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2025 Eastern Navajo Nation Inauguration

CROWNPOINT, NM - On January 6, 2025, the 2025 Eastern Navajo Nation Inauguration took place at the Navajo Technical University Wellness Center in Crownpoint, NM.

The event began with registration at 8:00 AM and the official ceremony at 9:00 AM. The Navajo Election Administration proudly welcomed newly elected leaders, including:

- Chapter Officials
- Grazing Committee Members
- School Board Members

It was a memorable day celebrating leadership and community, marking the beginning of a new chapter for the Navajo Nation. Thank you to everyone who joined us in honoring these dedicated individuals!



Dr. Guy, NTU President, Honors the Legacy of Dr. Charles “Monty” Roessel

Crownpoint, NM – Navajo Technical University (NTU) joins Diné College and the Navajo Nation in mourning the profound loss of Dr. Charles “Monty” Roessel, a leader in Navajo education who passed away peacefully on Monday, January 6, 2025.

Dr. Guy, President of NTU, issued the following statement:

“Today, we honor the life and legacy of Dr. Charles ‘Monty’ Roessel. Monty was among the most respected tribal college leaders in the United States.

Monty’s parents, Robert and Ruth Roessel, were among the Navajo leaders who founded Navajo Community College (now Diné College), the first tribal college in the country. Diné College jump-started the tribally controlled higher education movement, transforming Indigenous education worldwide. When Monty assumed the college’s presidency, he brought this sense of historic importance with him and progressive thought that has benefitted the Navajo people and their long-term future.

Monty’s dedication transformed Diné College and inspired countless students; his passion for education innovation and cultural preservation empowered the Navajo Nation and extended far beyond the college. He was a true Nataani.

As the President of Navajo Technical University, I feel like the world is a different place as yet another great tribal leader passes. Leaders as significant as Monty are rare and should always be valued. I have always considered Monty a friend and a colleague, and I cannot express how much I believe that all Navajo and the tribal college and university movement nationwide will miss him.

Dr. Roessel’s legacy is one of hope and achievement. His work strengthened Diné College and the entire network of tribal colleges and universities nationwide. His vision and commitment to our shared values of K’é and education as a pathway to sovereignty will forever inspire us.

On behalf of NTU, I offer my deepest condolences to his family, friends, and all he touched. We stand in solidarity with Diné College and the Roessel family, honoring a leader whose legacy will endure.”



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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

NTU Library Hosts Valentine's Week

February 11-13, 2025
NTU Library, Main Campus
For more information contact Marla Rafael at 505-387-7467 or email m.rafael@navajotech.edu

NTU Spring Graduation Petition

Deadline: Feb. 28, 2025
NTU Skyhawk Central
Crownpoint, NM.
For more information contact Jerlynn Henryl at 505-387-7362 or email jhenry@navajotech.edu

President's Day Observed

February 17, 2025
NTU Campuses will be closed during this commemoration.

Navajo Technical University Team Named Phase 1 Winner in the U.S. Department of Energy American-Made TCU Energy and Food Sovereignty Nexus Prize

Washington, DC – On January 8, 2024, the NTU Environmental Science team was awarded \$40,000 for their plan to increase renewable energy and food sovereignty on campus. Navajo Technical University has been recognized as the winner of the U.S. Department of Energy American-Made TCU Energy and Food Sovereignty Nexus Prize!

Special thanks to the Food Sovereignty & Energy Nexus on the Navajo Land team, consisting of Dr. Abhishek RoyChowdhury, Darlene Wilson, Davina Spencer, and Christine Whitehorse, for developing a winning submission. This team has developed a project plan to enhance the campus garden that Environmental Science students have cultivated from scratch over the past two years. The garden has flourished with various crops, and the team aims to revitalize the connection between the Navajo people and their land by promoting food sovereignty and sustainable agriculture. They accomplish this by integrating Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), modern sustainable technologies, and community education at Navajo Technical University. Their efforts foster healthy communities and contribute to a resilient future within the Navajo Nation.

