

# SKYHAWK PRESS

A PART OF YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- NTU Sweat Lodge Presentation... Page 1
- NTU Sponsors MMIW/ United Through Metal... Page 2
- "Making the Mind Strong" A Cultural Mental Health Presentation... Page 3
- I Bet You Didn't Know/ NTU Weightlifters Club... Page 4
- Marco Arviso Presentation... Page 5
- NTU Institutional Data & Reporting "I Donut Know That"... Page 6
- NTU-NMT Navajo Nation Water Purification Project... Page 7
- NTU Counseling Program Internship Presentations... Page 9
- NTU 2023 Fall Open House... Page 11
- Traditional Herbalist Presentation... Page 12
- The Inuagural Chemistry Program and Research Seminar Success Story... Page 13
- NTU Dine' Studies Frybread Competition... Page 14
- NTU Featured Staff/ Faculty... Page 14

### Navajo Technical University Sweat Lodge Presentation

Crownpoint, NM - On Thursday, November 9, 2023, the Navajo Technical University Dine Studies Department hosted an informative session on Sweat Lodge by Dr. Perry James as part of the Native American Heritage Month celebration.

The session was held in person at the Hogan located on the Crownpoint NTU campus, and there was also a Zoom session for people who could not attend in person. Dr. James presented the importance and significance that the sweat lodge has for the Dine people. And some informative Navajo stories that are relative to sweat lodge history.

The Dine Studies Department will host events throughout the rest of November to celebrate Native American Heritage Month. The event includes more informal sessions, traditional contests, and presentations.

For more information, contact:

Natalie R. Desiderio  
 Administrative Assistant  
 Graduate Studies & Undergraduate Diné Studies  
 E: [ndesiderio@navajotech.edu](mailto:ndesiderio@navajotech.edu)  
 P (505) 387-7520



Dr. Perry James, an alumnus, presented an informative session inside the NTU Hogan.

## Navajo Technical University Sponsors MMIW, United Through Metal

Navajo Technical University Sponsors MMIW, United Through Metal

Gallup, NM - On November 11, 2023, Through these tough times when our indigenous women are murdered or go missing, the heavy metal community comes together at the Juggernaut in Downtown Gallup, New Mexico. Each band showcased insane levels of musicianship and played heavy music on such a serious subject. The event felt like more than just a concert. It was a gathering of like-minded people where attendees and bands showed their love and support for the MMIW community.

Joleen and Maskee from the MMIW foundation came to the show to speak on stage about the group and thanked everyone for helping make the heavy metal concert such a huge turnout. Through the event, the foundation raised over a thousand dollars that will go directly to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Foundation to help spread awareness worldwide.

NTU, SkillsUSA, and the Juggernaut would like to thank all attendees and the bands performing such a great show. Safe travels, and we hope to see you all at the next one. Navajo Technical University honors Diné culture and language while educating for the future.

Sponsored by Navajo Technical University, SkillsUSA, and Juggernaut.

For more information, contact:

Lorena Giesbrecht  
E: [l.giesbrecht@navajotech.edu](mailto:l.giesbrecht@navajotech.edu)



“United through Metal” at the Juggernaut, Gallup, NM sponsored by SkillsUSA and NTU.

## SAVE THE DATE

### Fall Graduation 2023 Rehearsal

on December 4, at 10 am - Noon and on Dec. 5, at 3 pm - 5 pm inside NTU Wellness Center, Crownpoint, NM

For more information contact:

Sherietta Martinez-Brown at 505-387-7470 or [smartinez@navajotech.edu](mailto:smartinez@navajotech.edu)

### NTU Graduation Ceremony

on December 15, at 10 am inside NTU Wellness Center, Crownpoint, NM

### Fall 2023 New Student Orientation

Thursday, January 11, 2023

NTU Wellness Center, Crownpoint, NM

### Culinary Arts Finals

Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 11 AM and Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 11 AM, 2023

Inside the NTU Hospitality Center, Crownpoint, NM

For more information contact:

Chef Brian Tatsukawa at 505-387-7413 or [btatsukawa@navajotech.edu](mailto:btatsukawa@navajotech.edu)

# SAVE THE DATE

## Fall Graduation 2023 Rehearsal

on December 4, at 10  
am - Noon and on Dec.  
5, at 3 pm - 5 pm inside  
NTU Wellness Center,  
Crownpoint, NM

