

# SKYHAWK PRESS

A PART OF YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE

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## Bosque School Visits NTU Campus

Crownpoint, NM - On March 1, 2024, a group of students from Bosque School in Albuquerque, New Mexico, recently took a tour of the NTU Main Campus in Crownpoint, NM. Gary Segay, the Financial Aid Manager for NTU guided the students that started from the Student Union Building, the NTU campus's central hub where they visited the game room, tutoring center, wellness center gym, and weight room.

Later, the students visited various programs on the campus. They went to the biology lab, where the lab assistant briefly introduced the program and highlighted the success stories of past and present students. Student Services also gave a brief presentation about the services offered and what life is like as an NTU student.

Next, they toured the trade programs, starting with the Culinary Arts Program. Chef Walter explained the program and what the culinary students in the kitchen were preparing for a catering job. In the Construction Technology program, Tom Bebo introduced them to the equipment and projects completed by current and past students and the many career pathways after completing the program. Lastly, they stopped by the Electrical Trades program, where instructor Virgil House gave them a small tour of the stations they would be working out of if they were in his program and learning how to wire for residential and commercial purposes.

Before leaving the campus, they visited the Fabrication lab. The students toured the building, showcasing the current projects and research they have helped out with. NTU students can work with them and embark on their research while working with them.



## Navajo Technical University 5k Run

Crownpoint, NM - On March 5, 2024, Coach Leonard Lee organized a 5K running event for the Navajo Technical University Cross Country team. The event started with participants signing up in the lobby of the Student Union Building. The trail was 3.1 miles long, surrounded by the beautiful NTU campus and community, making it perfect for anyone who enjoys a nice trail run in the fresh, natural air.

Three participants joined the event, and two cross-country teammates, Antonio Valencia and AJ Velasquez, helped guide the runners through the trail and back to the SUB building. The teamwork and dedication of the teammates were excellent, and they set a great example by practicing a healthy lifestyle with a healthy routine.

The participants who ran the 5K event were awarded a certificate and some great Skyhawk merchandise. Additionally, they received a motivational speech from Coach Lee, encouraging them never to give up and continue their daily runs. Coach Lee is passionate about creating a solid team of Navajo Tech runners who can inspire others and become leaders by overcoming the challenges of starting their running journey.

At the end of the event, Coach Lee was delighted to recruit two more runners for his team, who will be participating soon. This opportunity will provide great exposure and experience to these upcoming NTU students, enabling them to compete for their university and community. The NTU Cross Country team welcomes these runners and wishes them the best of luck with their academics and future competitions.

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For more information, contact:

Leonard Lee  
NTU Head Cross Country Coach  
E: llee@navajotech.edu

George LaFrance  
Athletics Director / Wellness Center Manager  
E: glafrance@navajotech.edu  
P: 505.387.7477



## SAVE THE DATE

### NTU Student Senate Meeting

Weekly from 4 PM to 5 PM on Monday's from January 22 to April 29, NTU Main Campus, Crownpoint, NM.

### 2024 Spring Graduation

May 10, 2024.  
Starts at 10:00 AM, NTU Wellness Center, NTU Main Campus, Crownpoint, NM.

### USDA Animal Care Presentation

April 9, 2024.  
From 11 AM to 1 PM, NTU SUB Room #231, NTU Main Campus, Crownpoint, NM, Contact NTU Land Grant at 505-387-7410 for more information.

### TSETS: Tribal Steppingstones in Educational Transformative STEM

Summer session in 2024. NTU Crownpoint campus and Zoom virtual session. Contact Cristina at ctolenti@gmcs.org for more information.



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## NM Mesa Middle School Workshops

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8 AM - 5 PM on  
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Thursdays from  
February 6 to May 9 at  
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## AIHEC 2024 NTU Coaches Meeting

Crownpoint, NM - On March 6, 2024, Tilda Harrison-Woody, who is the American Indian Higher Education Consortium Coordinator at Navajo Technical University, gathered a team of student coaches to plan and strategize their participation in AIHEC. The team is set to leave on Friday, March 8, 2024, to attend this year's Tribal College Conference in Minneapolis.

