

SKYHAWK PRESS

A PART OF YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE

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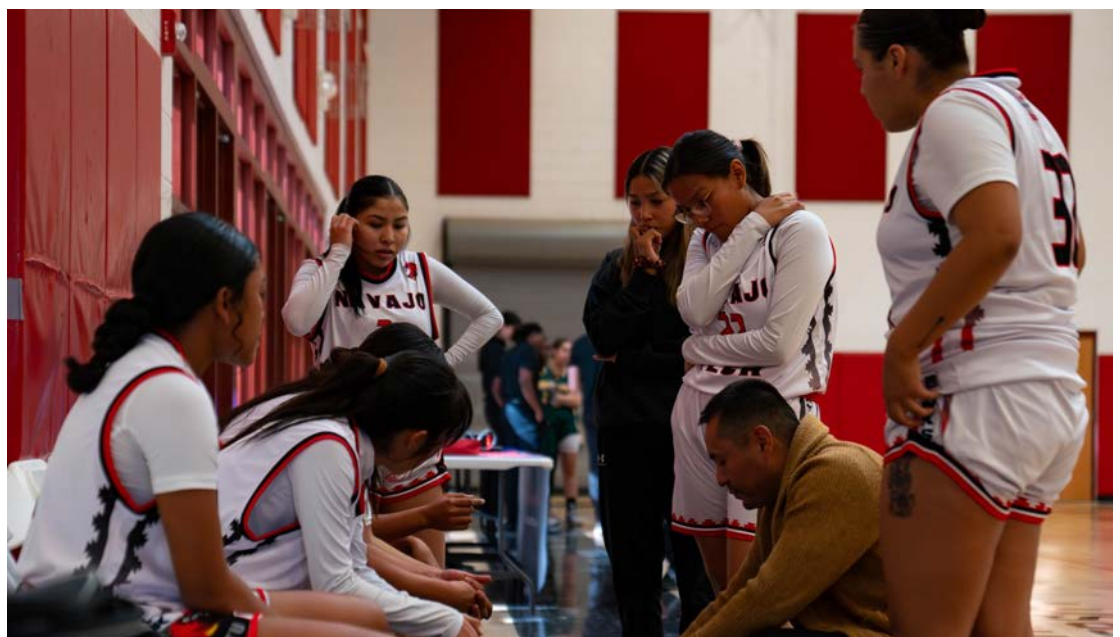
Navajo Technical University Skyhawks vs Yavapai College Roughriders

Crownpoint, NM—On November 1, 2024, the Navajo Technical University Women's Basketball team hosted the Yavapai College Roughriders for their inaugural matchup at the Wellness Center on NTU's Main Campus.

Coach Aanor Louis expressed confidence as his team prepared to take the court for their first home game. Yavapai started strong, quickly establishing a nearly twenty-point lead by halftime. The Navajo Tech squad struggled in the first quarter, making scoring difficult. However, adjustments made during the second quarter helped improve their performance and boosted the players' confidence.

During halftime, the team honored senior Sarah Dennison in her final year of collegiate eligibility. Coach Aanor acknowledged her veteran leadership over the past two seasons and her significant contributions to building the NTU Women's Basketball program. Although Sarah did not play in the game, she supported her teammates steadfastly throughout.

Fueled by the momentum gained before halftime, NTU began to find their rhythm, sinking shots more consistently and tightening their defense. They cut the Yavapai lead down to nine points late in the game. However, despite a strong effort, the Lady Skyhawks ultimately fell to Yavapai College with a final score of 44-60, ending the game on a 7-0 run.



7Gen Center: NAU & TCU Faculty Exchange Program
Presentation

Crownpoint, NM – On November 7, 2024, Dr. Jon Reyhner, a professor of education in the Department of Educational Specialties at Northern Arizona University, presented as part of the faculty exchange program between NAU and Navajo Technical University inside the Hospitality center.

The presentation discussed the importance for TCU faculty to know about their students’ experiential backgrounds and how they can adapt curriculum in various subject matter areas (i.e., science, government, history, literature, math, etc.) so that students can better understand that subject matter. In addition, instructional methods that have worked well in the past with Indigenous students, like project method, will be presented.

