

# SKYHAWK PRESS

A PART OF YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Navajo Rug Weaving Workshop.....Page 1**

**UofA and UNM GI Design Team Visits NTU... Page 2**

**GMCS Visits NTU STEM Programs... Page 3**

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

**NTU-Land Grant Program Gardening Workshop.... Page 4**

**Spring Benefits Palooza.... Page 5**

**Office of Institutional Data & Reporting Data Forum: Seeds of Knowledge.... Page 6**

**NTU Library: April Events.... Page 7**

**AIHEC/SkillsUSA/AIBL Lunch Recognition.... Page 8**

**NTU Student Business Club - Earth Day... Page 9**

**Shił Nahólne': Literary Arts and Oral Stories Symposium 2025 Laureate... Page 10**

## Navajo Rug Weaving Workshop Sessions 3 - 5

Crownpoint, NM— From April 2 to 7, 2025, NTU Student Services continued hosting the Navajo Rug Weaving workshop, progressing through its third, fourth, and fifth sessions. After setting up the looms, Lyle Harvey guided participants through the beginning of the weaving process. In each session, Lyle demonstrated the proper techniques for using his loom and assisted participants who faced challenges. By the end of the third session, most participants had their looms properly prepared and were ready to begin weaving in the fourth session.

During the fourth session, participants selected three yarn colors and began weaving simple patterns. Lyle introduced them to basic weaving techniques, covering both the male and female sides of the process. All participants utilized the weaving tools provided by NTU. They were also asked to research weaving patterns before returning for the final session on April 7.

On the last day of the workshop, some participants continued their work from the weekend. The focus was on ensuring that participants followed the proper weaving techniques before attempting to incorporate patterns into their rugs and finish their projects. Lyle instructed everyone to weave an inch and a quarter of one color, then rotate through the three colors to ensure the weaving was straight.

NTU Student Services extends their gratitude to Lyle Harvey for leading the workshops and to all participants who attended. They plan to host more workshops in the future, exploring various art forms.





# UofA and UNM GI Design Team Visits NTU Main Campus

Crownpoint, NM—On April 7, 2025, the University of Arizona and the University of New Mexico GI Design Team recently visited the main campus of Navajo Technical University (NTU) to engage with staff, students, and community members. Their visit aimed to share updates, tour the campus, and identify potential sites for new Student Life spaces. These spaces promote interaction, engagement, and a stronger sense of community among NTU students.

This collaboration highlights our commitment to enhancing student life and building a brighter future for NTU through active community involvement and collective care. We would like to encourage anyone interested in contributing to this initiative to get involved. Community input and participation are crucial for the success of this project.

NTU is dedicated to creating lasting change by developing spaces and opportunities that embody our community’s strength, resilience, and shared values.

Contact the NTU Innovation Center in Church Rock, NM, for more information or participation:

Matt Tafoya  
NTIC Director  
E: mtafoya@navajotech.edu



## TABLE OF CONTENTS (Cont.)

**NTU Hosts Annual Spring Fling to Engage Students and Showcase Campus Resources... Page 11**

**NTU Students Honored for NTEC STEM Scholarships... Page 12**

**NTU Featured Staff... Page 13**

**NTU Featured Alumni... Page 14**

**NTU Featured Student... Page 15**

# SAVE THE DATE

**Navajo Nation  
Memorial Holiday**  
June 2, 2025

**Summer 2025  
Instruction Begins**  
June 9, 2025

**Safeguarding  
Natural Heritage  
Youth Camp**  
June 9 - 20, 2025  
NTU Main Campus,  
Crownpoint, NM

For more information,  
contact the NTU Land  
Grant Program at 505-  
387-7410.

**Juneteenth**  
June 19, 2025

All NTU sites will be  
closed.

## Gallup-McKinley County Schools Visit NTU STEM Programs

Crownpoint, NM - On April 8, 2025, NTU recently welcomed students from Gallup-McKinley County Schools—including Miyamura High, Gallup High, and Crownpoint High—for an engaging STEM Core Engineering visit.

The day was vibrant and energetic as high school students explored the campus, interacted with faculty, and learned about NTU's diverse departments and programs. Guided by knowledgeable NTU students and staff, each group received an informative tour showcasing what NTU offers. Presentations and hands-on demonstrations highlighted the university's commitment to science, technology, and innovation.

This collaborative experience gave these future scholars a real glimpse into the possibilities of STEM education within their communities, inspiring the next generation to dream big and take bold steps forward.

