

SKYHAWK PRESS

A PART OF YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE

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DigDeep Visits NTU Kirtland Site

Washington, D.C. — On October 4, 2023, in preparation for the start of the Navajo Nation's first dedicated plumbing training program, the International Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Foundation (IWSH) finished the construction and setup of a new plumbing classroom and wet lab at the Navajo Technical University Kirtland Instructional Site in Kirtland, New Mexico.

The new education facility will offer a 34-credit plumbing certificate program. IWSH developed introductory courses covering plumbing concepts and applications, which will equip learners with the skillsets and understanding needed for a career in the plumbing profession.

Constructed with ASEA Advancing Life funds, this vocational education program will equip students with practical experience and technical skills in a sector currently experiencing worker shortages nationally and on the reservation. NTU's plumbing program will introduce competencies in worksheet safety, drainage systems, water supply systems, plumbing fixtures, blueprint reading, gas piping, and pipe joining.

The first class of this one-year program started with six students. After the program, graduates will be eligible for work as a plumbing apprentice. The hope is that they will desire to be an active part of the solution in their communities to solve water insecurity.

"Our IWSH team, in collaboration with DigDeep, has put together a solid plumbing program that will provide multiple opportunities for the students of NTU," said IWSH North American Program Director Randy Lorge. "It's the first plumbing program for the Navajo Nation in the Four Corners region. The class and wet lab will help provide students with hands-on, practical learning, which can help develop a skilled workforce to support future water and sanitation services in these communities."

The road to a new plumbing training course for the Navajo Nation stretches back to the first IWSH Community Plumbing Challenge hosted by the DigDeep Navajo Water Project in Baca-Prewitt, New Mexico, in 2018. Since then, IWSH has focused on developing courses and a hands-on training facility to provide a pathway for residents to learn and become a part of the plumbing profession.

DigDeep Chief Program Officer Julie Waechter said the need for more trained technicians is a critical challenge to water access across the United States, which will likely impact the quality of water service in the coming years. She said the plumbing program will improve employment opportunities while supporting DigDeep's work to expand water access to every Navajo Nation member.

"I am so proud of what we have been able to do through the partnership between Navajo Technical University, IWSH, and DigDeep to begin training new water technicians and certified plumbers in the Navajo Nation," Waechter said. "NTU, IWSH, and DigDeep are working together to avert this crisis in the Navajo Nation by creating a world-class plumbing certification program with a wet lab for hands-on learning. Partnerships like this bring out the best in academia, the business world, and philanthropic work to solve some of the most intractable challenges of our time; this type of program and this type of partnership are imperative to closing America's water gap."

In addition to IWSH's partners at DigDeep, this project was made possible by generous donations from Ferguson and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). The design and installation of the new wet lab and the development of the new training curriculum were mainly due to the contributions from UA Local 412 in New Mexico.

For more information, contact:

Stephanie Arthur
Site Coordinator
Kirtland Instructional Site
Office: 505.609.5020
Email: s.arthur@navajotech.edu



NTU Deans and instructors along with DigDeep at the Kirtland Instructional site, Kirtland, NM.

SAVE THE DATE

NTU Open House

Nov. 16, 2023

NTU Wellness Center,
Crownpoint, NM

For more information,
contact:

Dr. Delores Becenti at
d.becenti@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
AM

NTU Wellness Center,
Crownpoint, NM

For more information
contact:

Casmir Agbaraji at cagbaraji@navajotech.edu

Fall Graduation 2023 Rehearsal

on December 4, at 10
am - Noon and on Dec.
5, at 3 pm - 5 pm inside
the NTU Wellness Center,
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For more information,
contact:

Sherietta Martinez-Brown at 505-387-7470
or smartinez@navajotech.edu

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baraji@navajotech.edu

NTU Fall 2023 Club Drive

Crownpoint, NM – On October 3, 2023, the NTU Student Senate hosted a successful Club Drive inside the SUB building lobby from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Students, staff, and faculty had the opportunity to see NTU's clubs. This was also a fantastic opportunity for our students to join a club.

All clubs will promote activities and collaborate with various educational resources to benefit our communities on the NTU campus and surrounding areas. All NTU clubs meet regularly and are very active. Members find the club drive beneficial because it allows them to meet other majors and will enable them to network with others.