The NTU exchange program was established to meet the higher education needs of residents in Northern Arizona and the Navajo Nation. It provides academic advising and other services to contribute to student success.

For more information, contact:

Colin Ben
Assistant Director, Seven Generations Indigenous Knowledge Center
Northern Arizona University
E: nau.edu/onai
P: 928-523-3803

Dr. Colleen Bowman
NTU Provost
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P: 505.387.7401



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SAVE THE DATE

12th Annual Research Competition

March 6th, 2025

Begins at 9:00 am

NTU Wellness Center,

Submission is closed.

For more information,
contact Casmir Agbaraji at
cagbaraji@navajotech.edu

Western Dance

Presented by NTU

Student Senate

Performance by Western

Edge Band 2

January 25, 2025

8:00 PM to 11:00 PM

NTU, Crownpoint, NM

Public Event!

Contact for more
information at
ntustudentsenate@
navajotech.edu

NTU Final Exam Week

Students finish up the Fall
'24 semester.

December 9 - 12, 2024

NTU Fall Graduation

Friday, December 13, 2024

NTU Wellness Center,

Crownpoint, NM

10:00am – 3:00pm

NTU Biology Symposium

Crownpoint, NM - On Thursday, November 7, 2024, the Navajo Technical University School of Science and Biology program hosted its annual Biology Symposium at the Crownpoint Campus inside the Hospitality Center.

The symposium, which took place from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., was open to the public for in-person and online attendance. During the event, a panel of four current and former students from the Biology program shared their experiences with the program and the research conducted at NTU. Dr. Palmer Netongo emphasized the significance of the Biology Symposium during the official opening ceremony, led by the Chair of the School of Science, Prof. Irene Ane Anyangwe, and NTU Provost, Dr. Bowman.

Several Navajo Technical University (NTU) students participated in summer internships and secured graduate placements. Notable among them are Layla James, Francesca Noble (from the NARI Program), Makeiyla Begay, and Bianca Todacheenie.

Kyra Capitan, a student in the NTU Biology Program, served as the keynote speaker at the symposium. Her presentation, titled "Taking Advantage of Internship Opportunities," focused on her academic journey and the research she conducted at NTU, which helped her gain admission to Harvard University. She thanked the NTU Biology faculty for supporting and encouraging her educational pursuits. Kyra also shared her aspiration to return and educate future generations of the Navajo Nation.

Several NTU Biology students also researched issues affecting Navajo communities. Their projects included Debra Tolino's "Comparative Analysis of Escherichia coli (E. coli) and Coliform Contamination from Wells, Springs, and Municipal Water," Avery Begay's "Endophytic Fungi: Possible Source of Pinyon Tree Decline," David Willie's "Novel Soil Antibiotics against Mycobacterium smegmatis: A Model for Mycobacterium tuberculosis," Della Wilson's research on "Air Microbes with Possible Antimicrobial Properties against Gram-Positive and Gram-Negative Bacteria," and contributions from Danielle Ayza and Syerra Swartz.



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...



The longest English word is 189,819 letters long.

Kleenex tissues were originally intended for gas masks.



Blue whales eat half a million calories in one mouthful.



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Out4Undergrad Visit

On Wednesday, November 6, 2024, Jordan Dillard and Iman Serbones, recruiters from Out4Undergrad, visited NTU's main campus in Crownpoint, NM. During their visit, they shared valuable information about the opportunities Out4Undergrad offers students.

Jordan and Iman spoke at the various conferences hosted by Out4Undergrad throughout the year. These include conferences focused on business, engineering, life sciences, and digital, taking place nationwide. Each event attracts numerous companies and organizations looking to recruit upcoming graduates with additional internship opportunities for students during their undergraduate studies.

If you're interested in attending one of these conferences, please apply at the Out4Undergrad website at <https://www.outforundergrad.org/apply>. Applications are free, but students can attend only one conference per calendar year. Out4Undergrad covers all conference costs through sponsorships. A selection process is used to determine which applicants are chosen to attend.