The conference will host many tribes from across the United States to represent their schools and showcase the programs that make their colleges remarkable. Competitions in various fields, such as math, science, and business bowls, as well as archery, film festivals, and hand games, will take place during the conference.

NTU wishes all the participating teams, students, coaches, and other schools the best of luck in their endeavors. Additionally, NTU hopes everyone has a safe and enjoyable trip to and from the conference. The 2024 AIHEC student conference is scheduled to take place in Minneapolis, Minnesota, from March 9-12, 2024. Students who are interested in attending the conference are encouraged to contact Tilda Harrison-Woody, the NTU AIHEC Coordinator, via email at [twoody@navajotech.edu](mailto:twoody@navajotech.edu).

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For more information, contact:

Tilda A. Woody  
M.S.A., Assistant Professor  
NTU AIBL Chapter & COBC Advisor  
School of Business & Education  
P: (505) 387-7392  
E: [twoody@navajotech.edu](mailto:twoody@navajotech.edu)



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 brand name Spam is combination of “spice” and “ham”.

Japan has one vending machine for every 40 people.



Johnny Appleseed's fruits weren't for eating.



## First NTU Student to Receive New Mexico LSAA Counseling License

The NTU Counseling Program Advisors are thrilled to share that Karen Willie, a former Counseling student, has achieved her Licensed Substance Abuse Associate (LSAA) license from the State of New Mexico Therapy & Counseling Board on February 1, 2024. Ms. Willie is the first graduate from NTU's Counseling program to earn this coveted certification.

Ms. Willie completed her associate degree in counseling in the Fall of 2023 and plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in education. LSAAs are authorized to offer individual substance abuse counseling and group therapy services to patients under the supervision of a senior counselor who monitors their practice and ensures quality services to patients.

NTU congratulates Ms. Willie on this remarkable achievement.

For more information, contact:

Program Advisors  
Dr. Dianna Dekelaita-Mullet  
Associate Professor of Psychology  
E: [dmullet@navajotech.edu](mailto:dmullet@navajotech.edu)



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## Navajo Technical University - AIHEC 2024

Minneapolis, MN – On March 9-12, 2024, Navajo Technical University students and coaches traveled to Minneapolis, Minnesota, to attend the 2024 American Indian Higher Education Consortium, an eventful gathering of Tribal College and University (TCU) students. The conference was a vibrant and culturally rich event celebrating indigenous education excellence. The day was filled with inspiring events and distinguished speakers.

The celebration began with the traditional T-shirt exchange, where each Tribal College and University (TCU) had the opportunity to trade shirts with other TCU schools. This event allowed us to get to know each other and build connections. After the T-shirt exchange, the Tribal College Journal sponsored the AIHEC Poetry Slam. Three Navajo Technical University (NTU) students participated in the slam: Aaron Francisco, Antonio Valencia, and Teaira Francis.

The Parade of Flags, led by the revered O'Bahsheeng 3-Star Warriors, symbolizes the unity and resilience of indigenous peoples. The Spirit Boys performed the Flag Song and Honor Song, which filled the air with solemn reverence, honoring tribal heritage and traditions. This was followed by a moment of spiritual reflection with an Opening Prayer led by Floyd "Buck" Jourdain, Jr., who offered gratitude and guidance for the day ahead.

Chief Dan King of Red Lake Nation College served as the Master of Ceremonies, skillfully navigating the proceedings to ensure attendees had a seamless and engaging experience. Esteemed speakers, including Ricardo RJ Maaingan, Mr. AIHEC 2023, Kenneth Martin, Director of the American Indian Environmental Office, Dennis Olson, Commissioner of Higher Education for Minnesota, and Dr. Elmer J. Guy, AIHEC Chairman and President of Navajo Technical University, graced the stage with their insights and wisdom, underscoring the importance of indigenous education in shaping a brighter future for tribal communities.

The keynote address given by Peggy Flanagan, the Minnesota Lieutenant Governor, was the ceremony's highlight. She spoke passionately and with conviction about the transformative power of education in advancing indigenous rights and sovereignty. Her words inspired attendees to strive for excellence and leadership in their academic pursuits.



