

# SKYHAWK PRESS

A PART OF YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Dine' Studies Food Demo... Page 1**

**NTU Weightlifters Make An Appearance at Wowies... Page 2**

**Culinary Arts 2023 Fall Semester Finals Day 1... Page 3**

**I Bet You Didn't Know/ Culinary Arts 2023 Finals Day 2... Page 4**

**GMCS Opportunity Career Center Visits NTU... Page 5**

**BHP, Empowering NTU Students with Scholarship... Page 6**

**ECME Milestone Ceremony for the CDA-Equivalent Pathway... Page 7**

**NTU Solar Decathlon Competition... Page 8**

**2023 Kirtland Plumbing Program Graduate Celebration... Page 9**

**NTU Class of 2023 Fall Commencement Ceremony... Page 10**

**NTU Featured Staff/ Faculty... Page 11**

## Diné Studies Food Demo

On Monday, December 4, 2023, the NTU Diné Studies Department conducted a live food demonstration at the NTU Hogan campus in Crownpoint and virtually through Zoom. Sharon J. Nelson led the food demonstration from 3 pm to 5 pm—the demonstration aimed to show how to make Achooh, a high-energy snack and healthy energy bar. The energy bar used Atsi bisga, pinon nuts, stream corn, red berries, and cranberries.

Each ingredient was hand-smashed to a fine texture before being mixed into the energy bar. The ingredients were crushed using a stone and a stone tablet and then swept into a bowl. Sharon asked for volunteers from the audience to help grind the ingredients to a fine texture. While the volunteers were crushing the ingredients, Sharon shared traditional stories and the origin of the snack bar. Once the snack bar was ready, she handed out samples of the most popular flavor to everyone who attended the event at Hogan and enjoyed the burst of energy that came soon after eating it.

Finally, the food demonstration marked the end of the Dine Studies Indigenous Heritage Month Celebration in November.

For more information, contact:

Natalie R. Desiderio

Administrative Assistant

Graduate Studies & Undergraduate Diné Studies

E: [ndesiderio@navajotech.edu](mailto:ndesiderio@navajotech.edu)

**Lecturer of Dine' Studies  
Sharon Nelson conducts a live  
food demonstration inside the  
NTU Hogan**



## Navajo Technical University Weightlifters Make an Appearance at Wowies

On November 25th, 2023, the weightlifters of NTU participated in this year's Wowies Gym Feel the Power Competition held in Gallup, NM. We extend our warmest congratulations to the phenomenal medal winners. Your outstanding performances have earned you medals and the admiration and respect of everyone who witnessed your incredible feats of strength. Your dedication, hard work, and relentless determination have propelled you to the top, motivating others to tackle any obstacle in our everyday lives.

AJ Velasquez, the president of the NTU weight club, said, "The match went great, and we received a lot of support and respect from everyone. All the competitors did terrific, and we look forward to competing in many more competitions. I am proud of all of them."

Here are the winners in their respective divisions:

- Heavyweight Division 1st Place: Navero Burnside
- Lightweight Division 1st Place: AJ Velasquez
- Women's Division 1st Place: Romo C
- Women's Division 3rd Place: Tavylinn Yazzie
- Women's Division 4th Place: Jaynee Chee

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

For more information, contact:

Michael McMillan

Student Life and Activities Coordinator

P: 505.387.7444

E: mmcmillan@navajotech.edu

NTU Student Senate

E: ntustudentsenate@navajotech.edu



NTU Weightlifters receive recognition inside Wowies Gym, Gallup, NM.

# SAVE THE DATE

**Spring 2024 New Student Orientation**

Thursday, January 11, 2024

NTU Wellness Center, Crownpoint, NM

**Spring 2024 Instruction Begins**

Thursday, January 16, 2024

All Campuses:

- Crownpoint, NM
- Chinle, AZ
- Teec Nos Pos, AZ
- Kirtland, NM
- Zuni, NM

# SAVE THE DATE

## Spring 2024 New Student Orientation

Thursday, January 11,  
2024

NTU Wellness Center,  
Crownpoint, NM

## Spring 2024 Instruction Begins

Thursday, January 16,  
2024

All Campuses:

- Crownpoint, NM
- Chinle, AZ
- Teec Nos Pos, AZ
- Kirtland, NM
- Zuni, NM

## Culinary Arts 2023 Fall Semester Finals Day 1

Crownpoint, NM - On December 5th, 2023, the culinary students at Navajo Technical University (NTU) in Crownpoint, NM, prepared delicious dishes, including savory meals and delightful desserts. The students showcased the skills they learned during their studies in the Culinary Arts program during the fall semester finals.