"Out for Undergrad (O4U) invites high-achieving, LGBTQ2+ undergraduates to apply to one of three industry-specific conferences: Business, Engineering + Life Sciences, or Digital (Tech/Media/Marketing).



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Thanksgiving 5K Fun Run and Walk

Crownpoint, NM—On November 13, 2024, the 5K Fun Run and Walk event was a fantastic turnout. Witnessing the community come together at the Navajo Technical University (NTU) was thrilling. We would like to extend our gratitude to everyone who participated, as well as all the volunteers and organizers who contributed to making this event memorable.

Participants enjoyed a morning stroll around the NTU campus. In contrast, some individuals who could not walk the campus participated in the event by completing four laps inside the NTU Wellness Center Gymnasium. All participants received one of the Thanksgiving 5K Fun Run & Walk t-shirts. If you or someone you know would like to participate in upcoming events, please visit our campuses or contact us by phone or email.

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

Go Skyhawks!

For more information, contact:

Brenda Yazzie

NTU Recruiter

P: 505-488-3722

E: b.yazzie@navajotech.edu



Traditional Best Dressed

The NTU Student Senate successfully held a traditional outfit contest for Native American Heritage Month in the SUB conference room on November 13 at 3:30 PM. All winners received a \$75 gift card to the NTU bookstore. Contestants were divided into three categories: students, staff, and faculty.

Students:

- Cajaun Cleveland (winner)
- D'Andre Harker
- Taylor Pino
- Phillippa Willie
- Deneka Tsosie
- Michael Sanders
- Cassandra Tabaha

Staff:

- Kari Gibson (winner)
- MiCheryl Miller

Faculty:

- Sharon Nelson (winner)

We thank the judges for carefully considering the contestants: Former Miss NTU Samatha Antone, NTU Bookstore Assistant Kami Morgan, HR Training Coordinator Wilbur Tso, and others.

Thank you to everyone who participated!

For more information, contact:

NTU Student Senate

E: ntustudentsenate@navajotech.edu



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Dr. Astrid Morreale from the U.S. Department of Energy Visits NTU

Crownpoint, New Mexico—On November 14, 2024, Navajo Technical University hosted Dr. Astrid Morreale, Program Manager at the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Science.

Dr. Morreale presented to Dr. Abraham Meles Physics class students, discussing the opportunities that connect classroom learning to real-world innovations within the Department of Energy's research programs. She shared valuable insights into the DOE's laboratories and potential placements for students progressing with their research. The session was filled with career tips, knowledge, and inspiration that encouraged students to think beyond traditional boundaries. Thank you to Dr. Astrid Morreale and Dr. Abraham Meles for coordinating this presentation and inspiring our students to dream big and aim higher in their STEM journeys!

Navajo Technical University offers an excellent educational experience in a supportive and culturally diverse environment, enabling all community members to grow intellectually, culturally, and economically.

For more information, contact:

Dr. Abraham Meles

Physics Instructor

E: ameles@navajotech.edu



2024 N4WPP Water Symposium

Shiprock, NM – On November 15, 2024, High school students from all across the Navajo Nation participated in this year's annual Water Symposium, hosted by Diné College at their south campus in beautiful Shiprock, New Mexico.

The students faced various challenges, including working in groups for a water filter-building contest and participating in a hydrology quiz. The Water Symposium represents a collaboration between Navajo Technical University and the New Mexico Tech Navajo Nation Water Purification Project. This initiative is part of a long-term effort to provide clean drinking water to rural areas within the Navajo Nation. These two institutions have partnered to offer educational and research opportunities for students interested in STEM, hydrology, water resources, community outreach, and leadership. The U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Legacy Management (DOE-LM) currently funds the project.