Under the guidance of Dr. RoyChowdhury, students participate in community workshops that focus on planting and irrigation techniques within the university garden. The project employs traditional Navajo farming methods, harvests rainwater, and incorporates solar-powered irrigation systems. Dr. Roychowdhury expressed gratitude, stating, "This is a huge motivation for our students, department, and the NTU family. Thank you, everyone, for your unwavering support of our department and students."

Each Phase 1 winner's TCU received a \$40,000 cash prize for their outstanding work. The Food Sovereignty & Energy Nexus on Navajo Land team and other Phase 1 winners will now advance to Phase 2a. In this phase, they will complete all necessary pre-work and obtain permits for the construction of their project, competing for a chance to win an additional \$75,000 cash award before building their project.



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...



Cows don't have upper front teeth.

Thanks to 3D printing, NASA can basically email tools to astronauts.



Only a quarter of the Sahara Desert is sandy.

The American-Made Tribal College and University (TCU) Energy and Food Sovereignty Nexus Prize provides \$4.1 million directly to TCUs for student-led projects to plan and construct renewable energy systems that support Tribal food sovereignty initiatives on TCU campuses. This prize is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs and is administered by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

For more information, contact:

Abhishek RoyChowdhury, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Environmental Science and Natural Resources

P: 505-387-7434

E: aroychowdhury@navajotech.edu



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Registered Nursing Blessing Ceremony and Orientation

Crownpoint, NM - Navajo Technical University announced the launch of the Registered Nurse Program on January 14, 2025, including the Program Orientation afternoon session for RN students.

Dr. Cristina Carpenter, the Interim Director of the RN Program, introduced herself and several new faculty and team members in the hospitality room. The Nursing Program at NTU has faced challenges in maintaining operations, which include securing approval from the New Mexico State Board of Nursing, the Higher Learning Commission, and the NTU Faculty. The 78-credit program is designed to be completed over four to five semesters, after which students will be prepared to serve their communities.

In recent years, Dr. Michelle Kahn John, now serving as the RN Program Consultant, along with the administration, faculty, and staff at Navajo Technical University, has worked diligently to reopen the Nursing Program.

The Nursing Program faculty presented nursing kits to the students who had already been admitted. Enrollment in the registered nurse (RN) program marks the beginning of training designed for future registered nurses. Mr. Anson Etsitty, Sr. from Many Farms, AZ, offered a traditional blessing. He began the ceremony with a cleansing prayer inside the hospitality building. The event also included songs, prayers, and a lunch for attendees.

Dr. Carpenter introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Adriann Begay, who spoke about the importance of healthcare. She is mentoring fellows based in the Navajo Nation through Health, Equity, Action & Leadership (HEAL). Dr. Begay worked for the Indian Health Service for 21 years, initially at Salt River Clinic under the Phoenix Indian Medical Center and then for four years as a primary care provider. She also served as an urgent care physician and administrator at Gallup Indian Medical Center for 17 years. Her career is dedicated to improving healthcare for American Indians and Alaskan Natives (AI/AN), focusing on increasing the pipeline of AI/AN students who can return to their communities to provide care.



New Student Spring Orientation 2025

Crownpoint, NM—On Thursday, January 16, 2025, Navajo Technical University (NTU) hosted its New Student Orientation for incoming students beginning the spring semester inside the Wellness Center. Shawna Begay, NTU's Career Services Coordinator, led the orientation, offering essential information to help students prepare for the start of classes this spring. The event started with a welcome address from Jerlynn Henry, Dean of Student Services, followed by an inspiring message from NTU Provost Dr. Bowman.

The orientation allowed new students to familiarize themselves with NTU's wide range of services. Representatives from key departments delivered brief presentations, including Residential Life, Financial Aid, Career Services, Admissions, the Bookstore, IT, the Library, Transportation, Athletics, Student Activities, and Student Services. These sessions helped students learn about available resources and offered valuable tips to support their success. Additionally, many departments set up informational booths throughout the Wellness Center, allowing students to ask questions and learn more about available services.

