

SKYHAWK PRESS

A PART OF YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE

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2024 Navajo Technical University "Power of the Run" Cross-Country Camp

Crownpoint, NM—On June 11 - 13, 2024, during Coach Leonard Lee's spring Cross-Country Camp, a three-day running camp at Navajo Technical University, students were trained and engaged in discussions on how the Diné philosophy is integrated into running Navajo clanship and the significance of preserving culture and values. The training involved running around the campus on various terrains such as dirt, grass, asphalt, and gravel.

Coach Lee encouraged the students to reflect on why we wake up early to run and how it contributes to self-improvement. Coach Lee said, "Running is not for everybody, but anybody can run."

Coach Leonard Lee and the students concentrated on learning to pace, striding, and track techniques. Coach Lee aims to lead his summer camp team in embracing running as a lifestyle. He emphasizes the importance of specific training for success in cross-country running. The student-athletes have access to the best trails around campus and the Crownpoint community.

Harmony Tsosie and AJ Velasquez from the NTU Skyhawk cross-country team assisted Coach Lee with the runners and guided the students.

On the last day of Coach Leonard Lee's Spring Cross Country Camp, the students were tested on the techniques they had learned over the previous two days. Each student ran a mile around the NTU campus and returned to the wellness center. Inside, Coach Lee discussed the students' performance and praised them for quickly learning proper running techniques.



On the last day of camp, all students and their family members were invited to an award ceremony. Dr. Franklin Sage, a professor from NTU's Diné Studies Program and an avid runner, delivered a motivational speech emphasizing the importance of a healthy lifestyle and the personal benefits of running. He encouraged the students to continue building on the fundamentals they learned at the camp.

In addition, Coach Lee gave Harmony Tsosie and AJ Velasquez, NTU Cross Country athletes who assisted him with running the camp, an opportunity to encourage the students. Both athletes spoke about the potential they saw in the students and urged everyone to keep running and improve their skills throughout the summer.

At the end of the ceremony, Coach Lee awarded certificates to the fastest male and female in the mile run and the most improved runner. He expressed his gratitude to the students and everyone involved in making the camp possible for the community..

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Tyra Bitsie will be Joining the Lady Skyhawks

Crownpoint, NM— On June 12, 2024, Tyra Bitsie from Tohatchi, NM, joyfully announced her decision to join the women's basketball team at Navajo Technical University for the upcoming 2024-2025 season. Accompanied by her high school coach and family, Tyra proudly signed her letter of intent under the guidance of Head Coach Aanor Louis after an inspiring campus tour.

As an incoming student at NTU, she will be pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science. The Animal Science program at NTU is renowned for offering top-tier educational experiences and specialized knowledge through hands-on learning. "I am thrilled about the chance to continue playing basketball and furthering my education at NTU. I am confident that NTU will empower me to achieve my aspirations," Tyra expressed genuinely.

Tyra was on the Tohatchi Lady Cougars basketball team in her junior and senior years. She had a successful journey alongside Coach Tanisha Bitsoi and her teammates, culminating in the Runner-up title in 2024. The team earned the blue and red trophies in District 1-AAA and northwestern New Mexico.

The women's basketball team will play its inaugural season in the fall of 2024. The team boasts excellent local talent and is eager to compete. "She has enough talent and experience," said Aanor Louis, NTU Women's Head Coach, as he discussed NTU's upcoming season. "Many players have potential, and Tyra is passionate about continuing to move forward."

There are always open player positions for all of our Skyhawk teams, and our NTU athletic department offers Men's Basketball, Women's Basketball, Cross Country, Cycling, Archery, and Rodeo, which is a sure way to succeed! NTU strives to create and strengthen partnerships that can impact their students' higher education success.



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

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

I BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW...



Wimbledon tennis balls are kept at 68 degrees Fahrenheit.

A one-armed player scored the winning goal in the first World Cup.



Adult cats are lactose intolerant.