NTU has been developing these pathways through various programs, including:

- A certificate in Pre-Engineering and a certificate in Industrial Maintenance and Operations
- An Associate of Applied Science in Engineering Technology and a degree in Chemical Engineering Technology
- ABET-accredited Bachelor of Science degrees in Industrial Engineering and Electrical Engineering.

If you're interested in joining this pathway movement or know anyone who would like to enroll in NTU's STEM programs, please visit our website at [www.navajotech.edu](http://www.navajotech.edu).



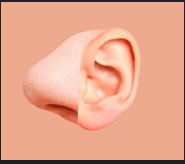
DO YOU HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE? CONTACT DALE MORGAN AT

**[dmorgan@navajotech.edu](mailto:dmorgan@navajotech.edu)**

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



## I BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW...



Human noses and ears lengthen as we age.

No spelled-out number before “one thousand” contains the letter A.



The # symbol isn't officially called a hashtag or pound.

## NTU-Land Grant Program Gradening Workshop Series: Tea Compost

Crownpoint, NM - On April 11, 2025, as part of the NTU Land Grant Program's Gardening Workshop Series, participants engaged in a hands-on and educational Tea Compost Workshop. This interactive session provided valuable insights into composting techniques designed explicitly for creating nutrient-rich compost teas. Attendees explored the science behind compost tea, its benefits for soil health and plant growth, and the differences between aerobic and anaerobic composting.

The workshop also included best practices for brewing compost tea, covering ideal compost-to-water ratios, fermentation times, and methods for proper application in a garden setting. Additionally, participants were introduced to essential tools and equipment such as compost buckets, mesh bags, and worm castings—items they can use at home to further explore sustainable gardening practices.

Whether beginners or seasoned gardeners, everyone is left with practical knowledge and inspiration to enhance their gardening efforts using compost tea.



## SAVE THE DATE

**Navajo Nation  
Memorial Holiday**  
June 2, 2025

**Summer 2025  
Instruction Begins**  
June 9, 2025

**Safeguarding  
Natural Heritage  
Youth Camp**  
June 9 - 20, 2025  
NTU Main Campus,  
Crownpoint, NM

For more information,  
contact the NTU Land  
Grant Program at 505-  
387-7410.

**Juneteenth**  
June 19, 2025

All NTU sites will be  
closed.



# SAVE THE DATE

**Navajo Nation  
Memorial Holiday**  
June 2, 2025

**Summer 2025  
Instruction Begins**  
June 9, 2025

**Safeguarding  
Natural Heritage  
Youth Camp**  
June 9 - 20, 2025  
NTU Main Campus,  
Crownpoint, NM

For more information,  
contact the NTU Land  
Grant Program at 505-  
387-7410.

**Juneteenth**  
June 19, 2025

All NTU sites will be  
closed.

## Spring Benefits Palooza

Crownpoint, NM — On April 16, 2025, Navajo Technical University's Peer Navigators hosted the Spring Benefits Palooza at the Wellness Center on the main campus.

The event was open to NTU students, providing a valuable opportunity for local organizations to showcase their resources and services. Participating groups included the Navajo Nation Treatment Center, Epidemiology Center, Bank of America, American Heart Association, and La Planta. The event also featured a food distribution of non-perishable items provided by the Roadrunner Food Bank of Albuquerque, NM.

This marked the third food distribution by Roadrunner Food Bank at NTU within the past year, coordinated through the efforts of NTU Peer Navigator Kory Begay. After not receiving responses from local food banks, Kory contacted Roadrunner and connected with Candice Griego, Director of Tribal Relations.

Understanding the limited storage space available to dorm students, Kory specifically advocates for non-perishable food items that offer a longer shelf life. He expressed his gratitude to the NTU Student Services team for their support in bringing various organizations and the Roadrunner Food Bank together for the event.

Candice Griego, who leads tribal outreach for Roadrunner Food Bank, has collaborated with NTU to facilitate quarterly food distributions on campus. Her goal is to serve over 125 students per visit, providing shelf-stable items that meet the needs of students with limited kitchen facilities.

In addition to her efforts at NTU, Candice organizes food distributions throughout the Navajo Nation, including at chapter houses and local community centers. The April event was her third visit to NTU, and she received a strong and positive response from the university community each time.

