

SKYHAWK PRESS

A PART OF YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Miss NTU 2024 -
2025.....Page 1

NTU Attends Ashkii
Day at the 2024 NN
Fair... Page 2

NTU - 76th Annual
Navajo Nation Fair...
Page 3

I Bet You Didn't
Know... Page 4

Motivational
Interviewing Seminar
with Lindsay Worth...
Page 4

Six NTU Engineering
and Technology
receive extended
ABET accreditation....
Page 5

2024-2025 NTU
Student Senate
... Page 6

NTU Women's
Basketball Team
2024-2025... Page 7

NTU Rodeo Team
2024-2025... Page 8

National Suicide
Prevention Week QPR
Training
... Page 9

Miss NTU 2024-2025

Crownpoint, NM – On September 4, 2024, Navajo Technical University proudly crowned Star O'riah LaPahe as Miss NTU for 2024-2025. Star, a Chinle NTU Instructional Site student, is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Multicultural Education.

Starr, hailing from Pinon, Arizona, impressed the judges with her skills across all competition segments. She performed a traditional song in the conventional portion, while her modern talent showcased her drill skills with a rifle, reflecting her experience in the Chinle High School JROTC program.

D'Andre Harker, the runner-up from Ganado, AZ, dual majoring in IT and Automotive, delivered a presentation on "the mountain song," a variation of a traditional ceremonial song. For her modern talent, she demonstrated her sewing skills by creating a scrunchie from leftover fabric intended for a ribbon skirt, and she gifted each judge with a scrunchie she had just made.

Upon being crowned, Star O'riah LaPahe shared her excitement: "I feel pretty happy and was not expecting this. I participated out of curiosity and to get my mind back on track. Overall, I'm excited for what the year will bring."



Navajo Technical University attends Ashkii Day at the 2024 Navajo Nation Fair

Navajo Technical University had a fantastic day at the Navajo Nation Fair in Window Rock, Arizona, on Wednesday, September 4, 2024. We shined up for an incredible Ashkii Happy Kids Day. This day brought us jam-packed, fun-filled activities and informative booths explicitly designed for students, schools, and youth groups.

NTU is an active participant in the Navajo Nation Fair 2024. Our vibrant NTU tent is stationed at the Window Rock fairgrounds, ready to welcome kids from across the Navajo Nation. We have engaging booths where kids can grab notebooks, bags, pens, and valuable program information.

Moreover, children and schools had the opportunity to meet our beloved red-feathered bird and explore the array of programs showcased at this year's Navajo Nation fair. Whether you're seeking information or want to hang out with Sammy and capture some fantastic moments, we encourage you to come, ask questions, and enjoy a wonderful time with the NTU community.

Go Skyhawks!

For more information, please contact:

NTU Admission Office
P:505.387.7401
E: admissions@navajotech.edu



TABLE OF CONTENTS (Cont.)

NASA Visits with NTU Science Students...
Page 10

Navajo Nation Law and Order Committee...
Page 11

The Strategic Plan 2025-2030 Listening Sessions - Chinle, AZ...
Page 12

NTU Featured Staff/ Faculty...
Page 13

SAVE THE DATE

Spring 2025 Pre-Registration

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

NTU Land Grant Program Presents

Fall Planting Workshops
Seed Saving and Winter
Sowing

October 18 and 25, 2024
10-12 PM

NTU Land Grant Building,
Crownpoint, NM

For more information,
contact Land Grant
Program at 505-387-
7410 or email landgrant@navajotech.edu

12th Annual Research Competition

March 6th, 2025
Begins at 9:00 am
NTU Wellness Center

For more information,
contact Casmir Agbaraji at
cagbaraji@navajotech.edu
by Friday, November 15,
2024.

76th Annual Navajo Nation Fair - Navajo Technical University

Window Rock, AZ— On Saturday, September 7, 2024, Navajo Technical University proudly participated in the 76th Annual Navajo Nation parade. The theme, “Honoring Our Heritage: Celebrating Harvest, Livelihood, and Kinship,” beautifully highlighted the importance of preserving our cultural heritage. Thousands of people from all corners of the Navajo Nation gathered along Highway 264 to revel in the spectacle of over 100 vibrant parade floats.

