

SKYHAWK PRESS

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David Skeets Elementary School Visits NTU Main Campus

Crownpoint, NM – On Tuesday, February 4, 2025, David Skeets Elementary School students visited the NTU Main Campus. Upon arrival, George LaFrance, the NTU Athletics Director, welcomed the group and provided an overview of the day's agenda in the Wellness Center. He also introduced students to several athletic programs, including the cross-country and archery teams.

The students were divided into three smaller teams, each led by a current NTU student, and toured various campus facilities. Stops included the Computer Science, Culinary Arts, Electrical Trades departments, the Library, Fab Lab, the Science and Technology Building, and the Student Union Building. During the tour, instructors and department members engaged with the students, answering their questions and sharing insights about their programs.

The visit concluded with lunch in the Cafeteria before the students departed. Those interested in arranging a campus tour for their students should contact Brenda Yazzie, who will gladly assist.

For more information, contact:

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



SFIS Presents: HINU INDIANS VS NTU SKYHAWKS

Santa Fe, NM—On February 7, 2025, an exciting basketball showdown occurred at the Everett F. Chavez Pueblo Pavilion. The men’s and women’s teams from Navajo Technical University competed against Haskell Indian Nations University.

Hosted by Santa Fe Indian Schools, the evening began with the women’s basketball game at 5 PM and concluded with the men’s game at 7 PM. The gym was filled with alumni and fans who passionately cheered for their teams throughout the game.

In the women’s game, the Navajo Technical University basketball team played against Haskell Indian Nations University in their final season match. Despite facing challenges throughout the season, Coach Aanor Louis and the team remain dedicated to improving in future games. The final score was 50 for Navajo Technical University and 100 for Haskell.

During the men’s game, the Skyhawks showcased their offensive and defensive skills, making notable progress as they tried to close the score gap. However, they faced a seasoned rival in Haskell, who ultimately took control of the game, resulting in a final score of 44 for Navajo Technical University and 90 for Haskell.

The competitive spirit was evident as both teams gave their all on the court. With more experience and dedication, the Skyhawks are determined to return stronger next season, ready to compete and strive for victory.

For more information, contact:

Michael McMillan
NTU Head Men’s Basketball Coach
E: mmcmillan@navajoetech.edu

Aanor Louis
Assistant Professor of New Media
Women’s Basketball Head Coach
E: alouis@navajotech.edu



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SAVE THE DATE

The American Indian College Fund

The AICF will be visiting
the main campus on
March 25, 2025 from 9
AM to 2 PM.

NTU Spring Career Expo

March 27, 2025
NTU Wellness Center,
Crownpoint, NM
For more information
contact Shawna Begay
at [shawna.begay@
navajotech.edu](mailto:shawna.begay@navajotech.edu)

NTU Skirt Making

March 31 2025
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[ntustudentsenate@
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NTU Spring Break

Monday - Friday, March
17 – 21, 2025.

NTU Wishes everyone
a safe and enjoyable
break!

Navajo Technical University, USDA, Land Grant Program

Crownpoint, NM—On February 4th and 7th, 2025, the NTU Vet Tech-USDA Land Grant Program hosted a presentation and workshop for NTU students and the surrounding communities.

Plant Protection and Quarantine Officer Matthew Lipton visited NTU to discuss internship opportunities for students seeking a career within the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This presentation in the Student Union Building emphasized the importance of hands-on experiences in pest detection and regulatory compliance to prepare students for careers in agricultural biosecurity.

Additionally, Carol M. Palmer led a gardening workshop at the NTU Veterinary modular classrooms, teaching participants essential care techniques for household plants, including cleaning methods and soil selection. This session showcased NTU's commitment to community learning.

We encourage you to contact the NTU Land Grant office to learn about our many workshops and presentations alongside a USDA Animal Care presentation for those passionate about animals and agriculture. The workshops will explore career paths, degree requirements, and internship opportunities in animal health—don't miss out!

NTU's Associate of Applied Science in Veterinary Technology program provides hands-on training that prepares students for the Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE). Our Land Grant Department promotes education in agriculture and health, empowering students to strengthen their communities.



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...



Bananas grow upside down.

There were active volcanoes on the moon when dinosaurs were alive.



Dogs sniff good smell with their left nostril.