NTU Clubs (chartered or non-chartered):

- NTU Sustainability Club
 - American Indigenous Business Leaders (AIBL)
 - NTU AIHEC Basketball Club
 - BiCEPS Club
 - NTU Weightlifting Club
 - SkillsUSA Club
 - And others
- Go Skyhawks!



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...



The world's first animated feature film was made in Argentina.

The Golden Girls was supposed to have a different theme song.



There's enough gold inside the Earth's core to coat the planet.

ABET Site Visit at Navajo Technical University

Crownpoint, NM – On October 1-3, 2023, The ABET accreditation for engineering technology met with the Navajo Technical University cabinet members.

NTU warmly welcomed a joint visiting team for our ABET accreditation. A significant part of the work of the Computing Accreditation Commission (CAC), Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC), and Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission (ETAC) is carried out by teams of program evaluators, each of whom visits an institution that has requested an evaluation of one or more of its computing programs. CAC Team Chair member Shari Plantz-Masters, EAC Team Chair Gary Young, and ETAC Hy Tran represent the entire computing community and have a solemn responsibility to the profession.

Program evaluators (PEV) are expected to understand the general and program criteria thoroughly. PEVs visited with program advisors and representatives to tour NTU program labs, facilities, and classrooms. For a small program, the team interviewed faculty members who teach computing courses in the program. Students also encouraged their impressions of the aspects of the computing program related to the criteria, including advising, the faculty, the curriculum, and the computing and library facilities.

NTU is the first tribal college and university in the nation to hold program accreditation with ABET. Our Electrical Engineering and Industrial Engineering programs have the certification which aligns with any engineering program in the country.

ABET chair members stand next to NTU's welding rug outside the Wellness Center, Crownpoint, NM.



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or smartinez@navajo-
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NTU Sustainability Club First Harvest

Crownpoint, NM - On October 12, 2023, NTU Sustainability Club hosted its first harvest with assistance from Phaizon Osbourne, Kelly Bitsoi, and Darlene Wilson. Students and professors were welcome to pick the blue corn from the garden. Phaizon and his crew worked throughout the spring and summer to harvest blue and white corn on the north side of campus. It was a successful first harvest, with many ears of blue corn picked.

Everything that was picked today will be utilized in some capacity, whether it's for food or to be used for next season's harvest. The goal of the project was not only to produce food on their field but also to do it in a manner that is sustainable and consistent with Navajo Culture and worldview. The sustainability club hopes to expand the garden and grow more produce like melons, squash, and chili in spring, with ambitions of providing fresh produce to NTU's culinary program soon.

For more information

Michael McMillan
Student Life Coordinator
mmcmillan@navajotech.edu

NTU Home Page
www.navajotech.edu

Apply Today
<http://ecampus.navajotech.edu/.../Future.../Formbuilder.jnz>



**NTU Sustainability Club hosted its first harvest
with assistance from Phaizon Osbourne, Kelly
Bitsoi, and Darlene Wilson in Crownpoint, NM.**

Navajo Technical University AIHEC Awareness Day

Crownpoint, NM - On October 18, 2023, Navajo Technical University held its AIHEC awareness day inside the Wellness Center. The American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) provided a support network as they worked to influence federal policies on American Indian higher education.

Today, AIHEC has grown to 37 Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) in the United States. Each year, AIHEC hosts the AIHEC Student Conference with other tribal colleges and universities. They gather together, network, and compete in academic and non-academic competitions to showcase the skills learned at their respective schools. The 2024 AIHEC Student Conference will occur next March 2024 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

NTU has been sending students to the conference for many years with great success and placing in many competitions. NTU has opened it up to enrolled students to complete a wide range of completions and continue to grow the recognition of NTU. Interested students must meet the eligibility criteria set by NTU and AIHEC. Limited spots are available for each completion. Students must act fast to secure their spot.

Entertainment by Revolver and lunch was provided for participants.

AIHEC Competitions:

Business Bowl
Science Bowl
Robotics
Slam Poetry
Web Page Design
Speech
Basketball
Volleyball
Archery
Shoe Game
Hand Games and many more

For more information, contact:

Tilda Harrison-Woody
NTU AIHEC Coordinator
P: (505) 387-7392
E: twoody@navajotech.edu

AIHEC 2024 Conference Website:
<https://www.aihec2024.com/>



AIHEC Coordinator Tilda Harrison-Woody speaks on academic and non-academic competitions inside the Wellness Center.