2024 Navajo Nation Energy Summit

Crownpoint, NM – From June 4 to 6, 2024, students and faculty from Navajo Technical University attended the 2024 Navajo Nation Energy Summit in Albuquerque. The summit, themed “Educating and Empowering,” provides the opportunity to explore conventional and renewable energy, transmission, and storage technologies. Expert speakers from academia, the federal government, and the Navajo Nation will discuss energy requirements, resources, benefits, and concerns.

The summit was a great success, featuring insightful discussions on vital topics. These included the significance of the grid and transmission, exciting energy education opportunities, valuable job training resources, and promising energy initiatives in New Mexico and Arizona.

Navajo Technical University would like to congratulate Dr. Sundaram Arumugam, Associate Professor of the Electrical Engineering department, who received an Appreciation award for the University’s participation in the 2024 Navajo Nation Energy Summit.

Go Skyhawks!



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2024 NTU Summer and STEM Skills - Trail Development

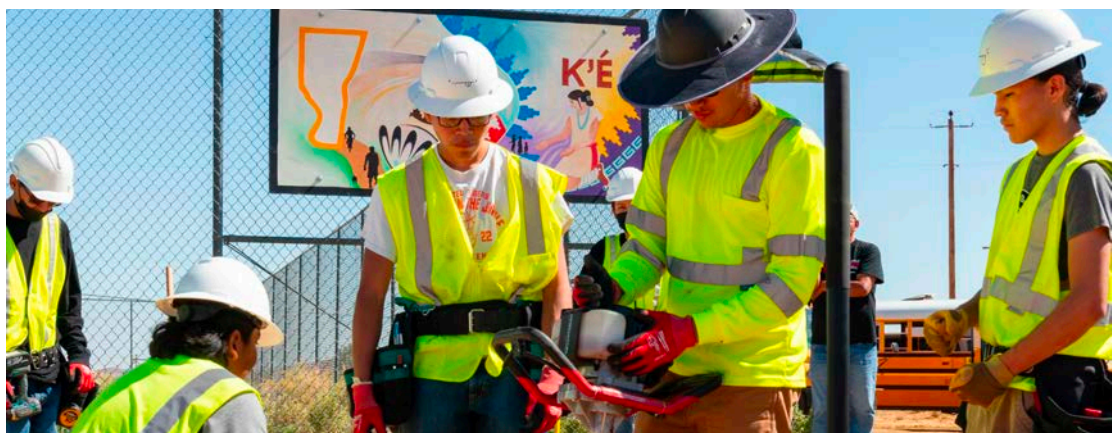
Crownpoint, NM - On June 14, 2024, Wingate High School students taking dual-credit Construction Technology and Welding classes created forms for precast concrete tables and benchtops. These concrete pieces will be the foundation for a pergola installed at the Office of Diné Youth (ODY) Loop Trailhead.

The 2024 Summer STEM & Skills program will focus on developing a mile of trail with amenities that aim to improve the health of the Crownpoint community. Over 60 regional dual-credit students will contribute to the project, overseeing the installation of pergolas, picnic benches, signage, and peach trees.

The work is being carried out as part of NTU's Summer STEM & Skills program, partially funded by the New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Division. The project will specifically benefit the ODY Loop of Hashtł'ishnii Trail and will positively impact the Crownpoint community economically and socially. The NM Outdoor Recreation Division's Trails+ grant has provided funding for the materials needed for the project.

Students in the program culminated in the Maker Faire on June 26, 2024. It featured catering by Culinary students and a business plan presentation by Business Administration students.

Navajo Technical University's summer dual-credit program effectively empowered Wingate High School students in Culinary Arts, Welding, Construction Tech, Business Administration, and pre-engineering. Great achievements!



NTU Celebrates the Sport of College Rodeo

Casper, WY—The Navajo Technical University rodeo team traveled to Casper, Wyoming, from June 11 to 16th, 2024, to participate in the College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR). Hyan Ramos and Isaiah Tom, representing Navajo Technical University are from New Mexico (Lake Valley and Gallup), demonstrated their exceptional skills and dedication at this prestigious event, which starts with the highly anticipated Armband Ceremony.