The NTU Peer Navigators extend their sincere gratitude to all organizations that visited the NTU campus to engage with our students. We would also like to express our appreciation to the Roadrunner Food Bank for their partnership in supporting the recent food distribution.



## Office of Institutional Data & Reporting Data Forum: Seeds of Knowledge

Crownpoint, NM—On April 16, 2025, the Office of Institutional Data and Reporting (OIDR) at Navajo Technical University will actively collect and analyze data to support informed decision-making across the university.

This data-driven approach helps identify areas for improvement within our community and ensures compliance with external agencies through timely reporting. OIDR's efforts are guided by the principles of K'é, Hózhó, and the Diné Philosophy of Education, which align with NTU's mission to honor Diné culture and language while educating for the future.

Sheena Begay, Director of Institutional Data and Reporting, said, "The Data Forum was a fantastic opportunity to explore the critical aspects of data management and application. The presentations were excellent, particularly those highlighting the importance of the student application process, data accuracy, and data consistency. These elements are foundational to the Institutional Data and Reporting department, as they ensure reliable data analysis and the creation of comprehensive institutional reports."

NTU's engagement with external entities demonstrates how it utilizes data from within the University. The insights gained from leveraging this data to secure funding and resources have proven to be incredibly valuable. It was fascinating to see the broader impact of our data and how it can contribute to meaningful growth and development.

Leah Brown, Data Technician, also stated, "The event went great; the forum was a great reminder about how collaboration and accuracy are at the heart of meaningful data work within our university."

Overall, the forum reinforced the significance of maintaining high standards in our data practices while showcasing the power of collaboration in achieving shared goals.

NTU strives to provide an education to all students and a workplace that supports all cultures and backgrounds, allowing all community members to grow intellectually, culturally, and economically together.



## SAVE THE DATE

### Navajo Nation Memorial Holiday

June 2, 2025

### Summer 2025 Instruction Begins

June 9, 2025

### Safeguarding Natural Heritage Youth Camp

June 9 - 20, 2025  
NTU Main Campus,  
Crownpoint, NM

For more information,  
contact the NTU Land  
Grant Program at 505-  
387-7410.

### Juneteenth

June 19, 2025

All NTU sites will be  
closed.



# SAVE THE DATE

## Navajo Nation Memorial Holiday

June 2, 2025

## Summer 2025 Instruction Begins

June 9, 2025

## Safeguarding Natural Heritage Youth Camp

June 9 - 20, 2025

NTU Main Campus,  
Crownpoint, NM

For more information,  
contact the NTU Land  
Grant Program at 505-  
387-7410.

## Juneteenth

June 19, 2025

All NTU sites will be  
closed.

## NTU Library: April Events

During the week of April 14–18, the NTU Library hosted a series of events for students to enjoy as the spring semester winds down. Each evening featured a different activity, including painting night, karaoke night, game night, and movie night.

Marla Rafael, the circulation supervisor, led the week's festivities, and she, along with the rest of the library staff, was pleased with the strong turnout at each event. Library events are typically open to both the NTU community and local residents.

The NTU Library offers a quiet and comfortable environment ideal for studying, completing homework, or collaborating on group projects. While the library is open to the public, the second floor is reserved exclusively for the NTU community. Be sure to make the most of the valuable resources available year-round.

The NTU Library hosts events throughout the year, with more exciting activities planned for the near future.

---

For more information, contact:

Marla Rafael  
NTU Circulation Supervisor  
P: 505 387-7467  
E: [m.rafael@navajotech.edu](mailto:m.rafael@navajotech.edu)



AIHEC/SkillsUSA New Mexico/AIBL Lunch Recognition

Crownpoint, NM – On April 22, 2025, Navajo Technical University (NTU) hosted a recognition luncheon to honor students who participated in the AIHEC, SkillsUSA New Mexico, and AIBL competitions held throughout March.

NTU President Dr. Elmer Guy opened the event by delivering a heartfelt welcome. While preparing for and competing in these events, he sincerely appreciated the students’ commitment to academic and personal responsibilities. He also thanked the dedicated coaches and advisors who supported and guided the students. Dr. Guy praised the students’ achievements and noted that several will go on to represent NTU at national competitions this summer.

Regardless of placement, all participating students received certificates recognizing their involvement and dedication. Certificates were presented by the attending coaches and advisors, who also gave brief presentations highlighting the nature of each competition and how their students performed.