The festivities started at 8 AM, marking the beginning of the Navajo Nation’s most beloved event. The parade featured an array of dazzling floats representing local businesses, schools, and community groups from within and around the Navajo Nation. Our NTU parade float, accompanied by the radiant Miss Newly Crowned NTU Star O’riah LaPahe and the spirited Sammy the Skyhawk, brought smiles and laughter to all who attended.

We eagerly anticipate next year’s parade and the joy it will bring. Witnessing the Navajo Nation come together and celebrate was genuinely heartwarming.

Furthermore, NTU extends heartfelt gratitude to all who contributed to the success of the Navajo Nation Fair this past weekend. Your support means the world to us, and we applaud your dedication to your local University.

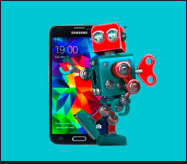


DO YOU HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE? CONTACT DALE MORGAN AT

dmorgan@navajotech.edu

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

I BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW...



Samsung tests phone durability with a butt-shaped robot.



Peanuts aren't technically nuts.

Firefighters use wetting agents to make water wetter.



Motivational Interviewing Seminar with Lindsay Worth

Crownpoint, NM—On September 12, 2024, the Counseling department at Navajo Technical University had an enriching day with Lindsay Worth, focusing on mental health and motivational skills.

We delved into essential topics, including tips for open communication, which greatly enhanced our ability to converse effectively through change and sustaining talking.

As part of the session, we engaged in activities where one person shared their desired life changes as the speaker, and another listened and provided feedback. This exercise aimed to foster stronger relationships by offering suggestions, analysis, and agreement or disagreement with one another. Ultimately, this experience aimed to facilitate self-reflection and improve our listening and communication skills.

Through the teachings of Nitsáhákees (thinking), Nahátá (planning), Ílna (implementing), and Siihasin (reflection), students acquire quality education in diverse fields while preserving cultural values and gaining economic opportunities.



SAVE THE DATE

Spring 2025

Pre-Registration

Monday, October 21, 2024

NTU Wellness Center,

Crownpoint, NM

NTU Land Grant

Program Presents

Fall Planting Workshops

Seed Saving and Winter

Sowing

October 18 and 25, 2024

10-12 PM

NTU Land Grant Building,

Crownpoint, NM

For more information,
contact Land Grant
Program at 505-387-
7410 or email landgrant@navajotech.edu

**12th Annual
Research**

Competition

March 6th, 2025

Begins at 9:00 am

NTU Wellness Center

For more information,
contact Casmir Agbaraji at
cagbaraji@navajotech.edu
by Friday, November 15,
2024.

Red Ribbon Week

October 21-29, 2024

NTU main campus,

Crownpoint, NM

For more information,
contact Cheryl Atine at
catine@navajotech.edu

SAVE THE DATE

Spring 2025 Pre-Registration

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

NTU Land Grant Program Presents

Fall Planting Workshops
Seed Saving and Winter
Sowing
October 18 and 25, 2024
10-12 PM
NTU Land Grant Building,
Crownpoint, NM

For more information,
contact Land Grant
Program at 505-387-
7410 or email landgrant@navajotech.edu

12th Annual Research Competition

March 6th, 2025
Begins at 9:00 am
NTU Wellness Center

For more information,
contact Casmir Agbaraji at
cagbaraji@navajotech.edu
by Friday, November 15,
2024.