During the Armband Ceremony, participants from across the country will receive their armbands, signifying their qualification for the CNFR. Unlike the traditional back number system, the armband represents honor and recognition. Worn throughout the event, this armband signifies the competitors' dedication to their craft, distinguishing them as top athletes in their respective disciplines. The ceremony is reminiscent of the well-known back number ceremony at the INFR or NFR, honoring rodeo traditions.

Isaiah and Hyan confidently showcased their equestrian skills on the exciting opening day. Isaiah achieved an impressive score of 62.5, with Hyan close behind at 46. Despite a challenging turn on the third day, both riders exuded optimism and determination as they tackled the unfortunate experience of being bucked off their horses.

"I noticed Isaiah was a little nervous, but he controlled it. I didn't want him to feel pressured. I reminded them that this is just another rodeo. Don't get starstruck. We have a job to do here. Once behind the chutes, it becomes very familiar, and the nervousness disappears. Learn from it, move forward, and make necessary changes," said Nicole Pino.

During the College Nationals Final Rodeo in Casper, WY, on June 13, 2024, the NTU two competitors were injured around the same time. Hyan Ramos was hurt while competing in bareback and injured his right hand when he was bucked off the horse and fell to the ground. He was promptly attended to by the medical staff at the rodeo, who x-rayed his hand and found that he had broken his right index finger. The medical staff wrapped and splinted his finger and provided ice. Fortunately, Mr. Ramos is doing well.

Similarly, Isaiah Tom, also in the bareback competition, injured his right hand when he was bucked off the horse at around 7:30 pm. Like Mr. Ramos, he received immediate attention from the rodeo's medical staff, and his hand was x-rayed, revealing bruising. He was also provided with ice and is doing well.



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Diné Bizaad Naalkaah / Navajo Language Academy Workshop

Crownpoint, NM—The eagerly anticipated 2024 Navajo Language Academy hosted an inspiring summer linguistics workshop at the esteemed Navajo Technical University Hogan. Language enthusiasts delved into various captivating linguistic subjects, such as syntax, morphology, phonology, and semantics. This summer's workshop was mainly devoted to exploring the intricacies of imperatives and requests, igniting a deep appreciation for the Navajo language.

The participants in this program are working on developing a series of online reference tools to assist language learners, teachers, and linguists with the grammar of Diné Bizaad. The program is headed by Assistant Professor Sharon Nelson and Professor Ted Fernald, and a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities funds it. Dr. Fernald mentioned that Diné linguists have been studying the grammar of their language for more than a century and have published work on grammar as early as 1943 (Young & Morgan 1943). Additionally, Navajo-speaking linguists have been earning PhDs since the late 1970s, with the first being the late NTU professor Dr. Paul Platero and Dr. Ellavina Perkins, who are part of the current NLA program.

Dr. Fernald explains, "Our primary goal is to assist a new generation of Navajo speakers in embracing their cultural heritage. It's important to emphasize that this program focuses equally on supporting elders and experienced teachers as it is on students." The workshop assists Navajo linguists, language educators, researchers interested in Navajo or related languages, and graduate and undergraduate students.

This year, the NLA (Native Language Association) will begin a new collaboration with Zapotec language scholars from Oaxaca, Mexico. One of the esteemed scholars is Janet Chavez Santiago, a native speaker who passionately presented her groundbreaking research on the Teotitlan del Valle Zapotec Talking Dictionary. She provided detailed information about the project's origins, which date back to 2012 with the Tlacolula Valley Zapotec Talking Dictionary. Janet enthusiastically shared, "The Oaxaca community and surrounding areas have shown a strong interest in expanding the dictionaries and developing authentic versions that represent the diversity of Zapotec languages spoken in their region." Janet has also published a children's book in her Zapotec language, which she shared with the audience.



Dr. Felipe H. Lopez, a native Zapotec speaker and co-author of materials for teaching his language, led the development of the San Lucas Quiavini Zapotec online talking dictionary. He also shared his research and work at NTU Hogan, focusing on family language policy, transnationalism, and the diaspora community of San Lucas Quiavini in Oaxaca, Mexico. According to Dr. Lopez, “Zapotec languages are considered threatened because fewer and fewer people are acquiring them as native languages. Community and individual identity are closely tied to language, particularly in Mexico, where being recognized as part of an Indigenous community often depends on speaking the corresponding language.”

