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Perfect Attendance in Navajo History

Crownpoint, NM - On May 1, 2024, Navajo Technical University's Navajo History students, Rhiannon Guerro, Amythesis Marvin, Sheldon John, Tierra Todecheenie, Drakell Johnson, Loren Lee, and Malcolm Boyd, have not missed any classes and submitted all assignments.

Their final exams will cover the topics they've studied in the past eight weeks, including the Navajo Agencies, the Changing Times, the Treaty Years, and the Navajo's transition to the modern world with new technologies. Instructor Lupita Chicag's courses cover the essential figures who have significantly guided the Navajo community toward progress and Native American rights. For example, Lt. Edward Plummer's efforts to educate and prepare them for higher education are discussed. However, Chicag also delves into negative influences such as David Shively, who forcibly took Navajo children and enrolled them in boarding schools.

The course includes discussions on Navajo history, such as when they were imprisoned and what happened to them. It also covers their return home and recognition, how they adopted English names, and how they integrated into modern society. The traders played a vital role in this transition by understanding the Navajo's needs and providing radio and socialization lessons through translation.

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The NTU Rodeo Team Is Gearing Up for the College National Finals Rodeo

Crownpoint, NM—On May 3, 2024, the Navajo Technical University Rodeo Team is thrilled to announce their participation in the College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR) at the Ford Wyoming Center in Casper, WY, from June 9 to 15, 2024. The team is prepared to demonstrate exceptional skills and dedication during this prestigious event.

Hyan Ramos and Isaiah Tom—both from New Mexico: Lake Valley and Gallup, respectively—are Navajo Technical University's Rodeo Team members. These talented individuals have become NTU's first-ever rough stock contestants and recently qualified for the College National Finals Rodeo in Bareback Riding. Their exceptional skills and versatility in this sport genuinely make them stand out.

"I am thrilled; we both grew up in the rodeo atmosphere and being able to compete in the finals brings me happiness," said Isaiah Tom. "I decided to pursue rodeo here because my parents attended NTU, and it feels like the perfect place to be. I want to thank everyone for their support."

The Navajo Technical University Rodeo Team recently participated in the Grand Canyon Regional at the Payson Event Center in Payson, AZ, on April 27 and 28, 2024. Hyán Ramos secured 2nd place overall with 439 points, while Isaiah Tom claimed 3rd place with 296 points.

Under the guidance of Coach Nicole Pino, the Navajo Technical University Rodeo Team has been practicing tirelessly to improve their skills and prepare for a significant event. Coach Pino's dedication and leadership have been essential in shaping the team's success. As the team returns to the CNFR arena, Coach Pino expresses her excitement at reuniting with familiar faces and acknowledges the collective effort that led them to this stage.

With work and school, Hyán Ramos balances college rodeo and keeping up with class assignments, "It's all about being well-organized and determined. Practice whenever you have time," Hyán said. "I was taught to prioritize my schoolwork over rodeo. I was told rodeo will always be available, but education should come first. We will do our best to represent Navajo Technical University and the Navajo Nation."



SAVE THE DATE

2024 Makers Fair Summer STEM and Skills Program

Wed, June 26, 2024
NTU Wellness Center,
Crownpoint, NM

Safeguarding Natural Heritage Youth Camp

June 10 - 21, 2024
NTU Wellness Center,
Crownpoint, NM.

For more information
contact the NTU Land
Grant Program at
505-387-7410

2024 Trout Tournament

Thu, July 20, 2024
Tsaila Lake, AZ.

For more information
contact

George LaFrance at
glafrance@navajotech.edu
or

505-387-7477

Juneteenth

Wed, June 19, 2024
Freedom Day.

NTU Campuses will be
closed.

Enrollment Day

Wed, June 12, 2024.

NTU Chinle Instructional
Site, Chinle, AZ.

For more information
contact Jarvis Draper at
j.draper@navajotech.edu
or 928-882-3155

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"It's amazing to see these young guys succeed in their first year of college and CNFR with rough stock. At the beginning of the year, I encouraged them to participate in every rode," Nicole Pino, NTU Rodeo Coach, said. "as I knew their school and grades would not be a problem. I want to thank Christopher Storer, the Welding instructor at NTU, for supporting both students even on their days off. Hyan is a good listener with an exceptional work ethic, and Isaiah has a strong foundation in rodeo. Both families have a background in rough stock, and I am thrilled for them."