The Indigenous Spirit Dance Group presented a captivating performance that added to the event’s charm. They showcased the resilience and beauty of indigenous cultures through their traditional dances and vibrant costumes, mesmerizing the audience. Attendees were allowed to immerse themselves in the rich cultural heritage of indigenous peoples through various activities, including film screenings, hand games, and a special celebration hosted by the American Indian College Fund, honoring native scholars.

The AIHEC 5K Run, which brought students and coaches together, featured inspiring speakers, thrilling competitions, and special events celebrating Indigenous culture and education. Esteemed speakers such as James Vukelich and Kenneth Martin gave speeches, while competitions ranged from art and archery to science and speech. Special events included a poetry reading by Thomas Davis and a vibrant Pow Wow. Tom Davis introduced his published “Meditation on Ceremonies of Beginnings” book and read poems from it. He explained where the idea of the book came from and the thoughts that came to mind during the creation of the poem.

AICF Student of the Year:  
- Layla James

Coca-Cola Scholar:  
- Rebecca Yazzie



Layla James, a biology junior at NTU School of Science, was recognized with the 2024 Indigenous Excellence Student of the Year award for her excellence in academics and community involvement.

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NTU received a total of 15 awards:  
2024 AIHEC Winners

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Girls Basketball Team – 3rd place

- Tamarrah Deswood
- Valentina Yazzie
- Samatha Antone
- Rylena Wilson
- Drealie Estrada
- Torie Tsosie
- Kikknoalani Tallwood
- Lakeisha Lee

Non-Binary Archer - 2nd

- Wacey Desiderio

Women's Team Archery- 2nd Place

Navajo Technical University

- Romulus Cordova
- Natasha Ramone
- D'Andre Harker

Woman Top Archer - 3rd Place

- Romulus Cordova

Men Top Archer - 1st Place

- Navarro Burnside

Men's Team Archery - 3rd

Navajo Technical University

- Wacey Desiderio
- Antonio Gorman
- Nilsson Wood
- Navarro Burnside



Art Painting - 2nd Place  
- Krista Goodluck

TCJ Writing - Best Fiction  
- Linda A. Curley

Science Poster - 2nd Place  
- Makeiyla Begay

Science Oral Presentation - 2nd Place  
- Wayant Billey

Cyber Security - 3rd Place  
- Taili Begaye

Business Bowl - 3rd Place  
Navajo Technical University  
- Derrick Shirley  
- Pauline Mescale  
- Roberta Hale  
- LaBelle LaFrance

One-Act Play - 3rd Place  
Navajo Technical University  
- Aaron Fransico  
- Antonio Valencia  
- Avery Velasquez  
- Caleb Barney

5K Runners  
- Antonio Valencia - 2nd  
- Avery Velasquez - 5th

AIHEC 2024 continues to serve as a beacon of hope and inspiration, bringing indigenous peoples together in their shared pursuit of knowledge, cultural preservation, and self-determination.



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## Navajo Tech - Day after Spring Final Stretch Event

Crownpoint, NM - Wednesday, 20, 2024, Navajo Technical University recently hosted an event for its students to mark the end of the 2024 spring semester. The event aimed to motivate and engage the students to complete their programs confidently. The university wanted to clarify its various departments, services, and processes so students could quickly identify them without confusion.

Representatives from various NTU departments, such as Counseling, Advising, Finance & Scholarship, the Skyhawk Bookstore, Tutoring/Blackboard, Admissions/Registration, Marketing, and more, attended the event. They set up booths to provide students, staff, and faculty with all the necessary information, updates, and resources. This resource gathering offered an excellent opportunity for students to collect department swag gear and specific documents they needed to succeed.

In addition to the NTU students, Pinehill High School students also attended the event to gather information on NTU, its departments, and the resources available when they eventually join the university. They received valuable information on school and career data, career services, and more.

Go Skyhawks!

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For more information, contact:

Cheryll Atine  
Student Counseling Services  
Tele-Mental Health (Timely Care MD)  
Substance Abuse Outpatient Care  
Safe Place  
Referrals to Traditional Care Services  
P: (505) 387-7473  
E: c.atine@navajotech.edu



George LaFrance, NTU Athletic Director, helped NTU students and Pinehill High School students to gather information on NTU, its departments, and the resources available.