For more information  
contact:

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

## NTU Graduation Ceremony

on December 15, at 10  
am inside  
NTU Wellness Center,  
Crownpoint, NM

## Fall 2023 New Student Orientation

Thursday, January 11,  
2023

NTU Wellness Center,  
Crownpoint, NM

## Culinary Arts Finals

Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 11 AM  
and Wednesday, Dec. 6  
at 11 AM, 2023

Inside the NTU Hospital-  
ity Center, Crownpoint,  
NM

For more information  
contact:

Chef Brian Tatsukawa at  
505-387-7413 or  
btatsukawa@navajo-  
tech.edu

## “Making the Mind Strong” A Cultural Mental Health Presentation/ “Dinek’ehji ni’ bidziil go ahlee”

Crownpoint, NM - On November 13, 2023 - NTU, Masters of Dine Culture, Language, and Leadership Arts student Sammie Largo presented inside the NTU Main Campus Hogan. The cultural presentation discusses the connection between human beings and the elements surrounding us daily. Speaking on topics such as Navajo mythology, philosophy, and how they contribute to a mind being developed through one’s actions and experiences from the past to present and even to the future.

Participants got to sit in on this discussion filled with insightful thoughts and reflections about one’s mind and the way we think. Prioritize your mental well-being, practice self-compassion, and let’s break the stigma of mental health. Remember, your mental health matters.

Through the teachings of Nitsáhákees (thinking), Nahátá (planning), Íína (implementing), and Siihasin (reflection), students acquire quality education in diverse fields while preserving cultural values and gaining economic opportunities.

It Begins From Within!

For more information, contact:

Sharon Nelson

Instructor for the: Diné Culture, Language & Leadership  
P:505-387-7378

E: snelson@navajotech.edu



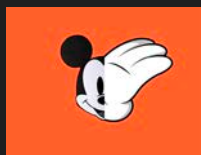
NTU Student, Masters of Dine’ Culture, Language, and Leadership Arts major Sammie Largo gives a presentation inside the NTU Hogan.

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...



Most Disney characters wear gloves to keep animation simple.

Thanks to 3D printing, NASA can basically email tools to astronauts.



Bananas grow upside down.



### The 2023 Navajo Technical University Weightlifters Club

Crownpoint, NM - On November 13, 2023, The Navajo Technical University Weightlifting Club has had its first official meeting. Discussions included future competitions, such as the "Feel The Power" meet competition on November 25th at Wowies Gymnasium in Gallup, New Mexico. Our weightlifting club harmonizes strength and the relentless pursuit of personal best. They are pushing boundaries and lifting each other to new heights.

If you are curious about the club, event, or just NTU in general, feel free to contact us any time at any of our departments, and we can assist you in the right direction on how you can join our ever-progressing community.

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



NTU's Weightlifting Club officially held it's first meeting inside the Wellness Center, Crownpoint, NM.

## SAVE THE DATE

### Fall Graduation 2023 Rehearsal

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

Sherietta Martinez-Brown at 505-387-7470 or [smartinez@navajo-tech.edu](mailto:smartinez@navajo-tech.edu)

### NTU Graduation Ceremony

on December 15, at 10 am inside NTU Wellness Center, Crownpoint, NM

### Fall 2023 New Student Orientation

Thursday, January 11, 2023

NTU Wellness Center, Crownpoint, NM

### Culinary Arts Finals

Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 11 AM and Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 11 AM, 2023

Inside the NTU Hospitality Center, Crownpoint, NM

For more information contact:

Chef Brian Tatsukawa at 505-387-7413 or [btatsukawa@navajo-tech.edu](mailto:btatsukawa@navajo-tech.edu)

# SAVE THE DATE

## Fall Graduation 2023 Rehearsal

on December 4, at 10  
am - Noon and on Dec.  
5, at 3 pm - 5 pm inside  
NTU Wellness Center,  
Crownpoint, NM

For more information  
contact:

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

## NTU Graduation Ceremony

on December 15, at 10  
am inside  
NTU Wellness Center,  
Crownpoint, NM

## Fall 2023 New Student Orientation

Thursday, January 11,  
2023

NTU Wellness Center,  
Crownpoint, NM

## Culinary Arts Finals

Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 11 AM  
and Wednesday, Dec. 6  
at 11 AM, 2023

Inside the NTU Hospital-  
ity Center, Crownpoint,  
NM

For more information  
contact:

Chef Brian Tatsukawa at  
505-387-7413 or  
btatsukawa@navajo-  
tech.edu

## Marco Arviso Presentation

Church Rock, NM - On November 14, 2023, Navajo Tech Innovation Center hosted Marco Arviso as he presented on Navajo Artists and Jewelry, his business Marco Arviso Jewelry.

