

# SKYHAWK PRESS

A PART OF YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE

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## NTU 2024 Youth Summer Camps

Crownpoint, NM— Navajo Technical University successfully concluded its highly anticipated summer youth camps in July. These comprehensive softball, football, cycling, volleyball, and basketball programs, led by George LaFrance, the university's Athletics Director, were met with enthusiasm from campers of all ages. Throughout July, George expertly assessed the campers' abilities using dynamic drills designed to enhance fundamental skills such as catching, throwing, batting technique, positional knowledge, equipment care, pitching mechanics, and tactical gameplay strategies.

Each morning, George gathered the eager campers to meticulously address every aspect of the games, offering a detailed preview of the skills and drills they would focus on. His attentive coaching style ensured that each participant received personalized guidance and support throughout the intensive sessions. The camp provided all necessary equipment to the participants, with safety being a top priority. George tailored his coaching to each student's needs, drawing on his extensive football background.

Guest coaches such as AJ Murphy, Tyson Ramone, and Candice Craig, the volleyball coach for the NTU AIHEC team, also contributed valuable insights and experiences. While AJ elaborated on cycling etiquettes and essential maintenance practices, Candice focused on setting, passing, and team communication in volleyball.

George expresses his sincere gratitude to all the participants who helped make NTU's summer youth camps successful in July. He appreciates the valuable contributions of the guest coaches and staff, whose expertise enriched the camp experience and created a safe and nurturing environment for skill development at NTU's main campus.



## NTU Enrollment Day and Activities

Crownpoint, NM – On July 24, 2024, Navajo Technical University hosted a successful Enrollment Day event with various activities. Visitors and guests were welcomed onto our campus. NTU staff and faculty showcased the programs and activities offered to our students and community, kicking off with a warm-up exercise.

George LaFrance, Director of the Wellness Center, and Leonard Lee, Head Cross-Country Coach, kicked off the day with an energizing group run around NTU's picturesque campus. The event started at 9 a.m. in front of the Wellness Center. Walking, running, and enjoying lively conversations were great ways to begin the day. George LaFrance sincerely thanked Brenda Yazzie and the rest of the NTU staff and faculty for providing refreshments to all the participants.

NTU's esteemed staff and faculty have meticulously prepared program booths inside the wellness center, filled with exciting opportunities for students ready to begin their higher education or vocational training journey. Visitors can look forward to an engaging showcase of NTU's diverse programs, complete with giveaways, prize awards, and thrilling raffles.

KTNN broadcasted "Drums of Summer" live from the Wellness Center. The event started with the Gourd Dance featuring radio host Dan Arnold. Wilbur Tso served as the MC and delivered a welcoming address to his team. He discussed NTU programs, drum groups, and the entertainment provided. The NTU community enjoyed performances by drummers and singers from groups such as Atsa Butte Singers, Southern Drum Smoke Stack, and the local band Tim Murphy and The Outlaws.

An outstanding singing and dancing performance by the talented 'Little Wranglers' and the delightful Snowflake Blackwell, Little Miss Ceremonial 23-24 of the Diné Tribe, accompanied by the incredible Danielle Dawes, Miss Eastern Navajo, and the excellent Samatha Antone, Miss NTU, adding to the excitement of the fair season.

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For more information, contact:

Brenda Yazzie  
NTU Recruiter  
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## SAVE THE DATE

### Spring 2025 Pre-Registration

Monday, October 21, 2024  
NTU Wellness Center,  
Crownpoint, NM

### Patty Palooza

Monday, August 26, 2024  
Begins at 4 PM  
Patio by Culinary Arts  
NTU Crownpoint, NM

### NTU Chinle Welcome Back Cookout

Wednesday August 28,  
2024  
Begins at 3:30 PM  
NTU Chinle Instructional  
Site

For more information,  
contact:  
Jarvis Draper at  
[j.draper@navajotech.edu](mailto:j.draper@navajotech.edu)

### Labor Day

Monday, September 2,  
2024  
NTU Campuses will be  
closed.

### Navajo Nation Parade

Saturday, September 7,  
2024

76th Annual Navajo  
Nation Fair in Window  
Rock 'Honoring Heritage:  
Celebrating Harvest,  
Livelihood & Kinship.