Students from all participating high schools did an excellent job collaborating to build their team's water filter. Each team received a one-liter plastic soda bottle, sandwich bags filled with gravel, dirt, rice, cotton balls, rubber bands, and coffee filters. They placed the supplies layer by layer inside the pre-cut plastic bottle. Once their prototypes were complete, the testing began. Team members poured dirty water samples through the sand, gravel, and rice layers, ultimately filtering it through a final layer to produce cleaner drinking water. The keynote speaker for the symposium, Mr. Dwight Witherspoon, Water Rights Unit Attorney for the Navajo Nation Department of Justice, spoke to the students about his project, "Preserving Dinetah: Water Security for Generations." Mr. Witherspoon shared insights into his work, emphasizing the importance of the Indian water rights settlement in protecting tribal resources and securing a sustainable future. He discussed the complexities of the Indian Water Rights Settlement, underlining its significance in ensuring sustainable access to clean water for tribal communities.

Navajo Technical University would like to express gratitude to our partners, sponsors, participating students, and volunteers who contributed to the success of this event. Your enthusiasm, creativity, and teamwork were inspirational as we collaborated to find innovative solutions for clean water. NTU also thanks Diné College for graciously hosting us at their lovely south campus.



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6th Annual Chili & Salsa Cookoff

Crownpoint, NM – On November 18, 2024, the Department of Institutional Data & Reporting at Navajo Technical University hosted its 6th Annual Chili and Salsa Cook-Off at the NTU Wellness Center on the main campus. The event saw nine total entries across both the Chili and Salsa categories.

Open to the entire NTU community, the cook-off featured homemade chili and salsa prepared by students, staff, and faculty. Each contestant submitted their dish with an ingredient list, and small samples were offered to all attendees. Entries were judged in three distinct categories, with Sheena Begay, Director of Institutional Data & Reporting, selecting judges from within the NTU community to evaluate each dish. Attendees also had the opportunity to vote for their favorite in the “Fan Favorite” category.

The event attracted many NTU community members who came out to support the contestants. While the judges made their final decisions, the audience focused on choosing their top pick for the fan-favorite award. Afterward, Sheena Begay presented prizes to the top three winners in each competition division.

Sheena would like to thank all participants for making this year’s cook-off one of the largest in the event’s history. She also appreciates the judges’ time and effort in tasting and scoring the entries. Inspired by this year’s event’s strong turnout and community spirit, Sheena looks forward to next year’s cook-off.

Competition Results:

Chili Dish

1st place- Krista Goodluck (Student) “Classic Chili”

2nd place- Samatha Antone (Student) “Red Chili Popovers”

3rd place- Ophelia Descheny-Burnside (Staff) “Green Chili Stew”

Salsa

1st place- Ophelia Descheny-Burnside (Staff) “Salsa”

2nd place- Leah Brown (Staff) “Lin’s Salsa”

3rd place- Shirley Long (Staff) “Hot Chili Salsa”

Fan Favorite Award- Nicole Pino (Staff) “Sweet Heat”

Judge’s Choice- Samatha Antone (Student) “Red Chili Popovers”



2024 Fall Career Carnival Recap

The event, hosted by NTU Career Services, provided a unique opportunity for students to connect with NTU staff, faculty, and administrators through engaging five-minute chats inside the Wellness Center in Crownpoint, NM. Students explored how their majors and degree programs align with exciting career opportunities and future pathways.

We hope this event inspired you to think big about your career journey and gave you valuable insights into realizing your educational goals.

A special shoutout to our faculty, staff, and administrators who shared their time and experiences with our students—your guidance makes a difference!

For more information, contact:

Shawna Begay
Career Services Coordinator
P: 505-387-7372 ext: 1016
E: shawna.begay@navajotech.edu



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NTU Students Participate in the Annual Conference of the IEEE Electronics Society

Chicago, IL- On November 3-6, 2024, Electrical Engineering students Victoria Charlie and Conrad Begay from Navajo Technical University (NTU) recently had an exciting opportunity to attend a conference alongside Dr. Sundaram Arumugam, an Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering.

The IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) is a highly respected organization dedicated to advancing technology and engineering. It provides an excellent platform for professionals, researchers, and students to share knowledge, build networks, and collaborate on innovative projects.