Red Ribbon Week
October 21-29, 2024
NTU main campus,
Crownpoint, NM

For more information,
contact Cheryl Atine at
catine@navajotech.edu

Six NTU Engineering and Technology programs receive extended ABET accreditation

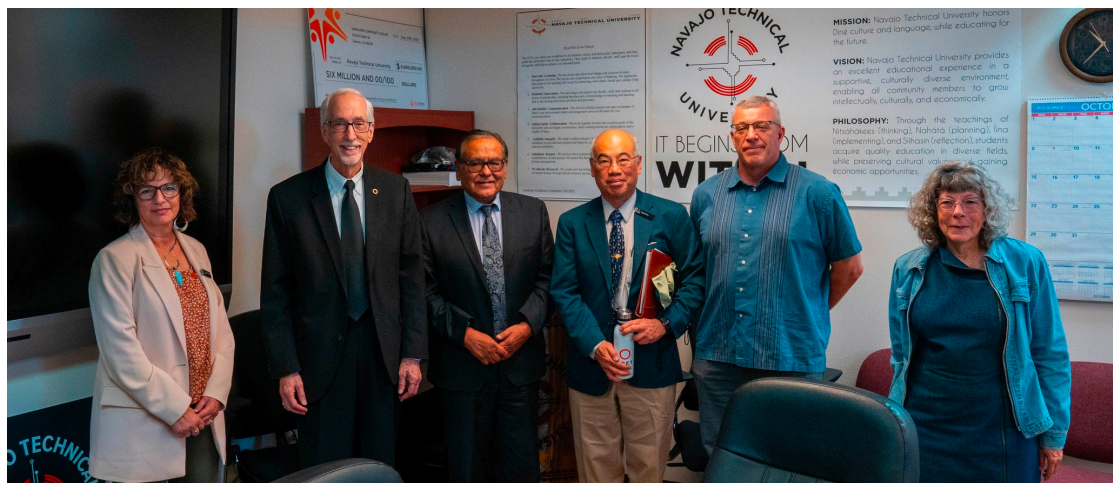
Crownpoint, NM—Navajo Technical University was granted ABET accreditation for its Advanced Manufacturing Engineering Technology (AMET), Chemical Engineering Technology (ChET), Electrical Engineering (EE), Engineering Technology (ET), Industrial Engineering (IE), and Information Technology (IT) programs. The accreditation recognizes and ensures that the programs meet industry standards required of all graduates entering the workforce. The university continues strengthening its programs and actively seeks more accreditations for its Computer Science, Environmental, and Mechanical Engineering programs.

“We have been eagerly building our technical programs that produce students who not only graduate with degrees but also attain the most current knowledge needed in all areas of STEM,” said Dr. Casmir Agbaraji, NTU Dean of Undergraduate Studies, “NTU’s Engineering and hard sciences are significant to our institution as they are proactive in research and improvements in our Navajo communities.”

For any university, the ABET accreditation is the hallmark of quality and high standards for its engineering or STEM programs. 2018, the university first obtained ABET accreditation for its Electrical (EE) and Industrial (IE) engineering programs, extending retroactively to 2015. The programs have seen much interest and continue to play an extensive role as the university’s top programs.

In 2029, the university will continue to seek more accreditations for its Computer Science (CS), Environmental Engineering (ENVE), and Mechanical Engineering (ME) programs. As the engineering programs grow, students participate in community activities that also provide them with hands-on projects. Students from the environmental sciences took part in a research project on Pinon Jaybird Flocks.

The ABET accreditation ensures that students in the engineering and technology programs at NTU are gaining the industry standards necessary to prepare for STEM fields and the workforce. NTU continues to improve its STEM fields where students can gain hands-on and theoretical applications. The university offers 40 STEM programs and 3 Graduate degrees in Engineering and Technology.



2024-2025 NTU Student Senate

NTU would like to recognize your 2024-2025 Student Senate executive officers sworn into office. Your executive officers include:

President: Krista Goodluck
Vice President: Shineya Watson
Secretary: Leharris Lee
Treasurer: Frederika Thomas
Master of Arms: Tamalaya Begaye

The Student Senate is an opportunity for students to collaborate with the student body and help the Board of Directors understand students' concerns and how they can assist with specific situations. The Student Senate is the voice of the whole student body.

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:

NTU Student Senate
E: ntustudentsenate@navajotech.edu

Michael McMillan
Student Life Coordinator
E: mmcmillan@navajotech.edu



SAVE THE DATE

**Spring 2025
Pre-Registration**
Monday, October 21, 2024
NTU Wellness Center,
Crownpoint, NM

**NTU Land Grant
Program Presents**
Fall Planting Workshops
Seed Saving and Winter
Sowing
October 18 and 25, 2024
10-12 PM
NTU Land Grant Building,
Crownpoint, NM

For more information,
contact Land Grant
Program at 505-387-
7410 or email landgrant@navajotech.edu

**12th Annual
Research
Competition**
March 6th, 2025
Begins at 9:00 am
NTU Wellness Center

For more information,
contact Casmir Agbaraji at
cagbaraji@navajotech.edu
by Friday, November 15,
2024.