We wish all NTU students a successful and rewarding semester ahead!

For more information, contact:

Jerlynn Henry
Dean of Student Services
E: jhenry@navajotech.edu



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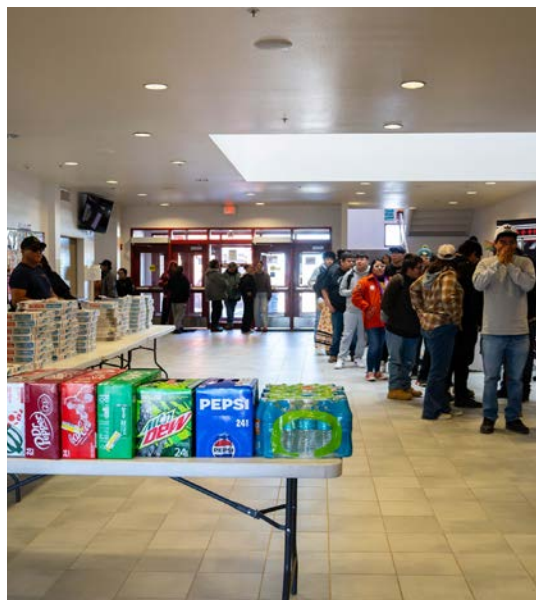
NTU Pizza Social

Crownpoint, NM - On Wednesday, January 22, 2025, Michael McMillan and the NTU Student Services team organized a pizza social at the NTU main campus to kick off the first week of the spring semester. The event was open to the entire NTU community and saw a fantastic turnout, providing an excellent opportunity for students, faculty, and staff to connect and engage with one another.

Michael and his team wish all NTU students a successful and fulfilling semester, and they extend their heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to making the event such a success.

For more information, contact:

Micheal McMillan
Student Life and Activities Coordinator
NTU Men's Basketball Coach
E: mmcmillan@navajotech.edu
P: 505.387.7444



Many Farms High School Visits NTU

Crownpoint, NM - On Wednesday, January 22, 2025, Many Farms High School students visited the main campus. Upon arrival, Brenda Yazzie warmly welcomed them to the Wellness Center, where she outlined the day's campus tour schedule. Brenda was later joined by George LaFrance and Coach Martin Perry, who provided an overview of NTU's athletics programs.

During the campus tour, the group visited the Science Department and several of NTU's trades programs, including Construction Technology, Electrical Trades, and Welding. Students had the opportunity to meet the professors of each program, gaining valuable insights into student life and the various opportunities available in these fields. The tour also included a stop at the library, where Marla Rafael, the Circulation Supervisor, gave a brief tour of the facility and highlighted the student services offered.

Before departing, the students enjoyed lunch in the NTU cafeteria. If you're interested in arranging a campus tour for your school, please contact Brenda Yazzie, NTU's recruiter, who would be happy to assist with setting up a visit in the future.

For more information, contact:

Brenda Yazzie
NTU Recruiter
P: (505) 387-7427
E: b.yazzie@navajotech.edu



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SHÁ'BEK'EHGO AS'AH OODÁÁŁ Presentation

Crownpoint, NM – On January 27, 2025, Mr. Rich Begay from the Navajo Area Office of Indian Health Services visited the NTU main campus, specifically SUB Room 231. During his visit, Mr. Begay presented the Navajo Wellness Model, which emphasizes four core teachings essential for maintaining mental health and wellness at NTU: Self-Identity, Self-Respect and Reverence, Self-Care, and Self-Protection of Self.

The Navajo Wellness Model beautifully blends a social-ecological perspective with the rich principles of Navajo philosophy. This approach encourages the Navajo community to embrace uplifting practices like running toward the sun each morning, prioritizing self-care, and nurturing their homes and beloved pets. It's an inspiring pathway to holistic health and well-being!