During the presentation, Marco shared stories on how he started his jewelry business and grew into the one he now has. He gave helpful tips to all entrepreneurs who attended, including budgeting, supply management, and retail store operations. Marco also gave an insight into what his business has done since he opened up his first retail store in Window Rock, AZ, and the new set of challenges presented to him. Marco still plans to expand his business with another retail store location.

Marco Arviso is a member of the Navajo (Dine') Nation. Originally from Black Rock, AZ, Marco is Naashgali' Dine' (Mescalero Apache Clan), born for the Hona'gha'ahii (One Who Walks Around Clan).

Navajo Tech Innovation Center is located in Church Rock, NM, just off the side of Historic Highway 66, about half a mile from Fire Rock Casino. The Innovation Center provides resources to entrepreneurs to help them grow. They currently have eight active businesses that operate inside the Innovation Center. The Navajo Tech Innovation Center is hosting an open house this Friday, November 17, 2023, from 9 am - 4 pm. Say hi and see what Innovation Center can do to help grow your business.

For more information:

309 B East Historic Highway 66  
Church Rock, NM 87311  
P: 505-905-7800.



Marco Arviso presented his Navajo art and jewelry business inside the Navajo Technical Innovation Center to inspiring entrepreneurs.

## Navajo Tech Institutional Data & Reporting “I Donut Know That”

Students, staff, and faculty got together to explore Navajo Technical University’s data universe one bite at a time on November 15, 2023. Series topics included Student Enrollment, Full-Time Equivalency, and Data informed decision-making. From growth metrics to impactful milestones, let’s showcase the vibrant journey of our accomplishments and empower progress through the language of institutional data and insightful reporting.

Future series:

Student Union Building, Room #231, NTU campus Crownpoint, New Mexico

- November 29, 11:00 AM
- December 4, 12:00 PM

Navajo Technical University’s Fall 2023 enrollment is 1554. There are 678 first-year students, 202 sophomores, 102 juniors, 136 seniors, 18 master-level graduate students, 3 Ph.D. students, 16 non-majors, and 399 dual credit students. Please get in touch with us to learn more about NTU’s data and reporting.

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

What’s the most surprising data revelation you have encountered lately? Share the sweetest of knowledge in the comments!

It begins from within.

For more information, contact:

Sheena L. Begay  
Director of Institutional Data & Reporting  
O: (505) 387-7461, Mitel Extension: 1103  
E: sheena.begay@navajotech.edu



(L-R): Sheena Begay, Director of Institutional Data & Reporting  
and Dr. Delores Becenti Director of Enrollment.

## SAVE THE DATE

### Fall Graduation 2023 Rehearsal

on December 4, at 10 am - Noon and on Dec. 5, at 3 pm - 5 pm inside NTU Wellness Center, Crownpoint, NM

For more information contact:

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

### NTU Graduation Ceremony

on December 15, at 10 am inside NTU Wellness Center, Crownpoint, NM

### Fall 2023 New Student Orientation

Thursday, January 11, 2023

NTU Wellness Center, Crownpoint, NM

### Culinary Arts Finals

Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 11 AM and Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 11 AM, 2023

Inside the NTU Hospitality Center, Crownpoint, NM

For more information contact:

Chef Brian Tatsukawa at 505-387-7413 or btatsukawa@navajotech.edu

# SAVE THE DATE

## Fall Graduation 2023 Rehearsal

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

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

## NTU Graduation Ceremony

on December 15, at 10  
am inside  
NTU Wellness Center,  
Crownpoint, NM

## Fall 2023 New Student Orientation

Thursday, January 11,  
2023

NTU Wellness Center,  
Crownpoint, NM

## Culinary Arts Finals

Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 11 AM  
and Wednesday, Dec. 6  
at 11 AM, 2023