Hyan and Isiah are both pursuing their welding studies at Navajo Technical University. They are passionate about enhancing their skills and knowledge while caring for their livestock at home. KCZY Radio, 107.3, interviewed the CNFR contestants, which will be broadcast tomorrow, Saturday, May 4, 2024.

Let's cheer them on as they compete against the nation's top contenders at the CNFR. We wish them good luck and hope they give it their best shot!

For more information, contact:

Nicole Pino
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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...



Cats have fewer toes on their back paws.

Kleenex tissues were originally intended for gas masks.



Blue whales eat half a million calories in one mouthful.

Counseling Intern Presentations

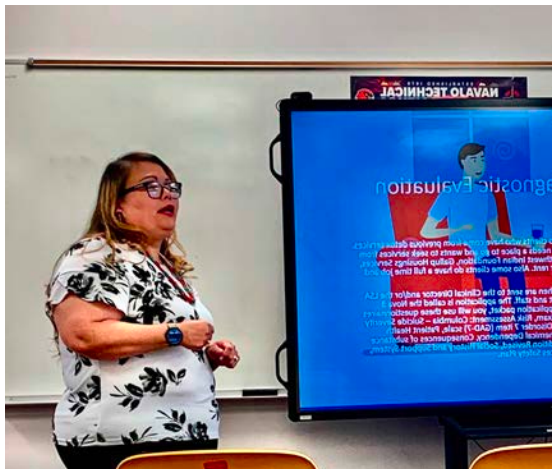
Crownpoint, NM - On May 3, 2024, the Counseling Program Interns at NTU presented their Counseling Internship Capstone to their classmates, advisors, and upcoming interns. Mrs. Viola James-Willie and Ms. Tavia Etsate delivered an outstanding presentation. Mrs. James-Willie completed both AA tracks in Substance Abuse and Crisis Management, while Ms. Etsate completed her Certificate with flying colors.

Mrs. James-Willie gained valuable experience during her internship at NOVA 3 in Gallup, and Ms. Etsate made a remarkable contribution at the newly acquired Shumak'olo:wa Health Center in Zuni.

Tavia, from Zuni, completed 120 hours, while Viola, who lives near Smith Lake, accomplished an impressive 225 hours during one semester.

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

NTU congratulates Mrs. James-Willie and Ms. Etsate on their remarkable achievement.



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PNM Navajo Nation Workforce Training Scholarship Awards

Farmington, NM - On May 1st, 2024, PNM awarded scholarships to Navajo Technical University and San Juan College students for their outstanding efforts and commitment to improving their communities.

At a reception organized to honor these deserving students, PNM's Tribal Government Relations Manager, Pete Atcitty, welcomed everyone who attended to show their support. The scholarships PNM provides will help these students achieve their educational goals and enhance their skills and training for future workforce opportunities. PNM has been offering scholarships to Native American students since 2013, and this year's recipients are being recognized for their achievements. Navajo Technical University takes pride in its students' dedication to creating a better tomorrow and congratulates each scholarship awardee.

Dr. Delores Becenti, Director of Enrollment, emphasized that Navajo Technical University has numerous resources and programs, and knowledgeable students are eager to contribute to their communities. "At NTU, we would like to thank PNM for their support and everything they offered to Navajo Tech and San Juan students," Delores stated.

Maureen Gannon, the Vice President and Chief Environmental Officer of PNM, congratulated Cathy Newby, the Director of Tribal Government and Customer Engagement, and Pete Atcitty for their work with tribal stakeholders, particularly Navajo communities. During her speech, Maureen emphasized the importance of working with Navajo leaders to address their needs. She expressed her hope that recognizing the achievements of Navajo students would inspire others to pursue higher education. "I encourage everyone to never give up on the idea of a better life," Ms. Gannon concluded.

Dr. Buu Nygren, Navajo Nation President, extended his congratulations to the students for their hard work in the fields of STEM and Health. "PNM is helping Navajo families to improve communities. I encourage the students to keep going and not give up." Dr. Nygren expressed gratitude to San Juan College and Navajo Technical University for providing this valuable program to students who aim to bring about change in their communities. He continued, "You are never too old to return to school and get your education. I want to thank Herman Buck for being here and congratulate him on becoming the first Navajo member elected to the Farmington, New Mexico city council."