Red Ribbon Week
October 21-29, 2024
NTU main campus,
Crownpoint, NM

For more information,
contact Cheryl Atine at
catine@navajotech.edu

SAVE THE DATE

Spring 2025 Pre-Registration

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

NTU Land Grant Program Presents

Fall Planting Workshops
Seed Saving and Winter
Sowing

October 18 and 25, 2024
10-12 PM

NTU Land Grant Building,
Crownpoint, NM

For more information,
contact Land Grant
Program at 505-387-
7410 or email landgrant@navajotech.edu

12th Annual Research Competition

March 6th, 2025
Begins at 9:00 am
NTU Wellness Center

For more information,
contact Casmir Agbaraji at
cagbaraji@navajotech.edu
by Friday, November 15,
2024.

Red Ribbon Week

October 21-29, 2024
NTU main campus,
Crownpoint, NM

For more information,
contact Cheryl Atine at
catine@navajotech.edu

NTU Women's Basketball Team 2024-2025

The head coach of the NTU Women's Basketball team, Aanor Louis, is eagerly preparing for the upcoming season with great determination. Coach Louis looks forward to the new season and is optimistic about the team's performance. He hopes the players will support each other and adapt to the fast-paced nature of collegiate-level basketball. Let us welcome the NTU Women's Basketball 2024-2025 team roster, which consists of:

- Sarah Dennison #10
- Malorie Mckerry #12
- Aldondrea Jodie #4
- Rhea Francisco #22
- Jocee Henderson #11
- Tyra Bitsie #25
- Daliyah Morris #1
- Raven Tso #5
- Alfrearosa Reid #3
- Asia Kee #32
- Shanoah Platero #23
- Myabelle Begay #44
- Kalise Steven #13
- Jazlin Abe (practice team/not pictured)

A schedule that will include games against various colleges and universities in the southwestern region will be announced soon.

Women interested in pursuing higher education and contributing to developing a solid team are welcome to try out for the NTU Lady Skyhawk team. The team will compete collegiately with other competitive teams. Why not pursue higher education with us while also having the opportunity to play basketball with friends and like-minded students?

Go, Lady NTU Skyhawks!



NTU Rodeo Team 2024-2025

Get ready to witness the incredible energy and passion of Coach Nicole Pino as she gears up for the upcoming 2024-2025 season with determination! Under Coach Pino's expert guidance, The NTU Rodeo Team has been hard at work, dedicating countless hours to honing their skills and preparing for the exciting season ahead. Coach Pino's unwavering commitment and exceptional leadership have played a pivotal role in the team's journey to success. With great anticipation, Coach Pino eagerly looks forward to reuniting with the team and is genuinely grateful for the combined effort that has brought them to this point.

The team is ready to embrace the new season, and Coach Pino is optimistic about their outstanding performance. Let's extend a warm welcome to the incredible NTU Rodeo 2024-2025 team roster:

Women's Team

Ashley Yazzie - breakaway roping
Adoncia James - breakaway roping
Francesca Noble - breakaway & barrels
Taylor Pino - breakaway roping
Cajaun Cleveland - barrel racing
LaBelle Lafrance - breakaway roping
Autumn Sells - breakaway and team roping
Alexis Slowtalker - barrel racing

Men's team

Isaiah Tom - bareback & bull riding
Drekell Johnson - bullriding
Tydon Tsose - steer wrestling
Wyatt James - bullriding
Cimarron Curley - bullriding
Bailey Keesie - team roping
Andre Foster - bullriding
Trevor Yazzie - bareback
Malacai Shorty -bareback
Alvaro Begay - bareback



SAVE THE DATE

Spring 2025

Pre-Registration

Monday, October 21, 2024

NTU Wellness Center,
Crownpoint, NM

NTU Land Grant Program Presents

Fall Planting Workshops
Seed Saving and Winter
Sowing

October 18 and 25, 2024
10-12 PM

NTU Land Grant Building,
Crownpoint, NM

For more information,
contact Land Grant
Program at 505-387-
7410 or email landgrant@navajotech.edu

12th Annual Research

Competition

March 6th, 2025

Begins at 9:00 am

NTU Wellness Center

For more information,
contact Casmir Agbaraji at
cagbaraji@navajotech.edu
by Friday, November 15,
2024.