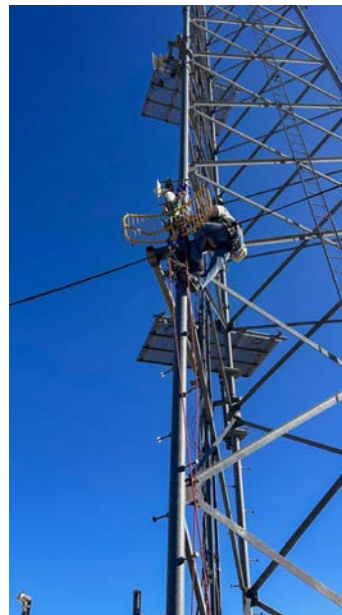
NTU Radio Station KCZY Outfits New System to Increase Reliability

Crownpoint, NM—NTU Radio station KCZY 107.3 received an upgrade to its transmission system to ensure its continuous 6000W broadcast, which covers most of the Eastern Navajo Nation.

The installation increases reliability during electrical outages, reduces the recovery time from brownouts, and mitigates other failures that cause the station to go off-air.

As KCZY has been upgrading, the online radio broadcast has been temporarily deactivated. Since launching the new NTU website, the previous online streaming services have required upgrades and certificates. KCZY Manager Cuyler Frank has prioritized the matter and plans to get KCZY back online immediately. The new online platform will include an interactive radio webpage with a social media presence.

KCZY station utilizes students and local volunteers to shape its programming under the direction of an advising committee.



SAVE THE DATE

NTU Veterinary Hospital Equine Vet Services Event

- March 25 - 26, 2025
Chine Instructional Site,
Chinle, AZ

- March 27 - 28, 2025
Crownpoint, NM,

For more information
contact NTU Vet
Hospital @ 505.387.7410

Bird Flu Presentation

- March 21, 2025
NTU Chinle Campus,
Chinle, AZ
Classroom 116 & 118
10 AM - 12 PM

- April 4, 2025
Kayenta Chapter,
Kayenta, AZ
12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

- April 18, 2025
Bethel Christian
Reformed Church,
Shiprock, NM
10 AM - 12 PM

- April 25, 2025
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Navajo Pine High School Campus Tour

Crownpoint, NM—On Wednesday, February 12, 2025, Navajo Pine High School students visited the main campus of Navajo Technical University (NTU) for an insightful campus tour. NTU recruiter Brenda Yazzie warmly welcomed the students and presented them with NTU backpacks filled with informational materials and small school supplies.

The tour began at the Student Union Building, where Brenda outlined the day's agenda and detailed the various programs the group would visit. Students also got a chance to explore key facilities, including the tutoring center, game room, and wellness center. From there, Brenda guided the group to the Biology labs. Dr. Irene Ane Anyangwe gave an engaging program overview and shared exciting student projects from the current semester.

Next, the tour continued to the Trades Building, making stops at several key departments: Culinary Arts, Construction Technology, Welding, Electrical Trades, and Automotive Technology. At each location, the group observed live classes in session, offering an authentic glimpse into the NTU student experience. Instructors from each program shared brief presentations about their courses and highlighted the success stories of NTU alums.

The final stop of the tour took the students to the dormitories, where they learned about the student housing options available at NTU, important details on the application process, and deadlines for prospective students. Those interested in arranging a campus tour for their students should contact Brenda Yazzie, who will gladly assist.

For more information, contact:

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



AIHEC's 2025 Annual Legislative Summit

Washington, DC – From February 4 to February 7, students from Navajo Technical University traveled to Washington, D.C., to advocate for Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) and Tribal communities.

The students involved included Samantha Antone, Student Senate President; Dwayne Lake, Student Veterans Mentor; and Teira Francis, AIHEC Southwest Regional Representative. They participated in the annual AIHEC Legislative Summit alongside fellow students from TCUs nationwide. This trip provided valuable insights into the impact of education and highlighted the critical role each student plays in advocating for all TCUs.

The students had the opportunity to meet inspiring Native individuals, underscoring the importance of keeping their stories and experiences visible and heard, regardless of the circumstances.

Throughout the week, the students connected with fellow students, staff, and, most importantly, Senators and Representatives who supported them. The week concluded with engaging discussions on topics such as internships, scholarships, and protecting opportunities for all Native students.

The students from Navajo Technical University represented TCUs in New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah. They are grateful for the chance to attend the 2025 AIHEC Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C. NTU would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Diné College, the Institute of American Indian Arts, Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute, San Carlos College, and Tohono O'odham Community College for their staff and students who supported us.

Each year, AIHEC hosts a legislative summit for its member TCUs, facilitating face-to-face meetings with lawmakers to discuss our colleges' successes, challenges, and needs. In support of these efforts, Congress has designated the week of February 3, 2025, as National Tribal College Week.