Each coach and advisor expressed pride in their students’ accomplishments and shared their excitement about building on this year’s success in future competitions. After the event, NTU distributed exclusive shirts to all students, coaches, and advisors as a token of appreciation for their hard work and accomplishments. Lunch was provided by student services.

NTU extends its sincere gratitude to all students, coaches, and advisors for representing the university excellently and earning numerous medals and victories across academic and non-academic competitions.



SAVE THE DATE

Navajo Nation  
Memorial Holiday  
June 2, 2025

Summer 2025  
Instruction Begins  
June 9, 2025

Safeguarding  
Natural Heritage  
Youth Camp  
June 9 - 20, 2025  
NTU Main Campus,  
Crownpoint, NM

For more information,  
contact the NTU Land  
Grant Program at 505-  
387-7410.

Juneteenth  
June 19, 2025

All NTU sites will be  
closed.



# SAVE THE DATE

**Navajo Nation  
Memorial Holiday**  
June 2, 2025

**Summer 2025  
Instruction Begins**  
June 9, 2025

**Safeguarding  
Natural Heritage  
Youth Camp**  
June 9 - 20, 2025  
NTU Main Campus,  
Crownpoint, NM

For more information,  
contact the NTU Land  
Grant Program at 505-  
387-7410.

**Juneteenth**  
June 19, 2025

All NTU sites will be  
closed.

## NTU Student Business Club - Earth Day is Economy Day

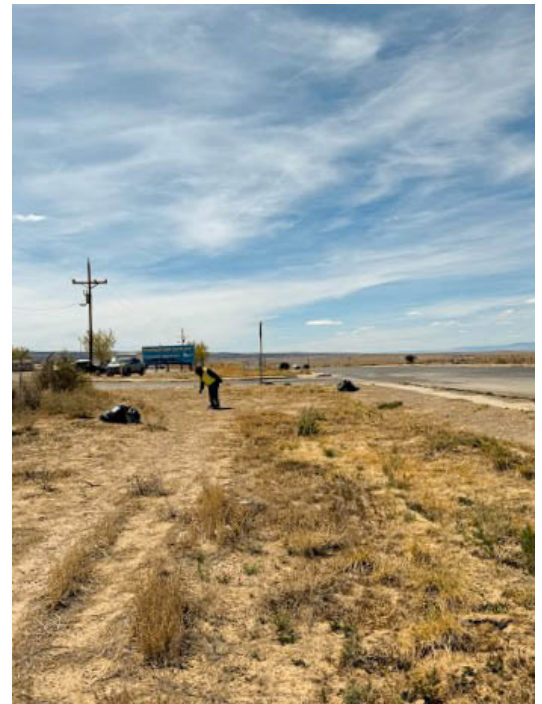
Crownpoint, New Mexico— On April 21, 2025, Navajo Technical University's business club had the great honor of supporting our local community and economy by picking trash at the Crownpoint flea market. Littering is a worldwide problem that's unsightly on our highways and streets and impacts our economy and environment.

The Crownpoint Chapter organizes a cleanup event to promote trash pick-up along roadways and streets. The chapter provides free trash bags, personal protective equipment, and an opportunity to enter a prize drawing featuring various items. Volunteers are invited to select a location and document their efforts with photos as proof for entry into the drawings.

Additionally, the chapter offers 20 vouchers for home appliance disposal and a community trash bin for free use until it is complete. The club collected trash around the local community to promote a clean, healthy learning environment at Navajo Technical University.

Douglas Capitan, NTU Assistant Professor of Public Administration and Student Business Club Advisor, said, "When working for the nation's economic development office, developers consider the overall appeal of chapters to begin the discussions. The decision of let's say, for example, if Amazon or Tractor Trailer Supply is interested in developing within a new economic center, litter and overall care that the community puts into cleanliness. When litter runs unchecked, the community pays the penalty fee. This fee comes in the form of lost opportunities for new jobs, businesses, and the growth that we all want for our communities. While it's not the only important thing within a development decision, it's one of many things that determine where to develop."

NTU's Business Club has been very active in community engagement activities. It encourages everyone to volunteer to pick up trash in their communities to help support our economy, businesses, and everyone, so we may all take pride in the place we call home.



## Shił Nahółne': Literary Arts and Oral Stories Symposium 2025 Announces New Navajo Nation Poet Laureate

Albuquerque, NM – On April 17-18, 2025, in recognition of National Poetry Month 2025, NTU's BFA Creative Writing Program and the Navajo Nation Poet Laureate Committee celebrated the literary arts, which include poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and scriptwriting; the multifaceted artists and scholars among us; and our community elders and storytellers at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center.