Red Ribbon Week

October 21-29, 2024

NTU main campus,
Crownpoint, NM

For more information,
contact Cheryl Atine at
catine@navajotech.edu

SAVE THE DATE

Spring 2025

Pre-Registration

Monday, October 21, 2024

NTU Wellness Center,

Crownpoint, NM

**NTU Land Grant
Program Presents**

Fall Planting Workshops

Seed Saving and Winter

Sowing

October 18 and 25, 2024

10-12 PM

NTU Land Grant Building,

Crownpoint, NM

For more information,

contact Land Grant

Program at 505-387-

7410 or email [landgrant@](mailto:landgrant@navajotech.edu)

[navajotech.edu](mailto:landgrant@navajotech.edu)

**12th Annual
Research
Competition**

March 6th, 2025

Begins at 9:00 am

NTU Wellness Center

For more information,

contact Casmir Agbaraji at

cagbaraji@navajotech.edu

by Friday, November 15,

2024.

Red Ribbon Week

October 21-29, 2024

NTU main campus,

Crownpoint, NM

For more information,

contact Cheryl Atine at

catine@navajotech.edu

National Suicide Prevention Week QPR Training

Crownpoint, New Mexico - On September 19, 2024, Wahaila Begaye of the Navajo Nation Division of Behavioral & Mental Health Services presented the QPR Gatekeeper Training to staff, faculty, and some NTU students inside the Student Union Building. At the start of the training, participants introduced themselves, shared fun facts about themselves, and were open with one another to recognize National Suicide Prevention Week. This week, we stand together to raise awareness about suicide prevention, mental health, and the importance of reaching out for help.

If you or someone you know is struggling, know that you are not alone and that you can always contact someone to talk with. If you do need someone to speak with, you can always contact the National Suicide and Crises Lifeline at 988.

Additionally, Navajo Technical University offers TimelyCare. TimelyCare is here for you if you need virtual care support 24/7, 365 days a year. The following services are available at no cost to all enrolled NTU Students:

- MedicalNow: On-demand support for common health issues, including colds, flu, and allergies.
- TalkNow: 24/7, on-demand emotional support to discuss anything, including anxiety, relationships, depression, and school-related stressors.
- Scheduled Medical: Choose your best day, time, and medical provider.
- Scheduled Counseling: Choose your best day, time, and mental health provider.
- Health Coaching: Develop healthy lifestyle behaviors, including nutrition, sleep habits, time management, and mindfulness.
- Psychiatry: Appointments are available through referrals.
- Self-Care Content: Visit the Explore page within TimelyCare for guided self-care. Content includes yoga and meditation sessions and group conversations with our providers on various health and well-being topics. Download the TimelyCare app or visit timelycare.com/ntu today to register.

“When you apply QPR, you give a message of hope. Hope helps prevent suicide.”



NASA Visits with Navajo Technical University Science Students

Crownpoint, New Mexico - On September 19, 2024, Dr. Robert Swap and Steve Platnick from Mission Planning in the Earth Sciences at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center visited Navajo Technical University to discuss their department's work. They discussed new technology, current projects, potential collaborations with NTU, and opportunities for students to understand the land and the globe. The presentation focused on the United States, specifically extreme weather, climate change, and biomass burning issues.