After the welcoming address and remarks, San Juan College and NTU students spoke about their struggles and obstacles while pursuing their academic goals and advancing their skills. One of the students, Nylana Murphy, majoring in Industrial Engineering, is graduating this semester and pursuing her dream of building a rocket. Having gained experience and training while working with NTU wishes Nylana the best of luck!

Brandon Ashley, director of the Native American Center at San Juan College, introduced the scholarship-winning Navajo Technical University and San Juan College students who received the PNM awards in 2024.

Navajo Technical University Students

Kyra Capitan, Biology, BS
Cody Smith, Electrical Engineering, BS
Michael Dohi, Energy Systems, AAS
Amber Castillo, Nursing Assistant, CER
Jasmine Charley, Mathematics, AS
Nylana Murphy, Industrial Engineering, BS
Joel Yazzie, Industrial Engineering, BS

San Juan College Students

Aaron Jones, Building Trades, AAS
Cheyenne Jackson, Instrumental Control and Electrical, AAS
Venita Charley, Advanced Petroleum Production Operations, AAS
Larren Benally, Automotive Technology, AAS
Darrel Charles, Building Trades, AAS
Angelina Avalos, Dental Hygiene, AAS
Makalia Lee, Dental Hygiene, AAS
Toni Tso, Dental Hygiene, AAS
Cherrell Owens, Industrial Maintenance Mechanic, AAS
Nolan Silversmith, Industrial Process Operator, AAS
Shalane Benally, Instrumental Control and Electrical, AAS
Bryson Jim, Instrumental Control and Electrical, AAS
Shawn Kinney, Instrumental Control and Electrical, AAS
Delwyn John, Engineering, AS
Damian Brown, Industrial Maintenance Mechanic, CER
Larry Charley, Industrial Process Operator, CER
Logan Lewis, Instrumental Control, CER



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HLC Approves NTU to Offer a Master's Degree in Industrial Engineering

CROWNPOINT, NM—On May 7, 2024, the Institutional Actions Council (IAC) of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) approved NTU's request to offer a master's degree in Industrial Engineering. Navajo Technical University is committed to providing quality education to the Navajo Nation community and beyond.

Dr. Arup Dey stated, "That's great news! A huge thanks to Dr. Casmir Agbaraji and Dr. Wafa Hozien for their valuable support and guidance." After reviewing the information provided, HLC determined that the proposed degree program had sufficient information to meet notification requirements, and no further action was necessary.

Industrial Engineering is a branch of engineering that designs and improves integrated systems, including human resources, materials, equipment, and energy, using mathematics, physical sciences, and social sciences to maximize the production of goods and services.

"I would like to express my gratitude to Drs. Monsuru Ramoni and Arup Dey for their work on redesigning the existing 400-level courses and developing new 500-level IE courses," said Dr. Casmir Agbaraji, Dean of Undergraduate Studies at NTU." Due to their efforts, we received expedited approval without going through the entire HLC substantive application process."

To maximize efficiency, industrial engineers study product requirements carefully and then design manufacturing information systems using physical and mathematical models to meet those requirements. In addition, they develop management control systems to help in financial planning and cost analysis, and they design production planning and control systems to coordinate activities and ensure product quality.

"Great work!" Provost Dr. Colleen Bowman concluded. "Congratulations to the Industrial Engineering Faculty for their dedicated efforts. Thank you, Monsuru and Arup!"



Navajo Technical University Celebrates Spring 2024 Graduation

Crownpoint, NM— On May 10, 2024, Navajo Technical University proudly announced the successful conclusion of its Spring 2024 Graduation Ceremony. Esteemed guests and dignitaries joined the graduates' families and friends in attending the ceremony at the NTU Wellness Center on the Main Campus.

The festivities commenced with a grand processional led by Jasper Pablo, setting the tone for a memorable event. Taylor Pino, reigning Miss Indian Junior Rodeo Association Queen, stirred hearts by delivering the Pledge of Allegiance in the Dine' language. Samantha Antoone, Miss NTU, offered an eloquent invocation of blessings for the commencement proceedings.