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NTU Student Senate Valentine's Dance and Candy Gram Sale

Crownpoint, NM - On February 10, 2025, Navajo Technical University's Student Senate recently held their annual Valentine's Dance, marking the first dance of the semester! This event was a perfect opportunity for attendees to dance the night away and create unforgettable memories. Guests were encouraged to dress in their Valentine's best and join in the fun on the 2nd Floor of the Gym at the Main Campus.

The following day, students, staff, and faculty set up in the SUB Lobby to spread love and joy with Valentine Candy Grams. The NTU community had the chance to select something special to surprise their friends, family, or significant others with a heartfelt treat. This initiative was an excellent way to show appreciation and brighten someone's day. With support from various clubs and groups, the Student Senate aimed to make this Valentine's celebration even more special for our campus community.

For more information, contact:
NTU Student Senate
E: ntustudentsenate@navajotech.edu



NTU AIHEC Women's Basketball vs. NTU Women's Basketball Scrimmage

Crownpoint, NM—The NTU AIHEC Women's Basketball team recently played the NTU Women's Basketball team in a friendly scrimmage. This game provided both teams with a valuable opportunity to sharpen their skills and focus on areas for improvement. More importantly, it brought the NTU community together to support our athletes.

The AIHEC Women's team is preparing to compete in the AIHEC 2025 National Basketball Tournament, scheduled for March 23-26, 2025, at the College of the Muscogee Nation in Okmulgee, OK. Tribal college student-athletes from across the United States will compete for the championship title. Let's go, Skyhawks

For more information:

George LaFrance
Athletics Director / Wellness Center Manager
E: glafrance@navajotech.edu
P: 505.387.7477



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Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institue vs. Navajo Technical University - AIHEC Ready

Crownpoint, NM - On February 15, 2025, the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute arrived at Navajo Technical University's main campus, setting the stage for an unforgettable day of competition. The events included coed volleyball, men's basketball, and women's basketball, with intense battles from start to finish.

The day began with a high-energy coed volleyball match, where both teams fought with determination and intensity. Every serve, spike, and dive showcased the athletes' resilience and skill. Although the Skyhawks fell short in this match, their effort and teamwork laid the groundwork for the upcoming games. When the basketball teams took to the court, it was clear they came to compete. With sharp passes, calculated shots, and relentless defense, the Skyhawks elevated the level of play. The atmosphere in the arena was electric, as fans created an incredible environment for the players to draw inspiration from.

Now, we eagerly look forward to seeing the Navajo Technical University basketball and volleyball teams bring that same passion and drive to the 2025 AIHEC National Basketball Tournament, scheduled for March 23-26, 2025, at the College of the Muscogee Nation in Okmulgee, OK. Tribal college student-athletes from across the nation will compete for the championship title, and we know the Skyhawks are ready to rise to the challenge.

Let's go, Skyhawks!

For more information, contact:

George LaFrance
Athletics Director / Wellness Center Manager
E: glafrance@navajotech.edu
P: 505.387.7477



Saanii Skirt Workshop Presented by Student Services

Crownpoint, NM—On Wednesday, February 19, 2025, NTU Student Services hosted a Saanii Skirt Workshop in Room 231 of the SUB building. This event was open to the entire NTU community and provided step-by-step guidance for participants of all skill levels.

Student Services supplied all the necessary materials for making the skirt, and student assistants supported participants throughout the process. NTU Student Services would like to thank everyone who contributed to making this the inaugural event of their workshop series.

Another skirt-making workshop is scheduled for March 31, 2025.

For more information, contact:

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NSSC Coordinator
P: 505-387-7358
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Gardening Workshop: Seed Starting & Seed Cakes

Crownpoint, NM - On Friday, February 21, 2025, participants gathered at the Veterinary modular classrooms for an engaging workshop led by Carol M. Palmer. The workshop focused on the fascinating process of seed germination and various planting techniques.

One standout method discussed was the Seed Tape Method, which provides a creative and practical way to start seeds efficiently. Participants crafted their seed tapes using simple materials such as toilet paper, Elmer's glue, and various seeds, including onions, carrots, and radishes. This hands-on activity equipped them with valuable skills to kickstart their gardening journey.

This workshop is just one of many exciting, hands-on learning experiences that NTU proudly offers to inspire growth, creativity, and community connection. Whether you're interested in agriculture, science, or skilled trades, NTU provides a supportive environment where you can learn, experiment, and thrive.