Inside the NTU Hospital-  
ity Center, Crownpoint,  
NM

For more information  
contact:

Chef Brian Tatsukawa at  
505-387-7413 or  
btatsukawa@navajo-  
tech.edu

## NTU-NMT Navajo Nation Water Purification Project

Crownpoint, NM - On September 26, 2023, Navajo Technical University (NTU) and New Mexico Tech (NMT) received the U.S. Department of Energy -Office of Legacy Management (DOE-LM) 's Environmental Justice Grant supporting President Biden's Executive Order 14008 and Public Law 117-328. This Project will receive \$1.2M annually under this five-year grant. Navajo Technical University and New Mexico Tech have been working on the NTU-NMT Navajo Nation Water Purification Project (N4WPP) since September 2020.

The grant kick-off meeting held on November 13, 2023, in the NTU Hogan on the main campus was attended by local chapter officials, N.M. Senator Benny Shendo, other community members, and DOE members. This Project aims to solve the long-standing issue of quality water in the Navajo Nation and will provide water resources suitable for livestock, cleaning, and drinking. N.M. Senator Benny Shendo, Jr., is a member of the Jemez Pueblo Tribe. Senator Shendo added, "NTU is a leader in our tribal college movement. Leadership and stability make this institution grow."

NTU President Elmer Guy welcomed the attendees and expressed his gratitude towards Senator Benny Shendo for the support from the CIT days to now as a university. "Our instructors and professors have been solving our Navajo Nation water problem and training our students on these issues. NTU students will learn the science and be trained in the technology but will also learn practical ways to get involved with the community to solve environmental science problems," Dr. Elmer Guy concluded.

NTU Provost Dr. Colleen Bowman reflected on the Project and its annual outreach activities. Dr. Bowman highlighted that this Project would educate and train students to test water quality. "This project will educate students and teach and train them to test water quality that provides water resources suitable for our livestock use, cleaning, and, eventually, clean drinking water." The N4WPP's second annual Water Symposium was held on November 3, 2023, at UNM- Gallup. The water symposium is a yearly outreach activity that allows high school students to learn about some of the topics on water challenges in the Navajo Nation.

NM-based industrial development partner PESCO (Process Equipment & Service Company Inc.) provided a water filtration unit demo outside the NTU Science building. The Project will include testing and modifying water filtration units to increase access to usable water across the Navajo Nation. NTU and NMT students will be trained in database management, water sampling and analysis techniques, plant operations, and data analysis. The classroom learning will be augmented with field sampling planning, plant management, critical thinking, and communication skills. INTERA and Integral Consulting Inc. are the two other partners of this Project, and they will be helping NTU and NMT students learn about permitting, licensing, and water database management platform development.

The Project will also create decades-long infrastructure for sustainable water resources in the Navajo Nation. Establishing a new working group and emerging workforce will install and test new facilities at inactive wells to provide sorely needed new water sources and improved water quality to Navajo communities.

Overall, this project will address the Navajo Nation's water problem and train students on these issues, thus providing practical ways to get involved with the community to solve environmental science problems.

-----  
For more information, contact:

Dr. Abhishek RoyChowdhury (P.I. of this grant)  
Associate Professor of Environmental Science  
E: aroychowdhury@navajotech.edu  
P: 505.387.7434

NTU Admission Office  
P: 505.387.7401  
E: admissions@navajotech.edu



(TOP) Dr. Abhishek RoyChowdhury gives a overview on the N4WPP water project.

(BOTTOM) Dr. Elmer Guy gives a welcome address inside the NTU Hogan.