Dr. Elmer J. Guy, President of Navajo Technical University, welcomed everyone present and acknowledged the distinguished guests, including the Honorable JoAnn Jayne, Navajo Nation Chief Justice, and Dr. Cherie L. De Vore, Assistant Professor at the University of Arizona. Their presence underscored the occasion's significance and the enduring impact of higher education.

Addressing the graduating class, Dr. Guy remarked, "We are NTU, and we are proud of every one of you. You are an essential part of a community that strongly believes in the power of education to transform lives, families, and communities. You are also a significant contributor to the legacy of Navajo leaders, scholars, and visionaries who have substantially impacted globally."

Jasmin Charley, NTU Student Senate President, introduced the commencement speaker, Dr. Cherie De Vore, whose inspiring address resonated deeply with the graduates, encouraging them to embrace their accomplishments and passionately pursue their dreams.

Dr. Andy Nez, Navajo Nation Council Delegate, commended the graduates on their academic achievements, underlined their role as future leaders, and continued to drive for positive change within their communities.

The ceremony's highlight was conferring degrees, with 59 certificates, 47 associate degrees, 26 bachelor's degrees, 5 ABE/GED credentials, and five master's degrees awarded by Dr. Carolyn Morris, Ph.D., NTU Board of Regent.



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Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne of the Navajo Nation concluded the ceremony with encouragement, emphasizing the graduates' responsibility to uphold their cultural heritage while embracing new opportunities.

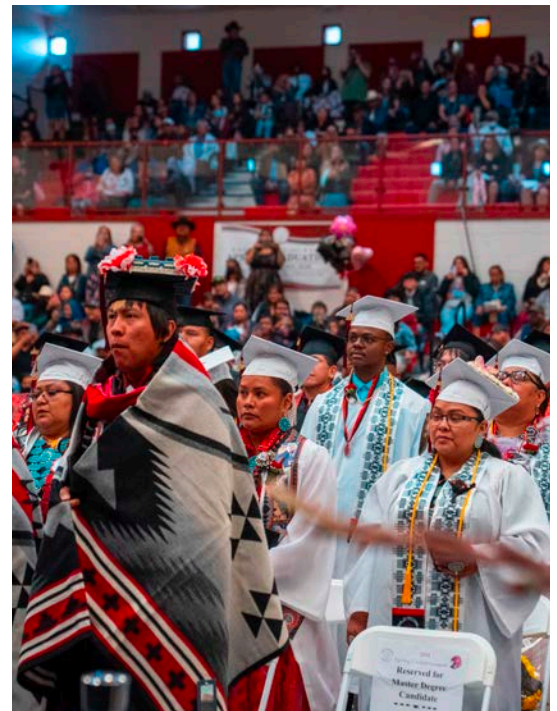
Layla James, American Indian Higher Education Consortium/Navajo Technical University Student of the Year, delivered the benediction, marking the conclusion of a memorable event filled with pride and optimism for the future.

Congratulations to the Spring 2024 graduates of NTU! As they venture beyond the university, they are poised to be agents of positive change, striving to make a difference in their communities and beyond. The Navajo Nation's only university is an educational institution and a beacon of hope, fostering a unique blend of Western education and traditional Navajo teachings.

For those unable to attend in person, the ceremony was streamed live on NTU's YouTube channel, NTU LIVE, and broadcast on KCZY 107.3 FM.

For more information, please contact:

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dmorgan@navajotech.edu

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

2024 TCU Faculty and Student Success Convening

Crownpoint, NM - On May 28, 2024, Navajo Technical University (NTU) is developing a strong broadband infrastructure to support its distance learning programs. Led by Coleen Arviso, PhD, and Jason Arviso, PhD, both respected members of NTU's E-Learning and Adjunct Faculty, this project is a big step forward in the university's goal to provide quality education to more students.

There was also a round table of discussion themed "Honoring Our Past, Sustaining Our Future: Perspectives from TCU Presidents." Leaders like Dr. Elmer Guy from NTU, Dr. Robert Martin from the Institute of American Indian Arts, Dr. Tamarah Pfeiffer from Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, and Dr. Charles Roessel from Diné College shared their insights. The discussion was led by Dr. Cheryl Crazy Bull, President and CEO of the College Fund.