The dishes were well presented and brought together different flavors worldwide. One of the specialties was a drink called Citrus Breeze, made by the bachelor class, which contained Pineapple cranberry orange juice and Jinger.

Wade Shannah, NTU Multimedia Specialist, remarked on the students' impressive skills and said, "The dishes they presented were well served. Bringing great food served all around the world right here at home. I was never expecting to ever eat duck in my life until now. These rising culinary stars will deliver a flavorful experience, and we are thrilled to announce that our talented culinary students are ready to showcase their skills in the much-awaited Cooking Finals."

NTU offers certificates and associate degrees in the Culinary Arts program, where students can learn management training in food and beverage, human resources, catering for large and small-scale events, and more. The program is accredited by the American Culinary Federation (ACF), and NTU is the only Tribal College or University (TCU) with a culinary arts and baking program with ACF accreditation.

Navajo Technical University offers certificates and associate degrees in the Culinary Arts program! Learn management training in food and beverage, human resources, large and small-scale catering, banquet events, and more! The possibilities are endless!

NTU Culinary Arts student prepares  
a delicious dish during the Fall  
2023 semester finals.



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

**[dmorgan@navajotech.edu](mailto:dmorgan@navajotech.edu)**

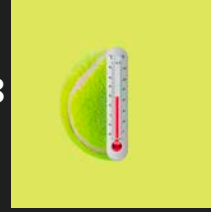
YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT WILL APPEAR IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH'S NEWSLETTER.



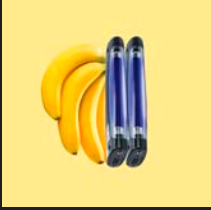
## I BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW...



The Pope can't be an organ donor.



Wimbeldon tennis balls are kept at 68 degrees Fahrenheit.



Bananas glow blue under black lights.

## SAVE THE DATE

### Spring 2024 New Student Orientation

Thursday, January 11, 2024

NTU Wellness Center,  
Crownpoint, NM

### Spring 2024 Instruction Begins

Thursday, January 16, 2024

All Campuses:

- Crownpoint, NM
- Chinle, AZ
- Teec Nos Pos, AZ
- Kirtland, NM
- Zuni, NM

## Culinary Arts 2023 Fall Semester Finals Day 2

On Wednesday, December 7, 2023, the NTU Culinary Arts students concluded their finals at the hospitality center on NTU's main campus in Crownpoint, NM. There were two groups of three students for day two, each responsible for creating a menu and preparing the meal for the guests. The event was scheduled between 11 am and 1 pm, and the students had to prepare six courses, including appetizers, salads, soups, fish courses, entrees, and desserts. Each group had to prepare six dishes for each class for their tables.

The courses showcased what the students had learned throughout the semester. The guests were given a score/comment sheet to rate each dish and provide feedback to the groups. The comments were very positive, and every guest enjoyed their meal, particularly the dessert prepared on the table. Each of the groups was led by a head chef, who was the group's senior student.

If you're interested in pursuing a career in culinary arts, NTU offers certificates and associate's degrees, with a bachelor's degree in Hotel and Restaurant Administration.



NTU staff and faculty participated in the Culinary Arts finals as a student serves a delicious dish during the Fall 2023 semester finals.

# SAVE THE DATE

## Spring 2024 New Student Orientation

Thursday, January 11,  
2024

NTU Wellness Center,  
Crownpoint, NM

## Spring 2024 Instruction Begins

Thursday, January 16,  
2024

All Campuses:

- Crownpoint, NM
- Chinle, AZ
- Teec Nos Pos, AZ
- Kirtland, NM
- Zuni, NM

## GMCS Opportunity Career Center visits NTU Campus

GMCS Opportunity Career Center from Gallup, New Mexico, visited NTU's main campus in Crownpoint, NM, on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, and had a campus tour. During that time, Brenda Yazzie & Candice Craig shared valuable information with the students about the enrollment process and what NTU offers its students, including the degrees and programs available, internship/job opportunities, and academic competitions.