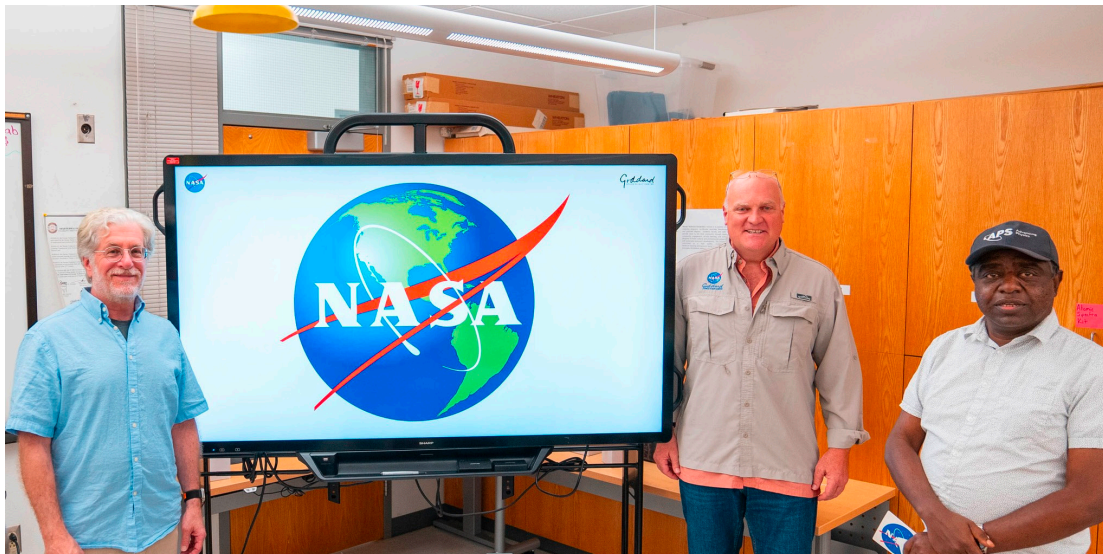
Dr. Robert Swap is known for his science diplomacy and servant leadership work. He has held academic and governmental leadership positions in collaborative research and education in emerging regions, particularly sub-equatorial Africa and Brazil. He is often invited to share his expertise on international partnerships, engaged pedagogies, servant leadership, and Science Diplomacy at universities and institutions such as AAAS, TWAS, and the UN.

Steven Platnick's research includes theoretical and experimental studies on satellite, aircraft, and ground-based cloud remote sensing. He has been extensively involved in remote sensing field studies, including using the MODIS Airborne Simulator instrument flown on the NASA ER-2 and playing flight scientist roles in several field campaigns. He is a MODIS and S-NPP Atmosphere Science Team member, working on operational cloud optical and microphysical products and serving as the MODIS Atmosphere Team Lead.

They also discussed future activities relevant to the region, including the Adaptation & Resilience In Drylands (ARID) Scoping Study and the West-coast Heartland Hyperspectral Microwave Sounder Intensive Experiment (WH2yMSIE).

For more information, contact:

Abraham Meles, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Physics
P: 505-387-7423
E: ameles@navajotech.edu



SAVE THE DATE

**Spring 2025
Pre-Registration**
Monday, October 21, 2024
NTU Wellness Center,
Crownpoint, NM

**NTU Land Grant
Program Presents**
Fall Planting Workshops
Seed Saving and Winter
Sowing
October 18 and 25, 2024
10-12 PM
NTU Land Grant Building,
Crownpoint, NM

For more information,
contact Land Grant
Program at 505-387-
7410 or email landgrant@navajotech.edu

**12th Annual
Research
Competition**
March 6th, 2025
Begins at 9:00 am
NTU Wellness Center

For more information,
contact Casmir Agbaraji at
cagbaraji@navajotech.edu
by Friday, November 15,
2024.

Red Ribbon Week
October 21-29, 2024
NTU main campus,
Crownpoint, NM

For more information,
contact Cheryl Atine at
catine@navajotech.edu

SAVE THE DATE

Spring 2025 Pre-Registration

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

NTU Land Grant Program Presents

Fall Planting Workshops
Seed Saving and Winter
Sowing

October 18 and 25, 2024
10-12 PM
NTU Land Grant Building,
Crownpoint, NM

For more information,
contact Land Grant
Program at 505-387-
7410 or email [landgrant@
navajotech.edu](mailto:landgrant@navajotech.edu)

12th Annual Research Competition

March 6th, 2025
Begins at 9:00 am
NTU Wellness Center

For more information,
contact Casmir Agbaraji at
cagbaraji@navajotech.edu
by Friday, November 15,
2024.