The primary goal of this project is to comply with federal requirements and regulations, ensuring that NTU adheres to the highest standards of academic excellence. By creating a comprehensive framework for distance education, NTU is dedicated to optimizing the online learning experience and enhancing student engagement. This initiative is crucial to the university's ongoing efforts to provide remote learning opportunities to students across the Navajo Nation and beyond.

"We are dedicated to creating a fair and supportive learning environment that helps our students reach their academic and professional goals," said Dr. Coleen Arviso.

The project includes implementing advanced tools and resources for faculty members, enabling them to deliver effective and engaging instruction remotely. This support is designed to ensure that students and faculty can thrive in an online learning environment, maintaining the high standards of education for which NTU is known.

Dr. Jason Arviso added, "Creating this broadband network shows NTU's commitment to providing quality education, no matter where our students are. We aim to ensure every student has the chance to succeed, no matter the challenges of distance or internet connection."



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Navajo Technical University Students Receive 2024 BHP Scholarship

Chinle, Arizona - On May 3, 2024, students excelled and prospered at the Navajo Technical University Chinle site as they received this year's BHP Scholarship. Arlene Benallie, the Navajo Tech Chinle Site Director, welcomed everyone to the event, introducing attendees to the campus and highlighting all the significant aspects of the campus site. She mentioned that Chinle is growing into a more extensive and better campus. She thanked BHP for assisting with scholarship funding, donating tablets to better connect with the local community, and helping to identify Navajo Technical University as a great place to pursue higher education.

Arlene Bennallie sang a song established by a Navajo medicine man some time ago. The song was dedicated to the Navajo Technical University mission statement and journey. It was written and composed by Raymond Jim Redhouse, who has been a part of the faculty team at the Teec Nos Pos site teaching Dine' Studies for many years.

Garrett Holm, Principal of Indegenious Engagement USA at BHP recognized the students and their achievements. He said, "We would like to thank Arlene, the faculty, and the staff at Navajo Technical University for organizing such an event and honoring these amazing students." NTU student Andrea Begay motivated her fellow students to keep going and reminded them that achieving success is not easy, especially when creating a lasting impact on the Navajo Nation. She said, "No question is stupid; ask away."

Navajo Technical University Chinle Instructional Site is committed to providing accessible, affordable, high-quality education to its students.



NTU Featured Staff/Faculty

Navajo Technical University is thrilled to introduce Cheryll Atine, the Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist at Navajo Technical University. Cheryll is not only a certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor II (ICADC) but also a certified Criminal Justice Professional (ICCJP). Her credentials include a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Corrections/Law Enforcement from Weber State University. Originally from Provo, UT, after graduating Cheryll moved to Northern Nevada, raising her own family within the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Nevada - Shoshone Country.

Cheryll offers chemical dependency services, including outpatient care, inpatient referrals and follow-up, and aftercare. She also provides one-to-one counseling, referrals, and preventive education to individuals dealing with substance use. In addition, she conducts screenings and assessments for various mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, domestic violence, and substance abuse.

With more than 30 years of experience in substance abuse counseling, mental health, and suicide prevention, Cheryll has worked as a Substance Abuse Clinical Program Specialist at Elko Service Unit, Phoenix Area Indian Health Service, DDHS—Integrative Home Health Care Outpatient Facility, Elko, NV, and as a Mental Health Counselor and Consultant at the Elko County Sheriff Department & Juvenile Teen Court.

Cheryll is excited that, after numerous workshops and sessions on suicide awareness in 2020, Suicide Awareness Training became a mandatory training at NTU's campuses. Cheryll also created a list of resources for each location, including Crownpoint Main Campus, Chinle, and Zuni.

Her volunteer work includes Board Director for the New Mexico National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) 2021-2023, as well as being a member of the San Juan County, NM, NAMI. NAMI New Mexico is an organization that supports families, friends, and individuals affected by mental illness, with the primary goal of advocating for better lives for those with mental illness. In addition, Cheryll volunteers for the American Red Cross as part of the Disaster Action Team (DAT), helping and responding to emergencies such as fires, storms, and other disasters.

For more information about NTU's Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist, contact Cheryll Atine at c.atine@navajotech.edu.



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