Join us and become part of something greater! Explore our diverse programs across the NTU campuses in the Navajo Nation and take the first step toward a future filled with discovery and opportunity. Apply today and start your journey with NTU!

For more details, please contact the NTU Land Grant at 505-387-7410. Let's build your future—this institution is dedicated to empowering you!



NTU Rodeo Team Shares Expertise Through Community Bull Riding Clinic

Coolfield, AZ—On February 22nd, 2025, the NTU Rodeo Team went beyond the competition by hosting a Bull Riding Clinic. This event shared essential rodeo techniques, including balance, control, mental preparation, and injury prevention. It provided an exciting opportunity for community members to connect one-on-one with some of NTU's most experienced rodeo riders, allowing them to gain valuable insights into the art of bull riding and the diverse programs available at Navajo Technical University. Through these efforts, the NTU Rodeo Team deepens its bond with the local community, inspiring future generations of rodeo athletes and preserving the rich traditions and knowledge of the sport.

NTU's rodeo sports program challenges students to embrace the rugged landscapes of New Mexico while competing in elite rodeo events. Through hard work and dedication, student-athletes build strong connections with their livestock and teammates, demonstrating discipline, resilience, and exceptional horsemanship as they proudly represent NTU in national competitions.

The NTU Rodeo Team would also like to acknowledge the Coolfield bucking bulls' family, Dean Curley, and the youth participants and their families. We thank the NTU media for their coverage and everyone who has supported NTU Rodeo.

The Navajo Technical University (NTU) Rodeo Team is dedicated to competing at a high level and giving back to the community by sharing the skills and techniques they have learned at NTU. As part of their outreach efforts, the team hosts educational sessions and hands-on demonstrations for local aspiring rodeo athletes and enthusiasts, offering valuable insights into the art and discipline of rodeo sports.

For more information, contact:

Nicole Pino
NTU Head Rodeo Coach
E: npino@navajotech.edu
P: 505.387.7385 ex1029



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NTU Honors Black History Month with George LaFrance

Crownpoint, NM— On February 27, 2025, NTU students, staff, and faculty gathered in the library for a brief presentation by George LaFrance, the athletics director. He emphasized the importance of the Wellness Department, which promotes health and supports all community members in making healthy lifestyle choices. This initiative benefits students, faculty, and staff who recognize the value of wellness.

Originally from New Iberia, Louisiana, near Lafayette, LaFrance graduated from New Iberia Senior High School before attending Baker University in Baldwin City, Kansas, where he played wide receiver for two years. In 1998, he signed with the Green Bay Packers and participated in a few preseason games before deciding to focus on his education and complete his studies at Baker University. George explained, "Education is key, and that's what this is all about—preparing yourself for life after sports."

At NTU, George LaFrance shares his knowledge of fundamental football, baseball, cycling, and basketball with the youth community every summer. Participants learn essential techniques such as playmaking, route design, catching, and route running, covering offensive and defensive strategies. George skillfully guides young athletes in understanding play calling and effectively reading the game. He tailors his coaching to meet each student's needs, drawing on his extensive background in football.

George LaFrance is grateful for his family's unwavering support. He met his wife, Darlene, in college, and they were together for six years before getting married. His oldest daughter, Ahsaki LaFrance-Chachere, owns LaChachere Music Group in Houston, TX. Nizhoni LaFrance is an entrepreneur who developed the Plank Helper device. His youngest daughter, LaBelle LaFrance, is a senior at NTU and competes in various sports. George's family continues volunteering alongside his mother, Joycelyn LaFrance, at NTU events, such as the fishing tournament. The LaFrance family lives in Beshbitoh Valley, where George tends to livestock on their 20 acres of farmland and maintains gardens.

George expresses his sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of NTU's summer youth camps and annual fishing tournaments. He appreciates the valuable contributions of the coaches and staff, whose expertise enriched the youth camp experience and created a safe, nurturing environment for skill development at NTU's main campus. "Believe in yourself when no one else does, help others when they need it, and always look ahead to where you may be remembered," George concluded.



NTU Featured Staff

Navajo Technical University proudly introduces Dody Begay, raised in a traditional family of nine in Sawmill, AZ. He is of To' aheadliinii ancestry and grew up participating in school activities, particularly enjoying singing and holiday plays where he often played a wooden soldier.

After graduating from Window Rock High School in 2003, Dody shifted his focus to sports, playing football and wrestling. At thirteen, he took a job at Taco Bell to help support his single mother and family. He worked various jobs, including pouring concrete in Colorado, before realizing the importance of education.