Red Ribbon Week

October 21-29, 2024
NTU main campus,
Crownpoint, NM

For more information,
contact Cheryl Atine at
catine@navajotech.edu

Navajo Nation Law and Order Committee

Crownpoint, NM – On September 23, 2024, Navajo Technical University hosted the Navajo Nation Law and Order Committee meeting of the 25th Navajo Nation Council inside the Hospitality Center. Committee members and the NTU community gathered to discuss developments and identify the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act.

Dr. Collen Bowman updated the collaboration with the Navajo Nation Police Academy. NTU supports the police academy on the Chinle campus, offering classroom space and facility usage for training their students who are ready to enter the Navajo Nation Law Enforcement. Our entire academic program takes our students through the programs, helping them explore different fields within law enforcement, especially here in the Navajo Nation. NTU Vice President Jason Arviso provided an update on the missing and murdered Dine Relatives database project, which provided precise data for the university and highlighted that we are also collaborating with other colleges and universities.

The Associate of Arts degree in Criminal Justice will provide a pathway for Navajo Police Officers with a Navajo Technical University certificate in Law Enforcement and better prepare those officers to compete for front-line supervisory positions. This is an opportunity for non-Navajo Police Department officers to obtain an education in law enforcement, preparing them for various law enforcement and regulatory compliance positions in the Navajo Nation and at the county, state, tribal, and federal levels.

Discover the potential to upskill your current role in a variety of areas, including:

- Corrections Worker and Advisor
- Immigration and Borderlands Expert
- Law and Advocacy
- Law Enforcement Forensic Specialist
- Loss Prevention Manager
- Paralegal and Legal Assistant



SKYHAWK PRESS

CHINLE INSTRUCTIONAL SITE

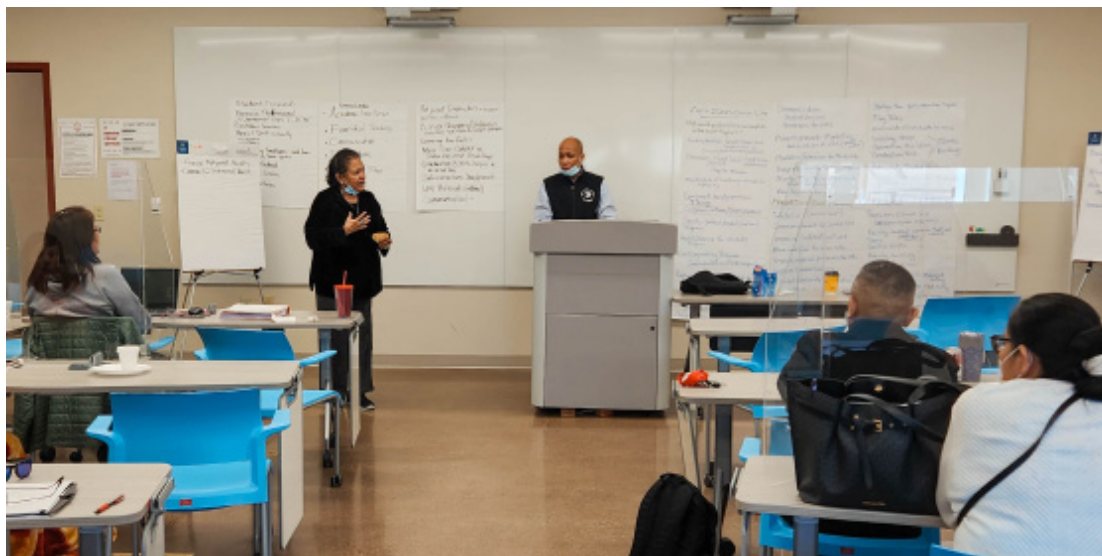
The Strategic Plan 2025-2030 Listening Sessions

Chinle, AZ – On September 11, 2024, Navajo Technical University outlines its goals for the entire university community every four years. To enhance the students' experience at NTU, Listening Sessions have been scheduled to receive feedback from the stakeholders.