The presentation was conducted in-person and in Zoom for those unable to make it. Mr. Begay received overwhelmingly positive feedback from students, staff, and faculty participants for conducting in Navajo and English. Special thanks go to NTU Counseling Services for organizing the training and acknowledging the Navajo Wellness Model and its participants.

For more information, contact:

Cheryll Atine, NTU Student Counselor
Student Counseling Services

P: (505) 387-7473

E: c.atine@navajotech.edu



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CHINLE INSTRUCTIONAL SITE

PO Box 849, Chinle, AZ 86503

Enrollment Day for the Spring Semester of 2025 in Chinle, Arizona

Chinle, AZ—On January 8, 2025, Navajo Technical University's Chinle instructional site came alive during on-campus enrollment days. The event provided prospective students with valuable information about our program showcases, financial aid, admissions, enrollment, transportation, and more.

The enrollment days go beyond just administrative tasks; they provide an opportunity to reconnect, network, and collaborate, fostering a strong sense of community. The joy of seeing familiar faces, exchanging ideas, and sharing stories sets a positive tone before everyone dives back into classes and projects. With the Spring semester of 2025 just around the corner, future enrollment days promise to be vibrant and welcoming. Stay tuned for upcoming events at Navajo Technical University—you won't want to miss out on the fun!

NTU Chinle Instructional Site continues to thrive with academic programs and new infrastructure while expanding opportunities for NTU's corporate and educational initiatives.

For more information, contact:

Jarvis Draper
NTU Chinle Site Recruiter
E: jdraper@navajotech.edu
P: 92-882-3155



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KIRTLAND INSTRUCTIONAL SITE

40 Road 6580, Kirtland, NM 87417

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Spring 2025 Orientation - NTU Kirtland Instructional Site

The Navajo Technical University Student Orientation in Kirtland, New Mexico, brought together students from the Four Corners region in the Bond Wilson Banquet Room, marking the beginning of their journey toward a brighter future through education.

NTU Kirtland Site Director, Garrett Yazzie, introduced the campus as an extension of the main site, offering unique programs like plumbing alongside established ones such as mathematics, science, and humanities. Dody Begay followed with a presentation on the NTU Single Sign-On System, highlighting its role in providing students easy access to emails, coursework, and other resources like financial aid and academic calendars.

Shawna Begay, Career Services Coordinator, detailed the support available through Student Career Services, including resume building, job search assistance, and career counseling. She also discussed TimelyCare, a mental health and wellness platform under NTU Counseling Services, encouraging students to utilize these tools for personal and academic success.

Bookstore Assistant, Kami Morgan, explained how students could conveniently purchase books online or in-person to prepare for their classes.

Campus Director, Frank Todacheeny, spoke about the Teec Nos Pos site, emphasizing its accessible location and strong academic programs tailored to support students in the Four Corners area.

Guest speaker Jonathan Nez closed the event with an inspiring message about overcoming adversity and striving for success. He reminded students to stay balanced and mindful by saying, "Take care of yourself—physically, spiritually, and emotionally, while thinking good things." He encouraged students to honor the legacy of the Navajo people while pursuing their dreams with determination.



NTU Featured Staff

Twila Largo is a member of the Kiyaa'aanii clan and is born for the Ashiihi clan. Her maternal grandparents are from the Kinlichii'nii clan, and her paternal grandparents are from the Tachii'nii clan. She resides in Crownpoint, NM, but is originally from Ahwatukee, AZ. Twila was educated in the Kyrene School District in West Chandler, AZ, and graduated from Mountain Pointe High School, home of the Pride.

In 2013, Twila moved back to Crownpoint to live with her sister because she missed the Navajo culture. With the encouragement of her family and parents, she enrolled at Navajo Technical University to study in the early childhood multicultural education program. However, wanting to help others, she quickly transferred to the School of Business.

While at the university, Twila interned as an administrative assistant under George LaFrance, the Athletics Director. She gained valuable experience during this internship, noting, "He taught me how to manage events, understand the attendees, and guide them around campus." Since then, Twila has embraced a healthy lifestyle and encourages other students to do the same through sports and workouts.