# SAVE THE DATE

## Fall Graduation 2023 Rehearsal

on December 4, at 10 am - Noon and on Dec. 5, at 3 pm - 5 pm inside NTU Wellness Center, Crownpoint, NM

For more information contact:

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

## NTU Graduation Ceremony

on December 15, at 10 am inside NTU Wellness Center, Crownpoint, NM

## Fall 2023 New Student Orientation

Thursday, January 11, 2023

NTU Wellness Center, Crownpoint, NM

## Culinary Arts Finals

Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 11 AM and Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 11 AM, 2023

Inside the NTU Hospitality Center, Crownpoint, NM

For more information contact:

Chef Brian Tatsukawa at 505-387-7413 or btatsukawa@navajotech.edu

# SAVE THE DATE

## Fall Graduation 2023 Rehearsal

on December 4, at 10  
am - Noon and on Dec.  
5, at 3 pm - 5 pm inside  
NTU Wellness Center,  
Crownpoint, NM

For more information  
contact:

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

## NTU Graduation Ceremony

on December 15, at 10  
am inside  
NTU Wellness Center,  
Crownpoint, NM

## Fall 2023 New Student Orientation

Thursday, January 11,  
2023

NTU Wellness Center,  
Crownpoint, NM

## Culinary Arts Finals

Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 11 AM  
and Wednesday, Dec. 6  
at 11 AM, 2023

Inside the NTU Hospital-  
ity Center, Crownpoint,  
NM

For more information  
contact:

Chef Brian Tatsukawa at  
505-387-7413 or  
btatsukawa@navajo-  
tech.edu

## Counseling Program Internship Presentations

On Thursday, November 9, the Fall 2023 Counseling Program Interns present-  
ed to their classmates, advisors, and upcoming interns. The interns were at the  
following locations:

Tina Bowannie - Zuni Public Schools  
Shyler Martin - Four Corners Detox - Gallup  
Tia Curley - Chinle Public Schools  
Karen Willie - Nova III (Gallup)

Tina Bowannie is completing both AA programs, Shyler and Karen are complet-  
ing one each, and Tia is completing a Certificate program. The double-AA pro-  
gram requires 225 hours, of which 90 hours are direct and 135 are indirect. A  
single AA program requires 150 hours, of which 60 hours are direct and 90 are  
indirect. The Certificate program requires a total of 120 hours, out of which 48  
hours are direct and 72 hours are indirect. Completing either the Certificate or  
AA degree will equip students with the necessary skills for entry-level positions  
in Psychology or Counseling or enable them to continue their studies towards  
a baccalaureate degree.

The program trains students to work with patients who have behavioral, emo-  
tional, or substance abuse disorders. Jobs in the field can be found in hospi-  
tals, mental health clinics, and residential treatment centers.

For more information, contact our program advisors:

Dr. Dianna Dekelaita-Mullet  
Associate Professor of Psychology  
E: dmullet@navajotech.edu

Nancy Goodwin  
Assistant Professor of Psychology  
NTU Counseling Internship Advisor  
E: nancy.goodwin@navajotech.edu



NTU'S Counseling program presented to classmates,  
advisors, and interns around GMCS and Chinle, AZ

## 2023 NTU Fall Open House

Crownpoint, NM - On Wednesday, November 16, 2023, Navajo Technical University held an open house at its main campus in Crownpoint, NM. The NTU community, the public, and local high schools like (Shiprock, Northwestern, Tohatchi, Gallup, Thoreau, and Crownpoint) attended.

Faculty, clubs, and resources set up tables and booths in the Wellness Center. Students benefited from the programs and athletics. Experiencing along the way with financial aid and admissions to help prospective students get an idea of what will be needed to attend NTU in the future. Schools attended also took a campus tour and visited programs and departments like Welding, Automotive, Information Technology, Fabrication Lab, and Culinary Arts. At the end of the open house, the students ate lunch from Pizza Nine.

Navajo Technical University offers a range of other academic programs, including welding, electrical, math, and English. These programs provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in their chosen fields. If you're interested in learning more about these programs, be sure to visit the NTU website or contact a recruiter for more information.

Navajo Technical University honors Diné culture and language while educating for the future.

-----  
For more information, contact:

Brenda Yazzie  
NTU Recruiter  
P: (505) 387-7427  
E: b.yazzie@navajotech.edu



NTU Faculty and clubs gave out resources and helpful information inside the Wellness Center, Crownpoint, NM

## SAVE THE DATE

### Fall Graduation 2023 Rehearsal

on December 4, at 10 am - Noon and on Dec. 5, at 3 pm - 5 pm inside NTU Wellness Center, Crownpoint, NM

For more information contact:

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

### NTU Graduation Ceremony

on December 15, at 10 am inside NTU Wellness Center, Crownpoint, NM

### Fall 2023 New Student Orientation

Thursday, January 11, 2023

NTU Wellness Center, Crownpoint, NM

### Culinary Arts Finals

Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 11 AM and Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 11 AM, 2023