## NTU Student Sarah Dennison Joins Arizona Ice, G League Team

Crownpoint, NM - March 21, 2024 - Navajo Technical University (NTU) proudly announces that Sarah Dennison, hailing from Gallup, NM, has signed with the Arizona Ice, a G League basketball team. Sarah, who committed to NTU's Women's Basketball Team in July 2023, has shown excellence both on the court and in her academic pursuits.

As a graduate student at NTU, Sarah is currently pursuing her master's degree in Dine' Culture, Language, and Leadership. Amidst her rigorous academic schedule, Sarah has managed to excel in her basketball endeavors, contributing significantly to NTU's Lady Skyhawk team with huge support from friends and family, witnessing this monumental event.

NTU's athletic department, offering a diverse range of sports, including Men's Basketball, Women's Basketball, Cross Country, Cycling, Archery, and Rodeo, has provided Sarah with a platform for success both academically and athletically.

Sarah's signing with Arizona Ice serves as a testament to NTU's commitment to promoting partnerships that positively impact the success of its students in higher education. As Sarah embarks on this new chapter in her basketball career, NTU stands behind her, confident in her ability to make a significant mark in the G League and beyond.

For more information about Navajo Technical University and its athletic programs, please visit [www.navajotech.edu](http://www.navajotech.edu)

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George LaFrance  
Athletics Director / Wellness Center Manager  
Email: [glafrance@navajotech.edu](mailto:glafrance@navajotech.edu)  
Phone: 505.387.7477



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## Football Frisbee Night

Crownpoint, NM - On March 25, 2024, as we move into the second half of this year, the Navajo Tech frisbee enthusiasts gathered for an exciting tournament that brought together many members of the NTU community. The NTU Student Life and Activities department hosted the event, and it was a co-ed tournament with five players on each team, including at least two girls.

It was an exciting and competitive event, and the winning teams fought hard for the top prize. Other participants also had the opportunity to play on the court and enjoy some friendly competition to relieve stress and tension.

Congratulations to the first-place team, Dodge, Keanu, Reekal, Joe, and Kayanna, and the second-place team, Alexia, Levi, Wyatt, Rylena, and Kordell.

According to Michael McMillian, the Student Life and Activities Coordinator, the event was successful, with 25 students participating. The first and second-place winners enjoyed a dinner at Victoria's Pizza on Wednesday, March 27.

The Student Life and Activities department plans to host more events, including volleyball, three-on-three basketball, and dodgeball, for students to enjoy.

Stay updated on the latest achievements of the Skyhawk community, and look forward to future events hosted by the Student Life and Activities department.



The top prize was hard-fought by the winning teams, while all participants enjoyed friendly competition on the court to relieve stress and tension.

## Ruth Bitsui Book Signing at NTU

Crownpoint, NM - On March 26, 2024, the Counseling Department of Navajo Technical University recently hosted an event featuring author Ruth Bitsui from Chinle, Arizona. The workshop and book signing were held in a classroom at the Student Union Building on the main campus of NTU and through Zoom for those who couldn't attend in person.

Ruth Bitsui is promoting her book "Traumatic Brain Injury: A Caregiver's Journey" during her press tour. In her workshop, she shared the contents of her book and what inspired her to write it. She discussed the challenges she faced while caring for her late husband, who had suffered a traumatic brain injury during a bareback riding practice accident. She explained how her life was changed in an instant and the difficult road to recovery she had to face with her husband.

"I am excited about the opportunity to inspire others with my story of being a caregiver," Ruth said.

Ruth wrote the book about traumatic brain injury (TBI) to help others going through a similar experience. At the end of the workshop, Ruth held a Q&A session for attendees in person and via Zoom. The attendees shared their stories about similar experiences with their families.

"I felt obligated to help others going through similar situations," Ruth continued.

Copies of Ruth's book were available for free to all NTU students, staff, or faculty who attended the event.

"I want to thank Navajo Technical University and the Counseling Department. Going through such a deeply emotional experience, it became clear to me that I couldn't keep it to myself. Helping others has been a crucial part of my healing process, and it has become my mission to continue doing so." Ruth concluded.



Ruth Bitsui from Chinle, Arizona stands along with NTU staff, friends, and family inside the SUB building while promoting her book, "Traumatic Brain Injury: A Caregiver's Journey".