Dody enrolled in college, initially unsure about further education due to financial constraints. However, with a passion for drawing, he took CAD courses and earned his certificate. At NTU, he became a STEM lab tutor and later a student intern in the IT department. He successfully advocated for transitioning the university's email system to a more secure online platform.

After earning his associate degree in computer science, Dody and his wife, Sheena, proposed a bachelor's degree program to the university president, which was approved. Dody enrolled in this new program, enjoying his involvement in campus life.

He now works as a system administrator, focusing on improving the university's internet infrastructure with the IT Director. Dody is pursuing a master's degree in Management Information Systems, which he and Sheena completed on his birthday in fall 2024. He emphasizes the importance of cybersecurity and is committed to protecting user information online.

Dody's journey reflects his dedication to education, family, and community, and those around him encourage him to continue his studies.

For more information regarding quality and professional service to the NTU community, swift response, and timely solutions to customer needs and questions, contact Dody Begay at dody.begay@navajotech.edu or 505-387-7491.



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NTU Featured Alumni

Marcie Vandever is dedicated to enhancing industrial production processes, focusing on efficiency, safety, and cost-effectiveness through thoughtful design and analysis. Originally from Smith Lake, NM, she began her journey in engineering at Navajo Technical University (NTU), where she pursued dual degrees in Advanced Manufacturing Technology and Industrial Engineering, benefiting from ABET accreditation.

As a process engineer at Honeywell FM&T, Marcie utilizes her educational background to tackle manufacturing challenges and support her colleagues. Her dual degrees offer her significant advantages in her work.

Marcie actively contributes to her community by volunteering at St. Bonaventure and local schools, serving as a judge for science fairs and coaching the cross-country program. She seeks to inspire younger generations to explore careers in engineering and related fields by introducing them to advanced manufacturing processes, including 3D printing.

Currently, she is pursuing a welding certificate at NTU while remaining engaged with the university through career fairs and collaboration. “I strive to make improvements in our Navajo communities,” she says.

Marcie graduated from Thoreau High School in 2000 and participated in a dual enrollment program at NTU. As campus manager, she advocates for the Kansas City National Security Campus, recognizing the value of student interns and entry-level employees. “Access to world-class manufacturing technology is essential for training tomorrow’s workforce,” she emphasizes.



NTU Featured Student

Navajo Technical University introduces Malacai Shorty, who is working towards an Associate of Applied Science degree in Automotive Technology. Malacai is a member of the Naakai Diné'é (The Mexican People) and Nooda'i Diné'é (Ute People) clans. He graduated from Cuba High School in 2020 and hails from Ojo Encino, New Mexico.

As a member of the NTU Rodeo team, Malacai competes as a bareback rider. Coach Pino noted his growth, stating, "He took my advice to heart, made changes, and gained valuable insights, making him a better rider."

At the CNRA 2024 event in Chinle, Arizona, Malacai learned bareback and saddle bronc riding from Eugene Barlow of Running B5 Rodeo Stock. Barlow said, "We were thrilled to recognize Malacai for his performance by presenting him with a beautifully crafted saddle as his year-end award!"

Malacai expressed gratitude for his experience with the CNRA Rodeo and his win in the novice bareback category. He looks forward to more great experiences ahead, supported by his family in Ojo Encino.

The Automotive Technology program focuses on traditional gas-powered engines, preparing students for ASE certification and providing them with the essential skills needed for an A.A.S. in Automotive Technology.

For more information about the Automotive Technology program please contact Steven J. Kollas, Technical Instructor of Automotive Technology at skollas@navajotech.edu or 505.387.7403.



SAVE THE DATE

NTU Veterinary Hospital Equine Vet Services Event

- March 25 - 26, 2025
Chine Instructional Site,
Chinle, AZ

- March 27 - 28, 2025
Crownpoint, NM,

For more information
contact NTU Vet
Hospital @ 505.387.7410

Bird Flu Presentation

- March 21, 2025
NTU Chinle Campus,
Chinle, AZ
Classroom 116 & 118
10 AM - 12 PM

- April 4, 2025
Kayenta Chapter,
Kayenta, AZ
12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

- April 18, 2025
Bethel Christian
Reformed Church,
Shiprock, NM
10 AM - 12 PM

- April 25, 2025
Navajo Nation Museum,
Window Rock, AZ
10 AM - 12 PM

For more information
contact NTU Vet
Hospital @ 505.387.7410