After the presentation, Brenda and Candice took the students to the NTU Main campus, where they visited several programs, including Construction Technology, Welding, Culinary Arts, and Professional Baking Programs. The students had the opportunity to meet the professors, who showcased their students' final projects and gave insights into what students could expect when enrolling in their programs.

The GMCS Opportunity Career Center (OCC) is an alternative high school in Gallup, NM, at the former Gallup Central High School location. OCC is a career pathway program that allows students to spend half of each school day engaged in hands-on study of career fields.

For more information, contact:

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

NTU staff and faculty help guide students around campus as they learn about what NTU offers including degree and programs.



## **BHP, Empowering Navajo Tech Students with Scholarship (Award Ceremony)**

Chinle, AZ - On December 6, 2023, Navajo Technical University students were awarded the BHP Scholarship, which supports them financially and encourages them to take an active role in healing the planet. The scholarship program aims to inspire students to channel their environmental passion into tangible actions by initiating or participating in cleanup activities, restoration projects, and sustainable practices within their communities.

BHP's Principal Corporate Affairs Legacy Asset, Alexandra "Ali" Dionne, congratulated the students on receiving the scholarship and encouraged them to continue their work and studies. Dionne reminded the students that this is the beginning of their careers and lives that will lead them to success.

Arlena Benallie, the Director of Chinle Instructional & Teec Nos Pos Sites, was moved by the responses to the students' applications. She was particularly touched by the struggles of students who had to deal with transportation and food issues to continue their education at NTU. Benallie expressed the university's commitment to giving back to the Navajo community by providing financial assistance to students and helping them achieve their dreams of pursuing a career in their chosen fields. She congratulated the scholarship recipients and expressed her excitement to see their future achievements, which will motivate others.

"We here at NTU want to give back to the Navajo community, assisting student financially and helping them continue to achieve their dreams of making a career out of what they learned. Congratulations to the awarding students, and we look forward to seeing what achievements you will tackle enabling motivation toward others," Arlena concluded.



**NTU staff, faculty, and students  
congratulate the scholarship  
recipients at the Chinle Instructional  
site in Chinle, AZ**

# **SAVE THE DATE**

**Spring 2024 New  
Student Orientation**

Thursday, January 11,  
2024

NTU Wellness Center,  
Crownpoint, NM

**Spring 2024  
Instruction Begins**

Thursday, January 16,  
2024

All Campuses:

- Crownpoint, NM
- Chinle, AZ
- Teec Nos Pos, AZ
- Kirtland, NM
- Zuni, NM



# SAVE THE DATE

## Spring 2024 New Student Orientation

Thursday, January 11,  
2024

NTU Wellness Center,  
Crownpoint, NM

## Spring 2024 Instruction Begins

Thursday, January 16,  
2024

All Campuses:

- Crownpoint, NM
- Chinle, AZ
- Teec Nos Pos, AZ
- Kirtland, NM
- Zuni, NM

## ECME Milestone Ceremony for The CDA-Equivalent Pathway

Crownpoint, NM - On Wednesday, December 6, 2023, Navajo Technical University hosted the ECME Milestone Ceremony at the Wellness Center on NTU Main Campus. The event was held to celebrate students' achievement who completed the foundational courses required to apply for the Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential.

Virginia Edgewater gave the invocation, followed by a welcome speech from NTU President Dr. Elmer Guy. Dr. Guy expressed his pride in each student's accomplishment and his pleasure in having them as students at NTU. Dr. Elmer Guy stated, "They will be important role models for the children with many years of teaching."

Dr. Bowman specially acknowledged the faculty and staff at NTU for keeping multicultural education alive and educating the students who come through the program, thus inspiring future generations. Keynote speaker Kelly Dineyazhe-Hunter discussed her educational and professional experiences and stressed that this is the first step. Della Begay awarded certificates to each program graduate to wrap up the ceremony. Light refreshments of cake and punch were provided to all attendees.

The Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential is a widely recognized early childhood education qualification administered by the Council for Professional Development. The CDA credential aids early childcare professionals in their efforts to become qualified teachers of young children.

