and professional development, and more for past and future welders who wish to stay updated with the current welding world.

Mr. Donovan gave a detailed insight into jobs that he has inspected and what he looks for in a good weld that students should strive to achieve. Also, inform our students who wish to receive their AWS or CWI card what they should expect in the workforce and what they should prepare for in real-world situations.

“We are Welders! Baby Boomers are retiring,” said Timothy M. Donovan – AWS, CWI

Navajo Technical University provides an excellent educational experience in a supportive, culturally diverse environment, enabling all community members to grow intellectually, culturally, and economically.

Christopher Storer and the welding class standing along with Timothy Donovan outside the classroom.



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Navajo Transitional Energy Co. Partners with Navajo Technical University

Crownpoint, NM – On September 25, 2023, Navajo Technical University and Navajo Transitional Energy signed an agreement to start a new welding internship for NTU students. Dr. Elmer Guy, President of NTU, and Dragan Bogunovic, General Manager of NTEC's Navajo Mine, were at the University to finalize the new partnership.

As part of the arrangement, selected NTU students will spend six weeks working at Navajo Mine in the Navajo Nation alongside seasoned welders and get a first-hand look into mining operations. In addition to real-world experience, the students will have a potential career path after graduation.

The new internship was a collaborative effort between the two organizations to provide Navajo Technical University students with valuable experience while developing a pipeline for future mine employment. Jobs at the Navajo Mine are some of the most lucrative in the Navajo Nation, with many workers staying 20 years. "This internship represents NTEC's investment in the future of the Navajo Nation while training the next generation of workers," said Dragan Bogunovic, General Manager of the Navajo Mine. "We are excited about this new partnership with Navajo Technical University. It enables them to provide new opportunities for their students while training future energy professionals in the Navajo Nation."

Dr. Elmer Guy added, "The most important thing for us is to train Navajo students in careers that allow them to stay in the Navajo Nation and provide for a prosperous future. We are thrilled to partner with Navajo Transitional Energy Company to realize this goal." NTU also announced the first student to be placed in the internship, Sarah Dennison, who will work on-site at the Navajo Mine from September 11, 2023, through the end of October 2023. "We are excited to announce our inaugural call to the internship. Congratulations, Sarah, we are so proud of you!"

The new welding internship with NTU is one of many opportunities that Navajo Transitional Energy Company provides students on and off the Navajo Nation. NTEC works with universities in the Navajo Nation and throughout the Powder River Basin to identify, train, and place students in internships at NTEC mines. These students learn their chosen trade in a fun, safe, and rewarding environment. Internships available include many disciplines such as welding, electrical, engineering, reclamation, office, and more. Each year, NTEC places more than ten students in internships, ranging from electrical and electrical engineers to various management specialties.

**Dr. Elmer Guy and GM of
NTEC Navajo Mine sign their
agreement at Crownpoint,
NM**



U.S. Department of Education NTU Site Visit

Crownpoint, NM – On September 25, 2023, the U.S. Department of Education Under Secretary James Kvaal visited Navajo Technical University to meet the NTU Core Leadership Team, NTU Administration, and students to observe current programs and NTU initiatives.

At the roundtable, Ms. Sharon Nelson opened the discussion with an opening prayer as NTU's leadership team presented day-to-day aspects of College Access, Recruitment, Enrollment, Financial Aid, and Retention rates. Also in attendance are Dr. Amy Lloyd, Assistant Secretary; Naomi Miguel, Director-White House Initiative Native Americans and Tribal Colleges & Universities; and Jack Hurley, Special Assistant, visiting schools promoting equity, inclusion, and affordability in Higher Education.

During the visit, Kvaal spoke with students and NTU leaders about ongoing efforts to ensure the college is affordable and accessible and to support student success by participating in a roundtable conversation with students and administrators. Dr. Colleen Bowman also discussed SunShare, a community-solar company in Denver, CO, that awarded a \$6 million grant to Navajo Technical University toward renewable energy. Under Secretary Kvaal also visited the NTU Biology and Chemistry department, where he discussed the Department's higher education priorities and progress on targeted debt relief.

"We are thrilled about James Kvaal's visit to Navajo Technical University, the nation's Under Secretary of Education, who profoundly understands the nation's premier institutions of higher education, postsecondary education's strengths, needs, and challenges. Navajo Technical University works to build an inclusive higher education system that helps all students graduate and go on to a better life," added Dr. Elmer Guy

Two Dine' Studies instructors, Ms. Sharon Nelson and Dr. Franklin Sage, joined us for the roundtable conversations and shared their stories on the new Ph.D. program. Indigenous educators are vital to preserving language and culture. Jasmine Charley, NTU Board of Regents-Student Representative, and Four NTU students met with the U.S. Under Secretary of Education James Kvaal, to discuss higher education & their college experience so far. Students also discussed the need to continue developing innovative program offerings that lead to lucrative careers and expand college access for low-income students and those from diverse backgrounds.

James Kvaal concluded, "I value education and how to navigate the college-going process, so it's important that we, as a nation, build support with these students in mind to help them excel and graduate."



James Kvaal and the U.S. Dept. of Education visit Dr. Elmer Guy and NTU inside the Hospitality Center, Crownpoint, NM.

SAVE THE DATE

2023 Fall Career Expo

October 24-25, 2023
From 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

NTU Wellness Center,
NTU Main Campus,
Crownpoint, NM

For more information
contact Shawna Begay
at shawna.begay@navajotech.edu or 505-387-7372

N4WPP ResTÓre Water Symposium

Nov. 5, 2023

UNM Gallup, NM

For more information,
contact:

Dr. Abhishek
Roychowdury at
aRoychowdury@navajotech.edu

United Through Metal

Saturday, November 11,
2023 Starts at 6:00 PM -
9:00 PM

Juggernaut, Gallup, NM

Sponsored by: NTU
Skills USA

11th Annual Research Competition

Submission due on Nov.
9, 2023

Competition will be on
Feb. 29, 2023, at 9:00
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NTU Featured Staff/Faculty

This month's we would like to feature the Information Technology Department. The NTU IT department provides quality and professional service to the NTU community, swift response, and timely solutions to customer needs and questions. Jared Ribble and his crew provide access, support, privacy, and security to all the University's IT customers. The department improves the effectiveness of IT services and sharing IT resources across NTU by supporting NTU's mission, goals, and values. The IT department coordinates and plans through communication for better use of resources. Ensuring the development and sustainability of high IT standards for NTU.

NTU is a leader in the innovative use of information technology in the region and among the tribal college and university community. For more information, contact Jared Ribble, Director of Information Technology, at jribble@navajotech.edu or 505.387.7363



Navajo Technical University IT Department
director, Jared Ribble and colleagues.