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## NTU 2024 Spring Career Expo

On Wednesday, March 27, 2024, on the main campus of NTU, the Spring Career Expo took place inside the Wellness Center. Local businesses and organizations attended the expo, offering job opportunities, internships, and valuable information to help students find jobs with any organizations post-graduation.

The NTU Office of Career Services organized the Spring Career Expo. This event provided an excellent opportunity for students to network with professionals in their desired fields. The NTU career services coordinator, Shawna Begay organizes expos for all NTU main campus students every fall and spring semester. This year, the career expo was attended by 14 companies and organizations, including Sandia National Laboratories, Idaho National Laboratories, Continental Divide Electric, Sage Memorial Hospital, and Navajo Engineering & Construction Authority (NECA), among others.

The Office of Career Services wishes to thank all students, staff, and faculty who attended the career expo. They would also like to thank all the organizations and companies that participated and provided valuable information, making the event successful. NTU Career Services can help students with their resume building, letter of interest drafting, and guidance in finding a job or career. Students are encouraged to schedule an appointment with them today.

For more information, contact:

Shawna Begay  
Career Services Coordinator  
E: shawna.begay@navajotech.edu  
P: 505.387.7372



## NTU 2024 Easter Family Night

Crownpoint, NM - On March 28, 2024, Miss NTU Samantha Antone and former Miss NTU Cajaan Cleveland successfully organized a family Easter night event inside the NTU Wellness Center from 3 pm to 7 pm and was open to the public.

Children who participated in the Easter egg hunt were divided into appropriate age groups to ensure fairness and safety. Families and friends of NTU gathered and bonded over stories and jokes while hiding the eggs and participating in Easter-themed coloring and art activities, creating happy memories during this beautiful season.

Participants were divided into age categories, two to five and six to ten, and the one who found the most eggs was crowned the champion. All participants received plastic eggs filled with candy, making everyone a winner. While the egg hunt was the highlight of the event, the surprises inside the eggs made it even more fun. The eggs were filled with candy and other goodies, and some lucky children found prizes hidden in their eggs. It was a fun activity for everyone, without any competition involved.

NTU would like to thank the Student Life and Activities department for their hard work organizing this event and all the clubs and departments that generously donated. The Student Life and Activities department provided snacks such as juices, water, gummies, and chips to boost their morale and creativity.

Go Skyhawks!

For more information, contact:

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



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January 22 to April 29,  
NTU Main Campus,  
Crownpoint, NM.

## 2024 Spring Graduation

May 10, 2024.  
Starts at 10:00 AM,  
NTU Wellness Center,  
NTU Main Campus,  
Crownpoint, NM.

## USDA Animal Care Presentation

April 9, 2024.  
From 11 AM to 1 PM,  
NTU SUB Room #231,  
NTU Main Campus,  
Crownpoint, NM,  
Contact NTU Land  
Grant at 505-387-7410  
for more information.

## NM Mesa Middle School Workshops

Weekly from  
8 AM - 5 PM on  
Tuesdays and  
Thursdays from  
February 6 to May 9 at  
the NTU  
Wellness Center,  
Crownpoint , NM.

## NTU Featured Staff/Faculty

Navajo Technical University wishes to acknowledge Mr. Tom Bebo, the Construction Technology Instructor. Mr. Bebo is a member of the Tséńíjikiní clan and born for TI'ógí. Mr. Bebo is originally from Star Pond, NM.

Since 2007, Mr. Bebo has been teaching at Navajo Technical University and has assisted numerous students in transitioning to professionals in the carpentry and building industry. He has participated in several on and off-campus projects with his students, providing them with actual professional experience. His students are building outdoor learning classrooms on the NTU main campus.

In the future, Mr. Bebo aims to develop the certificate program into Building Construction Technology. This would allow students to gain more specialized knowledge in their chosen field. With this valuable trade in their back pocket, they can set goals and cover great distances. Learn from our instructor, Tom Bebo, and gain insight into construction. Apply now for our summer semester and receive a certificate within a year and a half.

The university offers a certificate and associate degree in Construction Technology. For more information, please contact Tom Bebo at [tbebo@navajotech.edu](mailto:tbebo@navajotech.edu).