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## Easter Navajo Nation Parade - Navajo Technical University

Crownpoint, NM—On Saturday, July 27, 2024, Navajo Technical University participated in the 46th Annual Eastern Navajo Nation parade. The Eastern Navajo Fair has historically been the first of all Navajo Nation's fair parades. This year's theme is "Honoring our Dine' Legacy of Service," with red, white, blue, and yellow decorative colors.

Every last Saturday of July, the vibrant Navajo Nation community gathers to celebrate and partake in an exciting parade. The festivities start at 9:00 a.m. at Crownpoint Mid/High School and culminate at Crownpoint Chapter. Numerous dazzling floats representing local businesses, schools, and groups within and near the Navajo Nation grace the parade route. The NTU float, Miss NTU, and Sammy the Skyhawk exuberantly join the procession to spread joy and cheer among the attendees. It's a heartwarming and spirited event that unites the community in revelry and camaraderie.

We are looking forward to seeing you next year. It was fantastic to see the Navajo Nation enjoying itself.

NTU would like to thank those who participated in the Navajo Nation Fair. Thank you for supporting your local University!

It begins from within! Go Skyhawks!

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For more info contact:

Michael McMillan  
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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...



Medical errors are a top cause of death.

Sloths have more neck bones than giraffes.



Bees can fly higher than Mount Everest.

## NTU 2024 Weightlifting Challenge

Crownpoint, NM – On July 27, 2024, Navajo Technical University's Weightlifting Club hosted a successful Weightlifting Challenge and is excited to announce the winners. We want to thank all the participants and spectators for participating in this event. The atmosphere was buzzing with energy and determination, and we're thankful to the volunteers who helped set up the weight equipment and ensured the smooth running of the event under the guidance of Avery Velasquez, the Club president. This is just the start, and we at NTU eagerly look forward to setting new goals and overcoming new challenges.

### Men's Division:

1. Navarro B. - 1,190
2. Andre V. - 1,060
3. Jered - 1,020
4. Justin - 935
5. Mike - 695
6. Sawyer - 450
7. Wes - 495
8. Wade - 490

### Women's Division:

1. Ann - 663
2. Noah - 515
3. Hope - 355
4. Francis - 325
5. Harmonee - 295
6. Chanelle - 125

For more information, contact:

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Student Life and Activities Coordinator  
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## Daliyah Morris will be Joining the Lady Skyhawks.

Crownpoint, NM—On July 30, 2024, Daliya Morris, a delightful member of the TI'ógí (Weaver-Zia/Grassy Matt People) and born for Tsé nahabíłnii (Sleep Rock People) from Twin Lakes, NM, joyfully declared her commitment to join the women's basketball team at Navajo Technical University for the upcoming 2024-2025 season. This presents a fantastic opportunity for her to shine and excel.

Daliya proudly signed her letter of intent under the guidance of Head Coach Aanor Louis, accompanied by her family, after an inspiring campus tour.

Daliya, a recent student at Phoenix College, has pursued a degree in physical therapy. Her time at Gallup High School was marked by her team's victory in the state championship twice, and she also distinguished herself as #22 while playing for the Phoenix College Bears. Daliya hopes to obtain a certificate in Nursing or a related field while continuing to play basketball and further her studies at NTU. The nursing program has generated significant interest among students aspiring to pursue a career in nursing. "I am eager to expand my knowledge and build meaningful connections. Choosing NTU brings me closer to home, allowing me to make a positive impact and stay connected to my roots," Daliya sincerely expressed.

The women's basketball team will kick off its inaugural season in the fall of 2024. The team is filled with exceptional local talent and is enthusiastic about the upcoming competitions. Aanor Louis, NTU Women's Head Coach, expressed his excitement about welcoming Daliya to the team, confidently stating, "I believe she possesses great talent and is more than capable of propelling our program and promoting Native American women in sports to new and outstanding levels."

There are always open player positions for all of our Skyhawk teams, and our NTU athletic department offers a 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.

For more information, contact:

Aanor Louis  
NTU Women's Head Coach  
Lecturer of New Media  
E: alouis@navajotech.edu



## New Mexico Higher Ed Basic Needs Visit

Crownpoint, NM—On July 31, 2024, Secretary Patricia Trujillo of the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) enthusiastically introduced the New Mexico College Basic Needs Project to the NTU community. She was accompanied by Dr. Sarita Cargas, a distinguished UNM Professor spearheading the NM Basic Needs Survey and analysis.