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Navajo Technical University Recognized for Accredited Ph.D. Program

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The 25th Navajo Nation Council held its Recognition Ceremony at the Fall Council Session on Oct. 17 at 8 a.m. MDT at the Council Chamber.

25th Navajo Nation Speaker Crystalyne Curley and Dr. Andy Nez recognized Navajo Technical University for establishing the nation's first and the first tribal college in the US, the first accredited Ph.D. program. NTU Deans and professors, including former Chief Justice Robert Yazzie, emeritus, were present. Navajo Technical University received a certificate of recognition from the Navajo Nation Council and is continuing the Education of the Navajo people and working on sustaining and preserving the language.

"Today, this achievement represents a significant milestone in Navajo education and is a testament to the commitment and hard work. I learned more from the students than I shared; I am very grateful for NTU, and all involved continue the excellent work with our students, our incredible growing leaders, and their interested agendas", Dr. Andy Nez commented.

The accomplishment at the University marks a milestone as the first accredited Ph.D. program of its kind at a Tribal College or University. The inaugural doctoral program is designed to produce scholars who can conduct research, teach, and lead in efforts to retain the Navajo culture, language, and leadership. The development of the program is a significant milestone in preserving a language and culture that has been at the focal point of many educators and administrators in the Navajo Nation over the years.

Dr. Franklin Sage is a leading scholar in Education and foundation of research, Diné research in culture and history. Their expertise and guidance will provide a strong foundation in the theory and practice of Diné culture and language sustainability. NTU's program will provide students with a rigorous, interdisciplinary education that draws on history, anthropology, literature, sociology, and cultural studies.

"Our faculty are experts in their fields and are committed to providing students with a supportive and engaging learning environment. The consultation with NTU colleagues, Diné elders, indigenous scholars, community members, and experts elsewhere in North America complements the program's arrangement," said Dr. Franklin Sage

NTU Deans and professors
recieve a Certificate of
Recognition from with the
25th Navajo Nation Council in
Window Rock, AZ.



NTU Nursing Director Inducted into the American Academy of Nursing

Washington, DC — On October 5 – 7, 2023, Research Associate at Johns Hopkins University School and Navajo Technical University Nursing Director Dr. Michelle Kahn-John and 252 distinguished nurse leaders were inducted into the American Academy of Nursing (AAN) the 2023 Class of Fellows. The inductees are recognized for their substantial, sustained, and outstanding impact on health and health care at the Academy's annual Health Policy Conference. This year's conference theme is "Celebrating 50 Years of Leadership, Policy, and Partnership."

Dr. Michelle Kahn-John is an Indigenous nurse scientist who leads and advocates for culturally safe, respectful, and collaborative research partnerships in Native American communities. She's a transformative advanced practice nurse, has provided leadership in health systems for over 25 years, and continues to offer clinical (psychiatric) and administrative support to hospitals and clinics serving the Navajo Nation.

"As a Diné (Navajo) nurse scientist, my leadership and scientific innovations are directed at addressing the overwhelming disparities in American Indian (AI) mental health and training the next generation of AI and ally researchers. My substantive practice, policy, and research contributions span 27 years. Drawing from my AI culture and scientific knowledge, I developed one of only two Native American theoretical nursing models, the Hózhó Lifeway (HL), a cultural guidepost for policy, research, and systems changes," Dr. Kahn-John stated. "My community-engaged research approach enhances self-efficacy and resilience to address physical and psychological distress in AI communities. As a Diné (Navajo) nurse leader, I am one of 78 PhD-prepared AIAN Nurse scientists and one of the few (less than 0.03%) board-certified AIAN Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners (PMHNP) in the U.S. My 22 years as a PMHNP and eight years as a nurse scientist uniquely positions me as an advocate for AI communities."

The American Academy of Nursing serves the public by advancing health policy and practice through generating, synthesizing, and disseminating nursing knowledge. Academy Fellows are inducted into the organization for their extraordinary contributions to improving health locally and globally. With over 2,900 Fellows, the Academy represents nursing's most accomplished policy, research, administration, practice, and academia leaders.

Dr. Kahn-John commented, "My career achievements mark my commitment to enhancing health equity in AI communities. As a clinician, educator, and scientist, I possess knowledge and practice expertise that align perfectly with the mission of the Academy. As a newly inducted fellow in the American Academy of Nursing, I'm grateful for the opportunity to reflect on my career achievements."