-----  
For more information, contact:

Cheryl Tom, PH.D.

Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Multicultural Education

E: [ctom@navajotech.edu](mailto:ctom@navajotech.edu)

NTU students celebrate their professional achievement along with their instructors inside the Wellness Center, Crownpoint, NM.



## Navajo Technical University Solar Decathlon Competition

Golden, CO – On April 20-23, 2023, Navajo Technical University's Navajo Builders team participated in an exhibition team in the New Housing Division for the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon® 2023 Design Challenge at the Solar Decathlon Competition Event. The NTU team presented their Keyah (Land) House design to provide renewable energy and sustainability to the Navajo Nation area.

The Keyah House was created to meet the primary sources of life – electricity and water - that are not readily available in the Navajo Nation. The team wanted to create a home that would benefit renewable energy and the Navajo people. The team's design goals were to make the Keyah House easy to maintain, have renewable energy, and ensure clean air sustainability.

Edwina Leslie, a B.S. (EE) student, represented the student team, and Dr. Sundaram Arumugam represented the faculty team at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory for the event. The Solar Decathlon aims to provide participating students with unique training that prepares them for the clean energy workforce. The competition also educates students and the public about the latest technologies and materials in zero energy design and technologies, smart home solutions, and high-performance buildings. The competition included 55 finalist teams from 43 collegiate institutions worldwide, including Canada, China, and India.

"We want to create a home that would benefit renewable energy and our people. It would help them feel comfortable and at home, even though it would be a big step to understand how to conserve energy to help save our planet. As Navajo Technical University (NTU) students, we tried to create a home like the one you would see around the Navajo Nation area," Edwina Lesli, a B.S. (EE) student, stated.

The group aims to become a resource that can connect to others, such as construction, manufacturing, renewable contractors, clean air, and communication with updates on how things are handled.

"We've met some teams from across the country, like Canada, China, and India, to name a few. They had an amazing design and building that they were working on, and we also managed to do student networking and ask about their background and their stories about how they started with the design they were creating. This is the only beginning of clean energy," said Dr. Sundaram Arumugam.



L-R: Martin Keller, Director of NREL, Edwina Leslie, NTU EE student, David M. Turk, Deputy Secretary of U.S. Dept of Energy, and Dr. Sundaram Arumugam, Professor from NTU.

# SAVE THE DATE

## Spring 2024 New Student Orientation

Thursday, January 11, 2024

NTU Wellness Center,  
Crownpoint, NM

## Spring 2024 Instruction Begins

Thursday, January 16, 2024

All Campuses:

- Crownpoint, NM
- Chinle, AZ
- Teec Nos Pos, AZ
- Kirtland, NM
- Zuni, NM



# SAVE THE DATE

## Spring 2024 New Student Orientation

Thursday, January 11,  
2024

NTU Wellness Center,  
Crownpoint, NM

## Spring 2024 Instruction Begins

Thursday, January 16,  
2024

All Campuses:

- Crownpoint, NM
- Chinle, AZ
- Teec Nos Pos, AZ
- Kirtland, NM
- Zuni, NM

## 2023 NTU Kirtland Plumbing Program Graduate Celebration

On December 13, 2023, Navajo Technical University's Kirtland Plumbing program students and their affiliates celebrated their achievements at a Kirtland, New Mexico lunch-in event. The event began with a brief introduction to the agenda. During the lunch hour, the students and guests mingled, discussing various topics related to the plumbing industry and the challenges faced on the job. They also shared tips and advice with colleagues.

The NTU Plumbing program in Kirtland, New Mexico, provides students with hands-on training from experienced instructors, helping them build their expertise in the technical professional trade. Graduates of the program become qualified plumbers and carry with them the strength of Navajo traditions, promising a brighter future. These graduates have demonstrated immense dedication and mastered the art of plumbing while honoring their cultural heritage. Their commitment to learning showcases their academic focus and determination to bring back to their communities.

During the event, the plumbing instructor, Lorenzo Lapahie, stated, "I try to give them both worlds of what is expected on and off the Navajo Reservation. I am confident that they will succeed wherever they go."