Navajo Technical University is excited to announce that it has received funding from NMHED Food Security for 2023 and 2024. Jerlynn Henry, Dean of Student Services, stated, “This grant will play a crucial role in supporting our students’ food needs and promoting their academic success and well-being.”

Dr. Cargas has passionately visited every university and college to deliver these insightful presentations. Secretary Trujillo was thrilled to make her inaugural visit to NTU, demonstrating NMHED’s commitment to fostering strong partnerships with academic institutions.

In addition, NTU has received a SubAward from UNM for the NM State Mental Health Grant, allowing the university to bring in two dedicated student advocates who have received specialized training from the UNM Health Department. Jerlynn continued, “These advocates are committed to identifying and assisting students with social determinants. They have been working alongside us for the past two semesters and have made a significant impact by identifying students in need and providing them with vital resources such as food and gas cards.”

Furthermore, the UNM Basic Needs Project is an inspiring interdisciplinary collaboration of UNM faculty, students, and staff. Their collective goal of enhancing basic needs security, including food and housing, for college and university students in New Mexico is truly commendable.

Secretary Patricia Trujillo said, “Our approach involves comprehensive data collection, extensive research, and the development of evidence-based solutions, demonstrating our unwavering dedication and commitment to making a meaningful impact.”

In 2023, the Basic Needs Project embarked on a pioneering statewide survey of basic needs at higher education institutions, engaging faculty, staff, and students in a proactive and comprehensive effort to address vital social issues.



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## CHINLE INSTRUCTIONAL SITE

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### NTU Chinle Enrollment Day

Chinle, AZ - On July 31, 2024, Enrollment Day at Navajo Technical University's Chinle Instructional Site was a great success, with an enthusiastic turnout of visitors and guests. The event provided valuable information for prospective students about our program showcases, financial aid, admissions, enrollment, residential options, and more.

Additionally, the day was filled with fun activities, including bounce houses for children, games, and raffles. KTNN launched the Drums of Summer event at 5:30 PM, featuring live entertainment and inspiring speakers, such as drum groups Chinle Swingin' Echo's, Central Navajo Wranglers, and Kansas Begay. Families and friends came together to celebrate the vibrant spirit of the NTU community while enjoying food and drinks.

Come and explore the new and exciting opportunities waiting for you at Navajo Technical University's campus in beautiful Chinle, Arizona. Our campus is expanding, offering endless possibilities for your education. You can use this chance to brighten your future with all the information you need for Fall 2024 at NTU.

For more information, contact:

Jarvis Draper

NTU Recruiter – Chinle Instructional site

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P: (928) 882-3155



## NTU Featured Staff/Faculty

Navajo Technical University is delighted to introduce Shawna Begay, a remarkable Rough Rock, AZ individual. Shawna proudly identifies as TI 'aaschi'i (Red Ochre on Cheek People) and Honagha'ahnii (One Who Walks Around). Her diverse heritage includes Dzilgha'ii (White Mountain Apache) and Tachii'nii (The Red Running into Water People Clan). Shawna is an alumna of Monument Valley High School in Kayenta, AZ, and she also holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science with a focus on Natural Resources from Navajo Technical University. Shawna's journey genuinely inspires us, and we are excited to see the positive impact she will continue to make in her community and beyond.

Shawna has been the Career Services Coordinator at NTU for just over two years. Her goal is to help students gain an advantage in the job market by enabling them to enhance their skills in a hands-on learning environment.

Since 2022, she has hosted a Career Expo once a semester, and hundreds of students, faculty, staff, industry leaders, and community members have attended. As a result, twenty-nine students have been hired for the Project Success Paid Internship Program. Two of them have successfully secured full-time positions with NTU. Shawna has also organized a professional development workshop for students who are creatives and take a new approach to learning and understanding career aspirations. Additionally, she has assisted with university recruitment efforts and trained five student recruiters, creating a welcoming and safe office environment for students, resulting in a memorable 2024 summer for them.

Shawna enthusiastically expressed, "I wish you all an outstanding semester, students! I genuinely can't wait to welcome you to campus and support your personal and professional growth. Always remember: You are truly amazing, I am incredibly proud of you, and you are destined for incredible achievements! Keep an eye out for Career Services emails about fantastic opportunities and enjoyable events. I look forward to seeing you thrive!"

For further details about NTU's Career Services Coordinator, please contact Shawna Begay at [shawna.begay@navajotech.edu](mailto:shawna.begay@navajotech.edu).



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