With her clinical expertise in integrative nursing, traditional Native American medicine, and ceremonial interventions, she advocates for culturally aligned and tailored healthcare interventions

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Her most recent research collaboration is focused on preventing youth suicide within two Native American communities in the Great Plains of Northern Montana.

"I look forward to sharing my insights on Indigenous ways of knowing and worldviews and growing our collective nursing knowledge and understanding as we embark on our next chapter as leaders in achieving global health equity. Ahee'hee," Dr. Kahn-John concluded.

Dr. Kahn-John is completing a research fellowship at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing.

For inquiries about the NTU Nursing Program, please contact:

Dr. Christopher Young
Interim Nursing Program Director (Jan 2022-July 2023)
E: c.young@navajotech.edu



NTU Nursing Director Dr. Michelle Kahn-John stands outside the American Academy of Nursing at the 2023 Health Policy Conference in Washington, D.C.

NTU Rodeo Results at Mesalands Community College

TUCUMCARI, NM – On October 13 – 14, 2023, Navajo Technical University's rodeo team competed at the 15th Annual Mesalands Community College Grand Canyon Region Intercollegiate Rodeo at the Quay County fairgrounds.

Navajo Technical University men's team placed 3rd on Friday, October 13, and 4th on Saturday, October 14, 2023. Bareback rider Hyan Ramos debuted at his first college rodeo on Friday and won the bareback riding event. Ramos received a check and 145 points to set him 3rd in the standings.

Bareback rider Isaiah Tom also made his debut this weekend in Tucumcari. Isaiah placed 2nd on Saturday in the bareback riding. Isaiah scored 126 points to set him 4th in the standings.

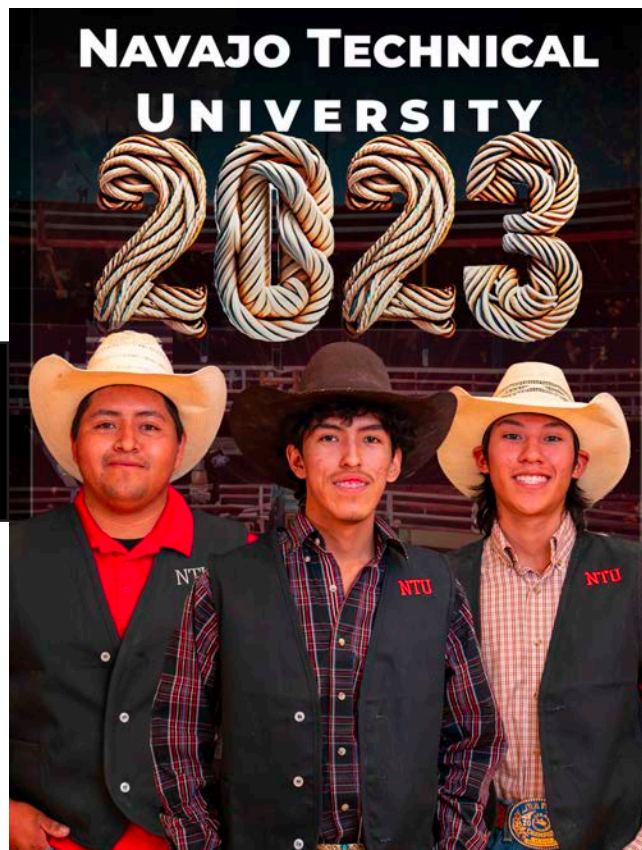
Matthew Jodie finished first place in the steer wrestling event Friday. He received a check and 145 points. Matt also placed 2nd the following Saturday, receiving a check and 126 points. He is now at the top of the leaderboard for the steerwrestling event.

"I'm happy to see my team having fun and doing what they love. They are a talented group of young adults. I am here to help them succeed in and out of the arena. Our next rodeo is in Las Cruces, NM. I won't be taking most of the team members because, at the same time as the NMSU rodeo, we have the INFR going on in Las Vegas, NV. I know how hard they work all year, and I wish them the best of luck in Vegas," said Coach Nicole Pino.

NTU currently sits in fourth place in the Grand Canyon Region of the NIRA! Navajo Technical University is proud of its Rodeo Team's accomplishments and looks forward to continued success in the upcoming competitions.