Additionally, Irene Silentman of Newcomb, New Mexico, and one of the developers of “Situational Navajo” in the 1990s, advocated for language courses that specifically focus on teaching verb forms to students.

The Navajo Language Academy, Inc., is a non-profit educational organization that is scientifically studying and promoting the Navajo language. It is a joint effort of professional language teachers and linguists. From 1997 through 2024, the academy hosted Navajo linguistics workshops for scholars every summer.

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Four Student-Athletes Have Committed to join NTU Rodeo Next Season

Navajo Technical University is thrilled to announce that Andre Foster has officially become a proud member of the NTU rodeo team. Hailing from Klagnetoh, AZ, and a graduate of Sanders High School, Andre has deep roots in the To'tsohnii and Naakai Diné communities. His determination and passion are evident as he sets his sights on obtaining a welding certificate from NTU and achieving victory at the college national finals in bull riding. We are confident that Andre's commitment and talent will undoubtedly lead to success, and we eagerly anticipate the honor he will bring to NTU as he competes for a national title.

Andre's impressive achievements as the NNJBR year-end champion for 2022 and 2023 and his participation in the AZ high school rodeo for two years emphasize his exceptional skills and dedication to his sport.

Joining Andre, three exceptional graduates from Ganado High School are poised to make their mark in college sports. Balancing academic pursuits, personal development, and athletic dedication presents a challenge these students are more than ready to embrace. As they embark on this exciting journey, we encourage all high school athletes to seize this remarkable opportunity to showcase their talents, pursue their dreams, and leave a lasting impact on university sports.

Wyatt James will pursue a Welding certificate, Cimmaron Curley will pursue an Electrical certificate, and Adoncia James has set her sights on the Veterinary Tech program. Their endeavors are a testament to their potential, drive, and determination to excel in their respective fields.

We congratulate these exceptional athletes as they join Navajo Technical University's esteemed Skyhawk teams. Becoming part of a university athletic program offers opportunities for personal growth and camaraderie and promises unforgettable experiences.



2024 Summer STEM and Skills Maker Faire

Crownpoint, NM – On June 26, 2024, Navajo Technical University and Wingate High School students presented the five programs featured in the 2024 Summer STEM and Skills program. These programs include welding, construction, business, culinary arts, and engineering. The program culminated in the Maker Faire, an event where students displayed their creations from their courses. This event allowed sixty students to exhibit their work and inspire others to pursue their interests.

The ceremony started with Brandon Jimenez, STEM Program Advisor, introducing Christine Reidhead. She has played a vital role in developing the program to its current state, ensuring that students receive top-quality instruction and an outstanding learning experience. Christine warmly welcomed the students and parents while introducing other guests and dignitaries.

In addition, Leonard Perry, the Vice President of the Crownpoint Chapter House, blessed and welcomed everyone to the event. He introduced attendees to the campus, highlighting all its significant aspects, and mentioned that NTU is growing into a more extensive and better campus than when it was first established.

Dr. Guy, the NTU President, discussed the history of the dual credit program and the benefits it offers to students. “Students in the dual credit program are winners and gain a head start in earning college credit while still in high school,” Dr. Guy stated. “I want to express my gratitude to all the partners, faculty, and staff who have continued to host the program for the past seven years. Additionally, I want to acknowledge the students who participated in this year’s program and encourage them to enroll at NTU after graduation to continue their academic journey.”

Experienced instructors facilitate the program, providing individual attention to each student, ensuring they comprehensively understand the course material and acquire practical skills. Now entering its seventh year, the program has proven to be highly successful, and many students have benefited from the range of skills they acquire at NTU. Students in the program learn the fundamentals of their chosen field and the practical applications of those skills. They also explore possible careers in their respective fields and gain real-world experience with hands-on projects through the program.



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Dr. Bowman expressed deep gratitude to all the students for their proactive enrollment in the program. She warmly thanked the instructors and student workers for supervising all program participants. Encouraging the students, she urged them to persist on their path toward higher education. Dr. Bowman acknowledged the valuable partnership between San Jose State University (SJSU) and NTU.