The students contributed valuable insights in a conference paper titled "Improving Indoor Air Quality Using a Box Fan Filter in a Navajo Nation Home—Healthy Hooghan Project." This critical work was presented at the 50th IECON conference, which took place in Chicago from November 3rd to 6th. Their contributions reflect a solid commitment to improving living conditions and enhancing health within the Navajo community.

For more information about the program, contact:

Dr. Sundaram Arumugam
Assistant Professor in Electrical Engineering
E: sarumugam@navajotech.edu

Dr. Peter Romine
Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering
E: promine@navajotech.edu



NTU Rodeo Club Hosts Goat Roping Event

SMITH LAKE, NM - On November 21, 2024, the Navajo Technical University Rodeo Club proudly held an exciting fundraiser at the Spear 3 Grounds in Smith Lake, NM, to support the club's future activities and gear. It was a fantastic event!

More than 20 contestants participated in the event, some choosing to draw for their partners while others selected them. The members of the NTU Rodeo Club included Cajuan Cleveland (President), Tayor Pino (Vice President), Isaiah Tom (Treasurer), Drekell Johnson (team member), Francesca Noble (team member), and others. The club would like to extend their gratitude to Cordell Begay, the owner of Spear 3 Grounds, and to the contractors who provided over 40 goats for the event.

Congratulations to the winners:

- Donny: First Place; received a roping bag.
- Bill Dahozey: Second Place; received an NTU winter coat.
- Nate: Third Place; received an NTU sweater.

Navajo Technical University's rodeo program is a National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA) member. This program allows students to embrace New Mexico's rugged landscape while competing in various rodeo events. Student-athletes learn to work as a cohesive team with their livestock and teammates, representing Navajo Technical University with dedication and horsemanship skills.

For more information, contact:

Nicole Pino
NTU Rodeo Head Coach
P: 505.387.7385 ext.1029
E: npino@navajotech.edu



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2024 Navajo Technical University SKILLS Fest

Crownpoint, NM - On November 19, 2024, High school students from the Four Corners area visited our NTU main campus to explore some of our trade programs. These students showcased their talents in various trades, competing against one another to demonstrate their expertise. They were divided into groups and assigned to trade programs ranging from culinary arts to construction to welding.

The competitions included a variety of events, such as Automotive, Construction, Electrical, Welding, Culinary Arts, Baking, 3-on-3 Basketball, 4-on-4 Volleyball, Archery, a 3K Walk/5K run, and more.

The top three performers in each competition were awarded medallions: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. Students also enjoyed snacks, NTU merchandise, and lunch throughout the events. Each program highlighted unique traits and qualities, offering significant and excellent career opportunities.

Navajo Technical University would like to express our gratitude for your participation in this year's Skills Fest. This event offers valuable opportunities for our dual credit visits and aims to promote community engagement. We truly appreciate your time and support.

For more information, contact:

Candice S. Craig
Dual Credit Coordinator
E: c.craig@navajotech.edu
P: 505-387-7453



Thanksgiving Dinner for Students

On Tuesday, November 26, 2024, the Navajo Technical University Student Senate hosted a complimentary Thanksgiving dinner for students at the main campus. Michael McMillan and the NTU Student Senate partnered with Rooster's Catering to provide the meal, which featured traditional Thanksgiving dishes, including pumpkin pie. The Student Senate sincerely thanks Rooster's Catering for their generous support.

The NTU Student Senate also wishes everyone a safe and joyful Thanksgiving holiday. Please note that the NTU campus will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 28-29, in observance of the holiday. Normal campus operations will resume on Monday, December 2, 2024.

For more information, contact:

Michael McMillan
Student Life and Activities Coordinator
Men Skyhawks Basketball Head Coach
E: mmcmilan@navajotech.edu



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NTU Featured Student

Navajo Technical University would like to recognize Alyssen Yazzie from Indian Wells, AZ. She is born for the T0d7ch'ii'nii; her maternal grandfather is from the T0 aheadl77nii, and her paternal grandfather is !sh88h7. Alyssa received a general study associate degree from the University of New Mexico and attends NTU as a 2nd-year Veterinary Technology student at Navajo Technical University.