For more information, contact:

Nicole Pino
NTU Rodeo Head Coach
P: 505.387.7385 ext.1029
E: npino@navajotech.edu



NTU Men's Rodeo Team from L-R:
Matthew Jodie, Isaiah Tom, and Hyan
Ramos.

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2023 NTU Fall Festival and NTU's 5th Annual Chilli Cook-Off

Crownpoint, NM – On October 30, 2023 - As colors change on the leaves and the air turns crisp, we come together to celebrate the beauty of the fall season. This year's Fall Festival is an excellent time to embrace the spirit of unity, fun, and the joy of autumn within our university.

The Student Senate and Student Services hosted a successful FALL FESTIVAL inside the Wellness Center as the NTU Office of Institutional Data and Re-
porting held its 5th annual Chili Cook-Off. Contestants served their traditional, unique recipes, which gave all judges a run for the fire hydrant. Navajo Technical University hosted this year's Fall Festival. NTU clubs, groups, and departments set up displays and booths for the Navajo Tech community to stop by and participate in mini-games to win snacks and fantastic prizes.

Students, staff, and faculty had their sizzle with the chili contest. There were booths from almost every department doing their trick or treat and games set up for those in attendance. Navajo Tech would like to thank everyone for coming out in full force to support our university's chili cook-off. The NTU community presence and enthusiasm made this event a resounding success, and we would like to thank everyone who came out. We hope you enjoyed the incredible variety of chilis, the friendly competition, and the lively atmosphere as much as we did.

Chili cook-off results:

Kim Peshlakai - First Place
Nicole Pino - Second Place
Frederika Thomas - Third Place
Go Skyhawks!

For more information, contact:

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Navajo Technical University vs. Eastern Arizona Community College

Chinle, Arizona - On October 26th, 2023, the Skyhawks men's and women's basketball team took on the experienced and disciplined Gila Monsters from Eastern Arizona College, which was a highly anticipated competition for the Skyhawks to continue to build their new foundation for year 2.

The Lady Skyhawks opened their inaugural season at the Chinle High Wildcat Den against Eastern Arizona College. NTU women's coach Aanor Louis said. "They are all good basketball players. They are physical, shoot, and pass the ball. I'm just so poised out there all the time."

All NTU games are scheduled because of the NTU men's coach, Rob Floco. With it being a brand-new program, Louis said NTU wants to add more teams to its schedule. As of last Friday, the Lady Skyhawks have ten scheduled games.

"We're going to put our best foot forward," Aanor added. "it's tough—I love that. I love our rivalry. This is a first for many of our great games—it's good for women's basketball. I'm excited to see how well they'll do," he concluded.

The NTU women's coach said they want to elevate the program.

The Men's Skyhawks met on the court as the first whistle blew. Time slowed, and everyone's eyes gazed upon the referee, preparing to execute the starting tip. Both teams competed ferociously at an early stage, trading baskets and trying to locate one another's weaknesses early on. On the other hand, as time progressed in the first half, the Skyhawks fell apart as a unit.

However, EAC had taken this opportunity to capitalize down the stretch, causing the separation both teams were striving to obtain. Eastern Arizona College was a great competitor for the Skyhawks to see the components the team needed to improve offensively and defensively.

As the second half commenced, the Skyhawks had tried to close the gap by trying to chip away at the Gila Monsters' lead. The Skyhawks showed their competitive force and heart, but EAC managed to stay disciplined and executed their plays to a "T," and EAC got the win under their belts against NTU.

#2 (Center) Joe Davis commented, "The Chinle Game was an amazing experience. The crowd got loud in the arena in a heated game, and the fans showed much support". NTU vs EAC was the first collegiate program the Skyhawks had contested. #5 (Shooting Guard) Kane Kenyon stated, "This was a good contender, firstly to see where we are at as a team and also to give us an insight of what we need to improve on for the upcoming week in Hobbs, New Mexico for our three-game stretch."

SAVE THE DATE

NTU Open House

Nov. 16, 2023

NTU Wellness Center,
Crownpoint, NM

For more information,
contact:

Dr. Delores Becenti at
d.becenti@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
AM

NTU Wellness Center,
Crownpoint, NM

For more information
contact:

Casmir Agbaraji at cag-
baraji@navajotech.edu

Fall Graduation 2023 Rehearsal

on December 4, at 10
am - Noon and on Dec.
5, at 3 pm - 5 pm inside
the NTU Wellness Cen-
ter, Crownpoint, NM
For more information,
contact:

Sherietta Martinez-
Brown at 505-387-7470
or smartinez@navajo-
tech.edu

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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Finally, be sure to get ready for an exhilarating upcoming week for Rob Floco and the Skyhawks. At the same time, they start it off on November 2nd against the University of Southwest (B), November 3rd -Justice College, and then close the week back with the University of Southwest on November 4th.