Jason Arviso, the NTU Vice President, Al Martinez from Wingate High School, and Hilary Nixon, SJSU Deputy Executive Director, were speakers at the event. The students are grateful for their valuable insights and advice, which will help them achieve their career goals.

Roy Tracy is the esteemed Director of Educational Research and Statistics for the Department of Diné Education. He strongly emphasizes the crucial role of the Diné Institute for Navajo Nation Educators in overcoming the challenges confronting public education in the Diné Nation. Tracy stated, "Take your education seriously. Continuing Diné Language and Culture is crucial, and self-esteem is a big factor in success. We have faith in you and want you to succeed. So, students, get involved in your community and local governance and run for office."

Navajo Technical University (NTU) aims to make learning enjoyable and interactive, which is reflected in the experience students gain from the Summer STEM & Skills program. The courses are designed to keep students engaged and interested, fostering a passion for the subject areas and encouraging students to explore potential career paths. The program aims to provide students with a unique and engaging learning experience by offering hands-on skills in various fields. This year marks the seventh successful year of the program.

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GlobalMindED First Gen Leadership Program

Denver, CO – On June 18-19, 2024, Navajo Technical University's American Indigenous Business Leaders program students had a truly motivating experience at the 2024 GlobalMindEd Conference. They had the opportunity to hear from first-generation college students who had built successful careers.

One of the outstanding sessions was "Access to Capital in Indian Country: Building a Sustainable Financial Structure." The session featured speakers such as Derrick Watchman, President of Sagebrush Hill Group; Mike Lettig from Native American Financial Services at Huntington National Bank; Nicole Johnny, Investment Associate at Raven Indigenous Capital Partners; Nate Lee, Vice President of Commercial Banking at Bank of America; and Veronica Lane, Vice President Marketing Director at Native American Bank. These speakers shared their impactful experiences in education and careers and expressed their commitment to making a positive change in their communities.

Wyndi Martinez, a recent graduate, stated, "I told people about Navajo Technical University, where I earned my Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration."

The discussions focused on businesses with missions to assist people in finance, investment, banking, and marketing.

"I want to work in an area that I am passionate about, assisting others in business. Attending this conference has given me more confidence and opportunities to learn tools as I continue to grow in my education," Wyndi continued. "Lastly, I thank the American Indigenous Business Leaders (AIBL) organization for allowing me to attend this conference and represent Navajo Technical University. This has allowed me to share my story and career goals with others. At the meeting, I had the chance to network with other university students."

Larris Enrico, a dedicated Accounting student working towards his Associate's degree at NTU, was also thrilled to participate in the "Access to Capital in Indian Country: Building Sustainable Financial Structures" workshop. He found it a precious and enlightening experience.

"It was inspiring to hear from these panelists who share the same background as most students at NTU, as they are all Navajo and grew up on the reservation. It particularly motivated me as they pursue the same career I aspire to," Larris concluded.



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Navajo Culture Perspectives and Teachings

Crownpoint, NM – On June 28, 2024, Navajo Technical University's Environmental Science department had the pleasure of hosting Sharon Nelson and Dr. Perry James alongside bright students from Northern Arizona University (NAU) and Navajo Technical University (NTU). The event was an excellent opportunity to educate undergraduate and graduate students about conducting themselves in nature and the art of making offerings to plant species for study. The primary objective was to impart valuable Navajo cultural wisdom to students, faculty, and universities, highlighting the significance of establishing harmony and balance to nurture a deep, spiritual connection with the environment.

During the presentation, both speakers discussed "Navajo cultural perspectives and teachings on how to approach and show reverence to research organisms in their natural environment." They highlighted the concepts of Hózhqǫ́jí K'ehjí (The Beauty/Blessing Way) and Naayéé' K'ehjí (The Protection Way) as essential elements for achieving balance and harmony. According to the cultural knowledge passed down from the elderly, understanding both Hózhqǫ́jí and Naayéé'jí is critical for navigating through life, overcoming obstacles, and receiving life's blessings.