Inside the NTU Hospitality Center, Crownpoint, NM

For more information contact:

Chef Brian Tatsukawa at 505-387-7413 or btatsukawa@navajotech.edu

# SAVE THE DATE

## Fall Graduation 2023 Rehearsal

on December 4, at 10  
am - Noon and on Dec.  
5, at 3 pm - 5 pm inside  
NTU Wellness Center,  
Crownpoint, NM

For more information  
contact:

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

## NTU Graduation Ceremony

on December 15, at 10  
am inside  
NTU Wellness Center,  
Crownpoint, NM

## Fall 2023 New Student Orientation

Thursday, January 11,  
2023

NTU Wellness Center,  
Crownpoint, NM

## Culinary Arts Finals

Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 11 AM  
and Wednesday, Dec. 6  
at 11 AM, 2023

Inside the NTU Hospital-  
ity Center, Crownpoint,  
NM

For more information  
contact:

Chef Brian Tatsukawa at  
505-387-7413 or  
btatsukawa@navajo-  
tech.edu

## NTU Innovation Center Building Connections

Church Rock, NM – On November 17, 2023, Navajo Technical University built connections at the Navajo Tech Innovation Center while enjoying good food, giveaways, door prizes, and activities for local NTIC tenants, businesses, vendors, and special guests.

NTIC Director Matt Tafoya hosted, and local business vendors participated in the event as they set up booths. This event is open to the public, and many gathered to come and say hi. Current tenant at NTIC and fashion designer Mar-  
ian Mike provided a collection of Native American art, clothing, and jewelry as she gave information on future events and workshops. “I used many of Dine’s philosophy story influences in my clothing for about 25 years; I also help with a local high school that wants to put up a fashion show. Exploring manufacturing and working up to entrepreneurship, NTIC has helped me utilize their equipment to set up my business.”

Other business vendors include Ursula Johnson, Owner and CEO of Tea Boss from Gallup, NM. Lincoln Tsinijinnie is a Certified HVAC technician and can clean and maintain any heating or air conditioning units, including information on his services and business—Lincoln’s Heating and Cooling is from St. Michaels, AZ.

Matt Tafoya is excited about the Cultural Arts Program at NTIC. It intends to enhance and revitalize traditional Navajo cultural arts practices while providing opportunities for Navajo cultural arts knowledge holders and master artisans to share their unique skills in a multigenerational setting. “The Navajo Tech Innovation is a team of professionals that understands that the early years of business operation are as dynamic as they are essential. The Navajo Tech Innovation Center has six training tracks (staff, workforce, tenant, public, cultural arts, and NTU students) that establish a strong sense of business on and off the reservation while formulating a unique mix of those critical factors to expand the horizons of new firms on and around the Navajo Nation.” – said Matt Tafoya.

NTIC strives to collaborate and support a proactive community of entrepreneurs within the Navajo Nation and assist in launching successful start-up ventures in northwestern New Mexico. NTIC houses a complete list of tenants who believe that achieving this goal will lead to more accomplishments, such as diversification, economic growth, job creation, and sustainability of the Navajo Nation.



Matt Tafoya and NTIC personnel pose inside the Innovation Center to assist in launching successful start-up ventures in northwestern New Mexico.

## Traditional Herbalist Presentation

Crownpoint, NM - On November 20, 2023, Tina Lynch couldn't have done a better job presenting indigenous native plants and their uses. Attendees sat around the Student Union Building lobby digesting stories behind each herb use and their effects, such as sweetgrass, used for a warrior's prayer, and others such as Tádídíín, Ałkaad, Na'biih, and much more.

The Navajo people have long understood the potent healing effects of these herbs. Native plant roots in traditional medicine are used for various purposes, such as a pain reliever and to treat respiratory issues. Embracing these traditional remedies is a way to honor the cultural heritage and wisdom passed down through generations.

The presentation was bilingual, where Tina described specific herbs in Navajo and included herb names in other tribal languages. She also discussed the importance of gathering certain herbs for particular conditions and the traditional process when gathering fresh herbs, especially near or on a sacred mountain. Thanks for this beautiful presentation on such an essential topic to our native people, Tina. We hope to see you again soon.