GO SKYHAWKS!

For more information, contact

Rob Floco

NTU Head Men's Basketball Coach

E: r.floco@navajotech.edu

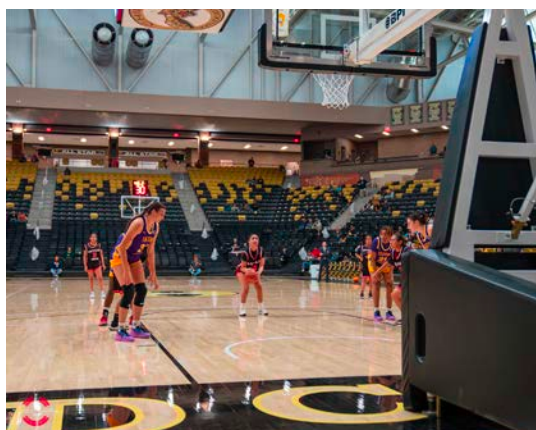
George LaFrance

Athletics Director / Wellness Center Manager

E: glafrance@navajotech.edu

P: 505.387.7477

Visit us: www.navajotech.edu



Men's and Women's basketball teams from NTU and Eastern Arizona Community College compete against each other inside the Chinle High Wildcat Den in Chinle, AZ.

An Afternoon at the Movies

Gallup, NM - On October 21, 2023, the NTU Arts and Humanities Department sponsored an afternoon at the Red Rock 10 Allen Theatres. Faculty, students, and their guests were invited to participate in a co-curricular activity with a civic engagement focus. A theater was rented exclusively for the NTU moviegoers. A small drink and popcorn were also provided. Students enrolled in HUMN 1180, The History of American Indians in Media, were required to complete an assignment on the film. Thirty-two people attended on behalf of NTU.

It was the opening weekend for Killers of the Flower Moon, an epic story about the murders of hundreds of Osage Nation citizens in the 1920s directed by Martin Scorsese starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Robert De Niro, and Lilly Gladstone. According to the Red Rock 10 theater manager, the film was 3 hours and 46 minutes long.

Student Sonny Perry stated, "Excellent movie that teaches its viewers about issues and problems in the past that are still relevant today in Native American communities." Sonny is pursuing a Bachelor in Fine Arts in Creative Writing and New Media at the main campus in Crownpoint, NM.

Associate Professor Anita Roastingear, MFA, said, "Growing up in northeastern Oklahoma, I learned about the murders when I was a young girl, and I began to fear for myself and my family because of our Cherokee heritage." Ms. Roastingear teaches HUMN 1180 as a face-to-face class and online.

A quote from the book Killers of the Flower Moon, The Birth of the FBI by David Grann is very telling.

An Osage Chief asked, "Is it murder or simply cruelty to animals?"
Indigenous Peoples are resilient. We are still here and shall remain long after the oil in the ground has been forgotten.

For more information, contact:

Anita Roastingear, MFA*CNF
Associate Professor,
School of Arts & Humanities
E: aroastingear@navajotech.edu



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NTU Featured Staff/Faculty

This month, we would like to feature the cafeteria/kitchen staff. The cafeteria provides meals for the staff, students, and the surrounding community at a reasonable cost. The cafeteria hours are posted and open year-round except the holidays. Kitchen staff at restaurants are essential employees, and we thank them for their service.

The Dining Facility provides quality meals to Navajo Technical University students, faculty, and staff. A safe and sanitary environment will be aligned with the NM State Environmental Agency.

Seek knowledge in nutrition and healthy food recipes that NTU Culinary Arts Students will be involved in all aspects of meal preparation for the staff, students, and community.

Spice up your future and take the next step at leading your cooking staff. For more information, contact Brian Tatsukawa, Assistant Master Technical Instructor of Culinary Arts at btatsukawa@navajotech.edu and Robert Witte Master, Technical Instructor / Culinary Arts, Hospitality, and Food Services Coordinator at rwitte@navajotech.edu



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