The listening sessions were held in person and on Zoom. Participants included students, staff, and faculty from instructional sites in Crownpoint, NM; Kirtland, NM; Teec Nos Pos, AZ; and Zuni, NM. The purpose of these sessions was to collect feedback on the identified goals. Based on the information collected, the established priorities included the development of instructional sites, infrastructure, and financial services. The plan's significance was determined by considering the feedback received from the Chinle campus and the surrounding communities that NTU serves.

The University's administrators are committed to involving all stakeholders in updating its Strategic Priorities and setting an example of an inclusive planning process. This is a part of NTU's ongoing comprehensive strategic planning cycle.

This strategic plan has been formulated to strengthen NTU's culture and integrity, promote diversity within our community, and enhance the University with a range of innovative programs that will guide us over the next five years (2025-2030).



SAVE THE DATE

12th Annual Research Competition

March 6th, 2025
Begins at 9:00 am
NTU Wellness Center

For more information, contact Casmir Agbaraji at cagbaraji@navajotech.edu by Friday, November 15, 2024.

Spring 2025 Pre-Registration

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

NTU Land Grant Program Presents

Fall Planting Workshops
Seed Saving and Winter Sowing

October 18 and 25, 2024
10-12 PM

NTU Land Grant Building,
Crownpoint, NM

For more information, contact Land Grant Program at 505-387-7410 or email landgrant@navajotech.edu

SAVE THE DATE

Spring 2025 Pre-Registration

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

NTU Land Grant Program Presents

Fall Planting Workshops
Seed Saving and Winter
Sowing

October 18 and 25, 2024
10-12 PM

NTU Land Grant Building,
Crownpoint, NM

For more information,
contact Land Grant
Program at 505-387-
7410 or email landgrant@navajotech.edu

12th Annual Research Competition

March 6th, 2025
Begins at 9:00 am
NTU Wellness Center

For more information,
contact Casmir Agbaraji at
cagbaraji@navajotech.edu
by Friday, November 15,
2024.

Red Ribbon Week
October 21-29, 2024
NTU main campus,
Crownpoint, NM

For more information,
contact Cheryl Atine at
catine@navajotech.edu

NTU Featured Staff/Faculty

In 1999, Chef Robert Witte faced challenges when he joined our campus community. He had only three students, a recipe book for a text, and operated on a budget of around \$50. The program was confined to a small kitchen for instructional space, which became overcrowded as enrollment grew from three students to 25.

To accommodate the growing program, Chef Bob worked with Dr. Guy to secure state funds to build a new culinary arts and hospitality building. This new facility was equipped with professional-standard kitchen space, three hotel rooms, and an open hospitality room for catering. With the additional space, Chef Bob could also revise the program's curriculum to align with ACF standards, achieving certification in 2012.

Chef Bob's efforts have made NTU the only higher Indigenous Learning Institution accredited through the American Culinary Federation. The program has grown to over 150 students and now offers certificate and associate degrees in Culinary Arts and Commercial Baking, as well as a Bachelor of Applied Science in Hotel and Restaurant Administration, created in conjunction with the business program.

In 2022, Chef Bob secured exemplary status for NTU's Culinary Arts program, recognizing the highest educational standards by the American Culinary Federation Education Foundation Accrediting Commission (ACFEFAC). Executive Chef Robert Witte was one of four chefs selected for the Distinguished Chef Series at Benchmark Hospitality Inc. in Woodland, Texas. At the event, Chef Witte created a variety of dishes that blended Native American and Southwestern cuisine.

Chef Robert L. Witte, CEC, CCA, AAC, received the Presidential Medallion, the highest honor given by the President of the American Culinary Federation at the American Culinary Federation's National Convention in New Orleans, in 2023.

Chef Robert L. Witte was presented in recognition of the outstanding representation of the ACF's fundamental principles, including superior strength of character and continued contributions to ACF and the culinary industry. Chef Witte has had a distinguished career at NTU, contributing to the university's growth and the Navajo Nation over the past twenty years.

Contact Robert Witte, Navajo Technical University Master Technical Instructor/ Culinary Arts, at rwitte@navajotech.edu or visit www.navajotech.edu