This year's third annual symposium announces the new Navajo Nation Poet Laureate. Congratulations to Matthew Jake Skeets, the newly designated Navajo Nation Poet Laureate (2025-2027). Inaugural Laureate Luci Tapahonso, current Laureate Dr. Laura Tohe, and NTU Arts & Humanities faculty committee gathered to present Matthew Jake Skeet with an NTU robe and plaque, recognizing his achievement and emphasizing the importance of creative writing and oral storytelling in everyday life.

Dr. Elmer Guy delivered the opening remarks on the Symposium's second day. He reflected on his personal history with the university, including when he first became president of Crownpoint Institute of Technology (CIT). He emphasized the significance of events like this, highlighting their social and economic impact and vital role in strengthening the university's mission and outreach. Dr. Casmir Agbaraji, Dean of Undergraduate Studies, and Dr. Colleen Bowman, Provost, also provided remarks at the event.

The symposium is bilingual, featuring guest speakers who presented in both English and Diné, along with other Native languages. Local and regional writers and emerging singer-songwriters, including Tanaya Winder from the Southern Ute, Pyramid Lake Paiute, Diné, and Duckwater Shoshone nations, showcase the powerful and healing nature of narratives, particularly within the context of Indigenous cultures and healing practices.

NTU BFA students shared poems and short stories with guest speakers and high school students from To'Hajiilee Community School and the Cuba Independent School District. Tamara June Yazzie, an NTU student enrolled in the Early Childhood Multicultural Education program, was passionate about sharing her grandmother's stories and inspiring new perspectives for young readers and writers during her presentation.

The 2025 Shił Nahółne': Literary Arts and Oral Stories Symposium, hosted by the BFA Creative Writing program, the Navajo Nation Poet Laureate Committee, and the School of Arts & Humanities at NTU, was an exciting and inspiring event that showcased the talent and creativity of artists, writers, and performers.



## SAVE THE DATE

### Navajo Nation Memorial Holiday

June 2, 2025

### Summer 2025 Instruction Begins

June 9, 2025

### Safeguarding Natural Heritage Youth Camp

June 9 - 20, 2025  
NTU Main Campus,  
Crownpoint, NM

For more information,  
contact the NTU Land  
Grant Program at 505-  
387-7410.

### Juneteenth

June 19, 2025

All NTU sites will be  
closed.



# SAVE THE DATE

**Navajo Nation  
Memorial Holiday**  
June 2, 2025

**Summer 2025  
Instruction Begins**  
June 9, 2025

**Safeguarding  
Natural Heritage  
Youth Camp**  
June 9 - 20, 2025  
NTU Main Campus,  
Crownpoint, NM

For more information,  
contact the NTU Land  
Grant Program at 505-  
387-7410.

**Juneteenth**  
June 19, 2025

All NTU sites will be  
closed.

## NTU Hosts Annual Spring Fling to Engage Students and Showcase Campus Resources

Crownpoint, NM - On April 23, 2025, NTU Student Services hosted its annual Spring Fling inside the Wellness Center on the NTU main campus.

Designed as a fun and informative gathering, the Spring Fling created a vibrant, welcoming environment for current and prospective students to explore campus resources, connect with student organizations, and learn more about NTU's athletic programs and admissions opportunities.

The event featured various interactive booths, with departments and student clubs offering hands-on activities to engage attendees and spark meaningful conversations. NTU Career Services organized a large-scale game at the venue's heart that drew crowds and encouraged students to participate, mingle, and build connections.

Adding to the festive atmosphere, the NTU Admissions team served free popcorn, snow cones, and Red Bull refreshers. In contrast, a free lunch of steak sandwiches provided by Michael McMillan, Student Life Activities Coordinator, was a big hit among attendees. Many student clubs also used the opportunity to recruit new members for the upcoming academic year.

Michael and the Student Senate team would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to all the student clubs, departments, and programs that helped make the day a success. Your time, energy, and commitment to engaging with students made a difference. We hope everyone who attended had a great time and walked away with valuable information and new connections.

-----  
For more information, contact:

Mike McMillan  
Student Life Activities Coordinator  
E: [mmcmillan@navajotech.edu](mailto:mmcmillan@navajotech.edu)



## NTU Students Honored for NTEC STEM Scholarships

Crownpoint, NM—On April 29, 2025, the Financial Aid Office at Navajo Technical University and Navajo Transitional Energy Co. (NTEC) recognized two students who received the 2024/2025 NTEC STEM Scholarship during a banquet at the Student Union building.