Alyssen is outstanding, boasting an incredible array of achievements. Last summer, she excelled in a Veterinary Services internship in Louisiana/ Mississippi. This summer, she's genuinely shining in a Wildlife Services internship in Tennessee with the USDA. Additionally, she proudly presented at the First Americans Land-Grant Consortium (FALCON) Conference.

Alyssen expresses her gratitude to her family for allowing her to prioritize her education. She is thankful to Dr. Daye and the NTU-Veterinary Teaching Hospital Staff for enabling her to develop as a student and an individual.

Alyssen Yazzie explained, "I decided to attend Navajo Technical University to pursue a career change from nursing to veterinary medicine. The university's proximity to my family in Gallup also played a big role in my decision. After speaking with my advisor and learning more about the Veterinary Technology intro course, I was intrigued and decided to register for the spring of 2023. The intro course solidified my choice to stick with the program."

For more information about the program, contact:

Germaine Daye, DVM
Director of Veterinary Teaching Hospital & Land Grant Program
Navajo Technical University
E: gdaye@navajotech.edu
P: 505-387-7410



NTU Featured Staff/Faculty

Dr. Wesley Thomas teaches graduate and undergraduate courses and is currently the Interim Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research. He belongs to the Hashtl'ishnii clan on his mother's side and the Tábaahá clan on his father's side. His maternal grandfather is Kinyaa'áanii, and his paternal grandfather is Tsi'naajinii. He is from Mariano Lake, NM. Dr. Thomas retired as a Full Professor and Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research at Navajo Technical University (NTU) in May 2021.

Dr. Thomas graduated from Thoreau High School in May 1973. He earned his AA degree from Navajo Community College in Tsaile, AZ 1975. He continued his education and obtained a BA in 1994, an MA in 1996, and a PhD in 1999 from the University of Washington in Seattle, WA.

Upon joining NTU in January 2011, Dr. Thomas took the initiative to develop the BA degree program in Diné culture, language, and leadership studies and established the School of Diné Studies. Subsequently, he established an MA program in Diné culture, language, and leadership in 2013, leading to the university's accreditation with the HLC.

Dr. Thomas was involved in establishing a Ph.D. program focused on Diné culture and language studies before retiring. He developed the initial proposal and curriculum for the degree. Before joining NTU, Dr. Thomas served as the Academic Dean at Diné College (DC) for four years. Additionally, Dr. Thomas played a crucial role as the Founding Director of Indiana University's First Nations Cultural and Education Center.

In his retirement, Dr. Thomas actively serves as the Co-Director of GALACTIC (Global Arts, Language Arts, Cultural Traditions of Indigenous Communities). Dr. Thomas also serves as the board of directors president for The Heartbeat Music Project. This project collaborated with Navajo Technical University and was awarded the Lewis Prize from New York City in 2022. The project aims to fulfill Dr. Thomas' dream of providing violin education. Dr. Thomas expressed, "It is now in the hands of Diné children to learn the instrument."

"I am glad to be back to be of help as the Interim Dean. Aside from that, I am amazed at the growth of NTU and the many new faces. I am teaching three courses this fall 2024: an undergraduate leadership class, a master's theory class, and a doctoral analytical class," Dr. Wesley Thomas stated.

Contact Dr. Wesley Thomas, the Interim Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research, at wthomas@navajotech.edu or visit www.navajotech.edu



SAVE THE DATE

12th Annual Research Competition

March 6th, 2025

Begins at 9:00 am

NTU Wellness Center,

Submission is closed.

For more information, contact Casmir Agbaraji at cagbaraji@navajotech.edu

Western Dance

Presented by NTU

Student Senate

Performance by Western

Edge Band 2

January 25, 2025

8:00 PM to 11:00 PM

NTU, Crownpoint, NM

Public Event!

Contact for more information at ntustudentsenate@navajotech.edu

NTU Final Exam Week

Students finish up the Fall '24 semester.

December 9 - 12, 2024

NTU Fall Graduation

Friday, December 13, 2024

NTU Wellness Center,

Crownpoint, NM

10:00am – 3:00pm