She was an active secretary in the Student Senate, taking detailed notes on key points, decisions, action items, and essential discussions during meetings. Twila ensured a record of what was discussed and identified who was responsible for each task, effectively capturing critical information, including student concerns. Twila remarked, "The difficult part was balancing work, parenting, and being a student. Being part of the team and receiving that recognition was good enough for me."

As an administrative assistant to the Vice President of Operations, she views her current role as a stepping stone to various careers in education, including educational administration, school counseling, and social work.

In this capacity, Twila helps others by managing budgets, schedules, disciplinary actions, and event planning. "Having keen attention to detail, excellent organizational skills and a passion for connecting with students and teachers are essential qualities for an administrative assistant," Twila concluded.



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NTU Featured Alumni

In the spring of 2006, Sheena Begay began her journey at the Crownpoint Institute of Technology (CIT) in Crownpoint, New Mexico, during a transformative period for the institution.

Sheena pursued a major in law advocacy and earned an associate's degree. Coming from a rural area of the Navajo Nation located between Rough Rock and Chilchinbeto, Arizona, she was already familiar with remote living. Raised in a home without indoor plumbing or electricity, her family—which included her parents and nine siblings—relied on hauling water for their daily needs and livestock. The nearest town with essential services was an hour away, giving her a newfound appreciation for the conveniences in her CIT dorm room, where even a tiny refrigerator brought her joy.

Sheena graduated from the University of New Mexico (UNM) in 2013 and embraced motherhood while contributing to Navajo Technical University's (NTU) growth. In the fall of 2024, she earned her Master's in Management Information Systems from NTU with a 4.0 GPA.

As the Director of Institutional Data and Reporting, Sheena emphasizes the importance of data-driven decision-making across the university. "Data has become an indispensable tool for shaping strategic initiatives and enhancing outcomes," she stated. She welcomes data requests and believes that identifying issues is crucial for driving positive change.

One major project involved analyzing NTU's persistence, retention, and graduation rates to improve student completion rates. Utilizing Jenzabar for data extraction and Excel for analysis, Sheena organizes data into customized department sheets, allowing her to identify trends and insights for stakeholders.

Reflecting on her journey, Sheena says, "I am profoundly grateful. My parents, who earned their associate degrees while working full-time, inspire me with their commitment and teachings, reminding me to seize every opportunity and believe in my potential."



NTU Featured Student

Kory Begay, a member of the Tl'aaschi'l clan from Rough Rock, AZ, is pursuing his educational goals at Navajo Technical University (NTU). He completed his associate's degree as an administrative office specialist at the Chinle instructional site. He is pursuing a bachelor's degree in business administration at the NTU main campus.

Kory has been an active member of the NTU community, serving as a student recruiter, treasurer of the Student Senate, and peer navigator. He has guided his peers in choosing programs and accessing essential resources like SNAP and Medicaid. His commitment to academic success is commendable.

Choosing NTU for its affordability and proximity to home, Kory shifted his focus to a business degree during the COVID-19 pandemic, showing resilience and determination.

As a student recruiter under Shawna Begay, he coordinated community workshops and outreach initiatives, visited schools, and engaged with potential students. His team also strategized visits to middle schools, high schools, colleges, chapter houses, tribal fairs, and flea markets. Additionally, they engaged in discussions with groups and individual students and liaised with school counselors to promote outreach initiatives.

"I am immensely grateful to Christine Reidhead for her invaluable lessons during my degree program. Her encouragement inspired me to aim higher, and I also appreciate Philip Quink for the knowledge I gained from him," Kory shared.

The unwavering support of Kory's family and friends has been a constant source of strength for him. Hailing from Rough Rock, AZ, his family diligently tends to his livestock. Currently residing in Crownpoint, NM, he is enthusiastic about pursuing further education to earn a Bachelor's degree. Kory is optimistic and eager to take on this new chapter in his academic journey.



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