Sharon Nelson, Lecturer of Diné Studies, said, "Sharing Navajo cultural knowledge with students, faculty, and universities helps establish harmony and balance to achieve and maintain a spiritual relationship. It was indeed an inspiring and enlightening experience for everyone involved."

Students learned about Hózhqǫ́jí and Naayéé'jí, which are essential when journeying through nature to collect medicinal plants for self-healing and studying plants in their natural environment. In nature, there is a balance between male and female counterparts that work together to achieve harmony, as designed by Spiritual Beings since the beginning of time.

"I want to express my gratitude to Steve Chishchilly and Dr. Roychowdhury for permitting us to integrate Navajo cultural knowledge into the environmental studies curriculum at NTU. NTU is a tribal institution that offers a comprehensive, culturally relevant approach to Navajo and Western research to achieve harmony and balance," stated Dr. Perry James.

"This pursuit of harmony and balance aligns with Navajo cultural traditions, which emphasize establishing spiritual connections with students, faculty, administrators, and other universities," he concluded.



NTU Featured Staff/Faculty

Navajo Technical University is excited to introduce Wilbur Tso. Wilbur is originally from Standing Rock (Tse'ii'ahi), NM. He is Ta'chii'nii (Red Running into the Water People), born for the Ki' Yaa'aanii (Towering House Clan). His maternal grandparents are Naaasht'ezhi Dine'e (Zuni Clan), and his paternal grandparents are Todich'ii'nii (Bitter Water People Clan). Mr. Tso earned a degree in public administration from NTU and is now pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Human Resource Management at Grand Canyon University. He currently serves as NTU's Human Resource Training Coordinator.

Over the past two years, the number of students enrolling at our institution has increased significantly, signifying a growing interest and confidence in our academic programs. Mr. Tso takes great pride in representing NTU as an MC at various events, drawing on his background as a radio DJ, where his natural charisma and engaging voice have earned him the well-deserved title of "The Voice of NTU."

Wilbur said, "I have diligently ensured the university complies with essential training through NEOed. Furthermore, I have accomplished milestones such as reviewing organizational charts and budgets and mastering the art of contract development in my role."

In the autumn of 2023, the Skills NTU chapter, led by Mr. Tso, wholeheartedly participated in the Mid-America Conference in Columbus, Nebraska. As the lead advisor, Wilbur's exceptional commitment was recognized, and he was honored with the prestigious Advisor of the Year award for Mid-America, marking an incredibly fulfilling experience. The students and Wilbur received further accolades in SkillsUSA as a Chapter of Excellence, securing a well-deserved silver medal position.

"I am deeply grateful for the invaluable guidance and teachings of my parents, without whom I wouldn't have reached this point in my journey. As the only son of Dorothy and Wilbur Tso, I take great pride in being the first male in our extended family to earn a college degree, following in the footsteps of my older and younger sisters. I am excited to highlight the tremendous power behind the phrase "T'áá hwó' ají t'éego," which translates to "It is up to you." With determination, anything is achievable. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Administrative and Business Instructors, my HR colleagues, and the enrollment team. Your invaluable guidance has been instrumental in helping me complete my degree. Thank you all for your unwavering support and encouragement," Wilbur concluded.

For further details about NTU's Human Resource Training Coordinator, please contact Wilbur Tso at wilburts@navajotech.edu.



SAVE THE DATE

NTU Weightlift Competition

Sat, July 27, 2024
NTU Wellness Center,
Crownpoint, NM..
For more information
contact
Michael McMillan at
mmcmillan@navajotech.edu
or 505-387-7444

Fall 2024 New Student Orientation

Thursday, August 15,
2024
NTU Wellness Center,
Crownpoint, NM

Baseball and Softball Camp

July 29 - 30, 2024
NTU Wellness Center,
Crownpoint, NM..
For more information
contact
George LaFrance at
glafrance@navajotech.edu
or 505-387-7444

NTU Chinle Enrollment Day and Drums of Summer

Wed, July 31, 2024
NTU Chinle Site, Chinle, AZ
For more information
contact
Jarvis Draper at
jdraper@navajotech.edu or
505-387-7444