Through the teachings of Nitsáhákees (thinking), Nahátá (planning), Íína (implementing), and Siihasin (reflection), students acquire quality education in diverse fields while preserving cultural values and gaining economic opportunities.

It Begins From Within!

For more information, contact:

Cheryll Atine SAPS, CADC II, CCJP  
Student Counseling & Mental Health Referral Services  
Navajo Technical University  
P: (505) 387-7473  
E: c.atine@navajotech.edu



Tina Lynch presented inside the NTU SUB building to those who attended sponsored by Student Counseling Services.

## SAVE THE DATE

### Fall Graduation 2023 Rehearsal

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

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

### NTU Graduation Ceremony

on December 15, at 10 am inside NTU Wellness Center, Crownpoint, NM

### Fall 2023 New Student Orientation

Thursday, January 11, 2023

NTU Wellness Center, Crownpoint, NM

### Culinary Arts Finals

Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 11 AM and Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 11 AM, 2023

Inside the NTU Hospital-ity Center, Crownpoint, NM

For more information contact:

Chef Brian Tatsukawa at 505-387-7413 or btatsukawa@navajotech.edu

# SAVE THE DATE

## Fall Graduation 2023 Rehearsal

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

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

## NTU Graduation Ceremony

on December 15, at 10 am inside NTU Wellness Center, Crownpoint, NM

## Fall 2023 New Student Orientation

Thursday, January 11, 2023

NTU Wellness Center, Crownpoint, NM

## Culinary Arts Finals

Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 11 AM and Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 11 AM, 2023

Inside the NTU Hospitality Center, Crownpoint, NM

For more information contact:

Chef Brian Tatsukawa at 505-387-7413 or btatsukawa@navajotech.edu

## The Inaugural of Chemistry Program and Research Seminar Success Story

Crownpoint, NM – On November 20, 2023, NTU's Chemistry program aims to invite industry leaders to our school to present research and share information with students.

The inaugural Chemistry Program and Research Seminar Series at Navajo Technical University, meticulously organized by Dr. Soundappan, Associate Professor of Chemistry and The Chemistry Program head and the NEST LAB team, proved exceptional. Dr. Agbaraji, Dean of Undergraduate Studies, delivered a warm welcome remark, emphasizing the importance of such STEM scholarly events in enriching the university's academic environment.

With the insightful presentations by esteemed speakers like Dr. Praveen Sekhar from Washington State University, Vancouver, WA, and Dr. Karthik from SRMIST, Chennai, TN, India, the series provided a platform for the exchange of cutting-edge knowledge and ideas in electrochemical gas sensor systems and FPGA applications for the chemistry major and other science and engineering students at NTU.

"The engaged NTU students and audience benefited greatly from these enlightening sessions, setting a promising precedent for future academic endeavors and fostering a university research and innovation culture," Dr. Thiagarajan Soundappan concluded.

For more information, contact:

Dr. Thiagarajan Soundappan  
Associate Professor of Chemistry  
E: tsoundappan@navajotech.edu  
P: 505.387.745



NTU Students, Deans, and professors pose with presenters from Washington State University and SRMIST, TN, India inside the Hospitality Center.

## Dine' Studies Indigenous Heritage Month Festivities Presents Fall 2023 Men's Frybread Competition

Crownpoint, NM - On November 21, 2023, It was a trifecta of extraordinary talent as these guys went head to head inside the NTU Hogan, mixing, rolling, and shaping a round piece of what will soon come out as a golden piece of crunchy perfection.

All skill levels participated in the event; whether they were seasoned pros or novice fryers, they pulled all of their instincts together and started to display an act of survival if bread was involved. Judges taste-tested each contestant's bread as the event ended and tallied the scores to see who would be placed first in this year's 2023 Fall frybread-making contest.

Thank you to the spectators, contestants, and helpers who assisted with making this a successful event where the NTU community gathers to share and hear stories of traditional food throughout the years.

Scores based on time, taste, texture, and consistency:

- 1st - Wacey - 32 mins
- 2nd - Derrick - 27 mins
- 3rd - Bryton - 24 mins
- 4th - Jeremiah - 38 mins

Through the teachings of Nitsáhákees (thinking), Nahátá (planning), Íina (implementing), and Sihasin (reflection), students acquire quality education in diverse fields while preserving cultural values and gaining economic opportunities.