Jeremy Begay and Adrian Nez, graduating this spring, are the proud recipients. Jeremy is completing an associate's degree in General Studies and plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science. He collaborates with NTU and NAU to develop a research system focused on climate change. Adrian is working on his capstone project, which involves creating an air quality monitor programmed in C++ using an Arduino Uno. Both express gratitude for the support they have received as graduation approaches.

Shayna Begay, a guest speaker, shared her college journey with the recipients, emphasizing the ongoing availability of scholarships. She appreciated BHP Billiton's continuous support, stating, "I can't emphasize it enough: every penny counts when pursuing your education. Every penny is an investment in yourself."

Shayna mentioned that she interned at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, NM, where she contributed to the Mars Rover Curiosity Program. After completing her internship and earning her Master's degree, Shayna accepted a full-time position at Sandia, where she has worked since 2012. Currently, she holds the title of Project Team Lead and Senior Mechanical Engineer in the Nuclear Weapon Systems Group, where she guides a multi-disciplinary team of engineers and scientists and oversees the design, testing, and production of over 50 components in a multi-billion-dollar program.

Additionally, Shayna has volunteered for AISES, serving as a science fair judge, a national conference undergraduate research poster judge, a scholarship reviewer, and a leader of sessions on leadership development. She is a motivational speaker and advocate for the STEM field. She has been a guest speaker for various programs and schools, including the American Indian Graduate Center and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's Education Forum.

Jeremy and Adrian attended the banquet and were two of the six scholarship recipients.



## SAVE THE DATE

### Navajo Nation Memorial Holiday

June 2, 2025

### Summer 2025 Instruction Begins

June 9, 2025

### Safeguarding Natural Heritage Youth Camp

June 9 - 20, 2025

NTU Main Campus,  
Crownpoint, NM

For more information,  
contact the NTU Land  
Grant Program at 505-  
387-7410.

### Juneteenth

June 19, 2025

All NTU sites will be  
closed.



# SAVE THE DATE

**Navajo Nation  
Memorial Holiday**  
June 2, 2025

**Summer 2025  
Instruction Begins**  
June 9, 2025

**Safeguarding  
Natural Heritage  
Youth Camp**  
June 9 - 20, 2025  
NTU Main Campus,  
Crownpoint, NM

For more information,  
contact the NTU Land  
Grant Program at 505-  
387-7410.

**Juneteenth**  
June 19, 2025

All NTU sites will be  
closed.

## NTU Featured Staff

Navajo Technical University welcomes Garrett Yazzie as the NTU-Kirtland Institutional Site Coordinator at the Bond Wilson Technical School building in Kirtland, NM. Garrett hails from Northern Arizona, particularly the Cameron and Tuba City areas. His family resides in a tight-knit community often called the Blue Hills community, Shadow Mountain, or Dugi Town, where many of his relatives are also his neighbors. Garrett's maternal clan is Kinyaa'aanii (Towering House People), and his paternal clan is Tsi'naajinii (Black Streaked Wood People). His Cheii's clan is the Áshijihí clan (Salt People), and his Nali's clan is Ma'ii Deeshgiizhinii (Coyote Pass People).

Garrett is an esteemed Tuba City High School alumnus, home of the Warriors in Tuba City, AZ. He successfully obtained a bachelor's degree in criminal justice/law enforcement. He later pursued a master's degree in public service specializing in emergency management at Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah. His educational journey is a testament to his unwavering dedication to serving and helping others. Garrett's upbringing, characterized by overcoming challenges such as living without access to electricity and water until the age of thirteen, instilled a strong work ethic and a sense of resilience. In his formative years, he actively contributed to his family's livelihood by assisting his father in driving cattle and herding sheep alongside his paternal grandparents.

As an emergency management advisor, Garrett has had the privilege of engaging in impactful experiences, notably providing counsel and support in the Tuba City Chapter's declaration of a state of emergency. Before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic within the reservation, Garrett took proactive steps by participating in staff meetings with Chapter Staff to address COVID-19 protocols, the Chapter President's declaration of a state of emergency, and collaborating with key stakeholders and first responders for COVID-19 initiatives. His pivotal involvement in these endeavors marked a significant milestone in his career.