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

For more information about our Kirtland site, contact us here at:

NTU - Kirtland Instructional Site  
45 Road 6580  
Kirtland, NM 87417  
P: 505.609.5020

NTU's Kirtland Plumbing program  
students and affiliates celebrate  
their achievements in Kirtland, NM.



## NTU Class of 2023 Fall Commencement Ceremony

Crownpoint, NM - On December 15, 2023, the Navajo Technical University (NTU) community, friends, and family celebrated the graduation of ninety-nine students who earned their respective program certificates, associate degrees, and bachelor's degrees. The commencement ceremony was organized by NTU staff and volunteers who helped participants during the event.

The ceremony began with the Dine' Saani Tsoi Color Guard posting the colors while Candice Craig, Dual Credit Coordinator, sang the national anthem. Dr. Elmer J. Guy welcomed guests, including Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren, Commencement speaker Trisha Moquino, Co-founder of Keres Children's Learning Center from Cochiti, and others involved in the graduation committee project. The IT department broadcasted the event via Livestream on NTU's YouTube channel with Mr. Dody Begay, KCZY 107.3 FM, and Cuyler Frank and his broadcast operations.

The ceremony concluded with congratulatory remarks from Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren, "Congratulations, graduates! This tremendous accomplishment reflects your unwavering determination, resilience, and commitment to excellence. Today, we celebrate your perseverance. Thank you to Dr. Elmer Guy and the NTU Board of Regents for their vision of making NTU an education leader and promoting the Navajo language and culture."

NTU congratulates all its Fall 2023 graduates and celebrates their achievements in their respective fields. The university thanks the security, staff, faculty, students, departments, and presenters who participated in this event. NTU extends its deepest gratitude to those who supported and orchestrated the graduation ceremony. The university wishes the best of luck to its new alums and looks forward to seeing them excel in their future endeavors.

"Navajo Technical University is dedicated to equipping our students with the education, tools, and resources they need to reach their academic and career objectives. We take pride in the successes of all our graduates, and we are confident they will continue to make a positive impact in their communities and beyond," said Dr. Elmer J. Guy, President of Navajo Technical University.



Navajo Technical University Fall Commencement 2023 held inside the Wellness Center in Crownpoint, NM

# SAVE THE DATE

## Spring 2024 New Student Orientation

Thursday, January 11, 2024

NTU Wellness Center,  
Crownpoint, NM

## Spring 2024 Instruction Begins

Thursday, January 16, 2024

All Campuses:

- Crownpoint, NM
- Chinle, AZ
- Teec Nos Pos, AZ
- Kirtland, NM
- Zuni, NM

# SAVE THE DATE

## Spring 2024 New Student Orientation

Thursday, January 11,  
2024

NTU Wellness Center,  
Crownpoint, NM

## Spring 2024 Instruction Begins

Thursday, January 16,  
2024

All Campuses:

- Crownpoint, NM
- Chinle, AZ
- Teec Nos Pos, AZ
- Kirtland, NM
- Zuni, NM

## NTU Featured Staff/Faculty

Navajo Technical University would like to introduce this month's featured staff/faculty, Sherietta L Martinez-Brown. Sherietta is NTU's First-Year Experience Career and Academic advisor. She is born for the Red Bottom Cheek People clan and for the Apache Edge Water. Her maternal grandparents belong to the Water Flows Together clan, and paternal grandparents belong to the Blacksheep clan.

"I come from Littlewater, NM, a small community five miles southeast of Crownpoint, NM. I grew up in Crownpoint and now live there with my three children.

I take pride in working for a Tribal University and am honored to be an alumnus of NTU. I completed my Certificate in Legal Assistant, Associate in Law Advocate, and a Bachelor's in IT-Computer Science from NTU. I am also an Adjunct Instructor at NTU's Business Programs and Introduction to Computers courses. Additionally, I participate in student activities such as coaching our NTU AIHEC Hand Games team for our annual Conference Competitions and serving as the advisor for Miss NTU.

I firmly believe that our Tribal University offers "Endless Possibilities" to all our students in one way or another. With the experience of who I am today. I never imagined presenting at a National Conference in Chicago, Illinois, or being a keynote speaker with other Tribal colleges and universities advocating for our First Year Students. These are some of the many highlights that I cherish while at NTU. I want every Skyhawk member to have these opportunities, and that's why I love what I do and who I do it for."