-----  
For more information on future events, contact:

Natalie R. Desiderio  
Administrative Assistant  
Graduate Studies & Undergraduate Diné Studies  
E: [ndesiderio@navajotech.edu](mailto:ndesiderio@navajotech.edu)  
P (505) 387-7520



NTU Students and faculty competed in shaping, mixing, rolling, and cooking frybread inside the NTU Hogan.

## SAVE THE DATE

### Fall Graduation 2023 Rehearsal

on December 4, at 10 am - Noon and on Dec. 5, at 3 pm - 5 pm inside NTU Wellness Center, Crownpoint, NM

For more information contact:

Sherietta Martinez-Brown at 505-387-7470 or [smartinez@navajotech.edu](mailto:smartinez@navajotech.edu)

### NTU Graduation Ceremony

on December 15, at 10 am inside NTU Wellness Center, Crownpoint, NM

### Fall 2023 New Student Orientation

Thursday, January 11, 2023

NTU Wellness Center, Crownpoint, NM

### Culinary Arts Finals

Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 11 AM and Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 11 AM, 2023

Inside the NTU Hospital-ity Center, Crownpoint, NM

For more information contact:

Chef Brian Tatsukawa at 505-387-7413 or [btatsukawa@navajotech.edu](mailto:btatsukawa@navajotech.edu)

# SAVE THE DATE

## Fall Graduation 2023 Rehearsal

on December 4, at 10  
am - Noon and on Dec.  
5, at 3 pm - 5 pm inside  
NTU Wellness Center,  
Crownpoint, NM  
For more information  
contact:  
Sherietta Martinez-  
Brown at 505-387-7470  
or smartinez@navajo-  
tech.edu

## NTU Graduation Ceremony

on December 15, at 10  
am inside  
NTU Wellness Center,  
Crownpoint, NM

## Fall 2023 New Student Orientation

Thursday, January 11,  
2023

NTU Wellness Center,  
Crownpoint, NM

## Culinary Arts Finals

Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 11 AM  
and Wednesday, Dec. 6  
at 11 AM, 2023

Inside the NTU Hospital-  
ity Center, Crownpoint,  
NM

For more information  
contact:  
Chef Brian Tatsukawa at  
505-387-7413 or  
btatsukawa@navajo-  
tech.edu

## NTU Featured Staff/Faculty

Head Coach Robb Floco comes to Navajo Technical University with a track record of building programs over the last 20 years. His experience includes coaching at high school, junior college, and the 4-year college level. In the previous two years, Floco has led the Hillcrest Native Prep/Post Grad Team out of Phoenix, AZ (Associated with Nick Weaver @ Hillcrest Prep) and at the 4-year SAGU American Indian College. Hillcrest Native played a 75-game season against elite national teams around the country.

Coach Floco, over his tenure, has also included a 5A State Championship at St. Mary's High School in 2001, a stint working with his high school coach, legendary San Diego Hall Fame Jim Tomey, at San Diego State University while working with Steve Fisher, a stop at Grand Canyon University under Scott Mossman who transition the GCU program from NAIA to DII and invented Synergy Scouting Program.

Working as a head coach at the high school level, Floco was able to turn around two of Arizona's basketball doormats into contenders. At Desert Ridge High School, Floco took over a program that did not win a game two years before his arrival and only four games the year before. Floco quickly turned around the program with his up-tempo style and watched his team soar to a 5th ranking in the state. Desert Ridge appeared in the state playoffs for the first time in school history, won its first-ever state playoff game while reaching the 5A Division-II Elite Eight, and posted a school record of 17 wins.

Robb Floco has a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management and a Master's in Educational, Leadership, and Supervision. Robb has worked in education for 18 years, for six years as a CTE-certified teacher and secondary PE teacher, and I taught HPER classes at the post-secondary level. Floco has 12 years of leadership experience as a Principal, Vice Principal/Dean, CTE Workforce Director, and dean (at WSC) and is currently an Organizational Athletic Director at Edkey Inc. Coach Robb Floco is married to Chrystal Gayle Floco and has a blended family of 7.



NTU Basketball Head Coach, Robb Floco