Contact Garrett Yazzie, the NTU-Kirtland Institutional Site Coordinator, at [garrett.yazzie@navajotech.edu](mailto:garrett.yazzie@navajotech.edu) or visit [www.navajotech.edu](http://www.navajotech.edu).



## NTU Featured Alumni

Terri Ami is an Ashihii (Salt People) and was born into the Shash Diné'é (Bear People) clan. She resides in Albuquerque, NM, but originally comes from Crownpoint, NM. Terri received her education at various high schools in the area and eventually earned her GED in Window Rock, AZ.

Terri completed her dual culinary arts and baking degree at Navajo Technical University. During her studies, she gained valuable experience with SkillsUSA, where she honed her fine dining skills and achieved second place for two consecutive years. Additionally, she actively participated in the annual Chocolate Fantasy, sponsored by the New Mexico Museum of Natural History Foundation, serving as a student baker for three consecutive years.

After graduating, Terri held various kitchen positions, including an Executive Chef role at Dine' College. Although she had little experience at the time, she successfully managed all aspects of the kitchen independently, which provided a significant learning opportunity during her year there. NANA Managements Systems (NMS), which provided food services to local schools and businesses, recognized Terri's work at Navajo Technical University and offered her a job in Anchorage, Alaska.

Using her degree, Terri worked in several schools across Alaska, preparing meals for students from dawn until dusk. She spent time in towns like Bethel and Nome, where she had to stay during the COVID-19 pandemic. Terri faced several challenges during her isolation, including limited communication due to a lack of internet access and transportation. She worked alone for the Nome school district, covering both the grade school and high school kitchens while managing the logistics of driving between different sites.

Terri visits NTU to reconnect with friends and colleagues. Eventually, Chef Robert Witte, Master Technical Instructor, suggested that she contact Sysco, a leading food service distributor. Although initially hesitant, she became a Sales Consultant, responsible for promoting the company's products and services while building relationships with new and existing accounts. Terri continues to advance her career by managing deliveries and driving profitable sales growth around the Navajo Nation, ensuring that everyone gets fed.



## SAVE THE DATE

### Navajo Nation Memorial Holiday

June 2, 2025

### Summer 2025 Instruction Begins

June 9, 2025

### Safeguarding Natural Heritage Youth Camp

June 9 - 20, 2025

NTU Main Campus,  
Crownpoint, NM

For more information,  
contact the NTU Land  
Grant Program at 505-  
387-7410.

### Juneteenth

June 19, 2025

All NTU sites will be  
closed.



# SAVE THE DATE

## Navajo Nation Memorial Holiday

June 2, 2025

## Summer 2025 Instruction Begins

June 9, 2025

## Safeguarding Natural Heritage Youth Camp

June 9 - 20, 2025

NTU Main Campus,  
Crownpoint, NM

For more information,  
contact the NTU Land  
Grant Program at 505-  
387-7410.

## Juneteenth

June 19, 2025

All NTU sites will be  
closed.

## NTU Featured Student

Navajo Technical University is proud to introduce Shyler D. Martin, a student pursuing a bachelor's degree in Creative Writing and New Media. Skyler belongs to the Ta'neeszahnii (Tangle People), born for Kin Yaa'aanii (The Towering House People) and Kin Yaa'aanii (The Towering House People), and Naaneesht'ézhi táchii'nii (The Charcoal Streaked Division of the Red Running into the Water Clan).

Shyler comes from Antelope Lookout Mesa, NM, near Becenti, and is a full-time student at Navajo Technical University's main campus. She recently completed her Associate of Arts degree in Counseling Substance Use Disorder.

"I am excited to attend and read at the Oral Symposium on April 8-9, 2024. I am currently the President of the NTU Law Club, and we will be attending the Indian Bar Conference hosted by the Federal Bar Association. I have also attended conferences held among individuals in law who are active or retired attorneys and judges for anything unrelated to school." Skyler said.

Shyler draws inspiration from the anthropologist Clifford Geertz, who famously observed while echoing Max Weber, that "Man is an animal suspended in webs of significance he has spun." Geertz believed that these webs of significance are culture and that the analysis of culture is not an experimental science in search of laws but an interpretive one in search of meaning. He sought to clarify social expressions that are enigmatic on their surface.

For more information about the program, contact:

Gene Hult

Assistant Professor of Creative Writing

E: [ehult@navajotech.edu](mailto:ehult@navajotech.edu)

P: 917.576.7530

