

SKYHAWK PRESS

A PART OF YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE

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NTU Participates in Gallup Indian Ceremonial Parade

Gallup, NM - On August 7, 2025, Navajo Technical University participated in the 103rd Gallup Inter-Tribal Ceremonial night parade. NTU thanks all students, staff, and faculty who helped showcase our institution.

It was enjoyable engaging with the public during the parade. With our Skyhawk spirit, we marched proudly and with purpose!

For more information about NTU, visit our website at www.navajotech.edu



NTU Students Training at Virginia Tech

Blacksburg, VA—From July 13 to 25, 2025, Ty Shurley and Nona Wilson participated in training at Virginia Tech, focusing on operating a Selective Laser Melting (SLM) machine. This specific Laser Powder Bed Fusion (LPBF) technology uses Inconel 718 metal powder and a laser to produce complex metal 3D components.

Their main goal during this training was to gain hands-on experience operating the SLM machine, which will be available at Navajo Technical University’s Digital Technology Center.

Under the guidance of Dr. Rao from Virginia Tech, Ty and Nona have been assigned to develop a comprehensive quick-start manual. This manual is designed to help train other students and interns at Navajo Tech’s Center for Advanced Manufacturing. It is in progress and will include operational procedures and safety protocols for machine use and handling metal powder, ensuring a safe and effective learning environment.

SLM technology is key to producing accurate scaled prototypes and is essential for verifying and improving manufacturing techniques to achieve high-quality final products.



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SAVE THE DATE

ONNSFA 2026 Winter/Spring Application

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Self-Defense Workshop

12 PM to 1 PM, Every Tuesday and Thursday, 2nd Floor - Wellness Center, Contact Jason Wright at jasonwright@navajotech.edu

Fun Walk/Run

Every Wednesday from 12 PM to 1 PM, Wellness Center, Contact George LaFrance at glafrance@navajotech.edu

AIHEC Awareness Day

October 2, 2025, 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM, Wellness Center, Contact Tilda Harrison-Woody at twoody@navajotech.edu

Growing Through Knowledge: NTU's Early Childhood Education Program

Crownpoint, NM - On July 23, 2025, Navajo Technical University's Early Childhood Education Program introduces young learners to cultural traditions, nutrition, and the origins of their food. Children in the program gain knowledge through hands-on experience in the garden, learning to plant, care for, and harvest traditional foods like corn, squash, melons, carrots, radishes, onions, and pumpkins—while connecting to their heritage and environment.

NTU's Early Childhood Education Program is an ideal starting point for your child. Teaching children about healthy eating begins with the NTU Child Care Services garden-to-table practice. Participation in programs like the New Mexico Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) reinforces these lessons by providing children with daily healthy meals and snacks that reflect what they learn in the garden, including culturally relevant foods. These practices support physical wellness while fostering identity and pride in Navajo traditions.

The NTU Early Childhood Education Program offers a comprehensive curriculum that includes early literacy and math, Navajo language and songs, storytelling, creative arts, and social-emotional development. Thanks to the NTU Veterinary Technology Program, which helped build the garden boxes, students have a safe, vibrant space to grow in every sense of the word.

To enroll your child or learn more information, contact:
NTU Admission Office
P: 505.387.7401
E: admissions@navajotech.edu



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 CIA's headquarters has its own Starbucks, but baristas don't write names on the cups.

A giraffe's tongue can reach up to 20 inches long.



There's only one U.S. state capital without a McDonald's.

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New Student Orientation Fall 2025

Crownpoint, NM—On August 13, 2025, Navajo Technical University (NTU) held its Fall New Student Orientation for incoming students inside the Wellness Center. Dee Anna Lee James, NTU's First Year Experience Career & Academic Advisor, led the event, providing essential information to help students prepare for classes starting Monday.

The orientation began with a welcome from Jerlynn Henry, followed by an inspiring message from NTU Provost Dr. Bowman. The event gave new students a chance to learn about NTU's services. Representatives from departments such as Residential Life, Financial Aid, Career Services, Admissions, the Bookstore, IT, the Library, Transportation, Athletics, Student Activities, and Student Services offered brief introductions and presentations.

These sessions introduced students to available resources and shared helpful tips for success. Many programs and departments also set up informational booths around the Wellness Center, where students could ask questions and learn more about services and student life.

"I've never experienced being a full-time college student before, unlike now. I've never had anyone to depend on. Family can help, but it doesn't make everything possible. My motivation for returning to school is to see myself improve in the future," said Jerry-lena Lee from Piñon, AZ, who is now enrolled in the Welding program.



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Kirtland Instructional
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Quent Martinez at
[qbmartinez@navajotech.
edu](mailto:qbmartinez@navajotech.edu)

Happy Halloween Trunk or Treat,

3:00 PM to 6:00 PM,
Chinle Instructional Site
Parking Lot - 2 Story
Building, Contact Jarvis
Draper at [j.draper@
navajotech.edu](mailto:j.draper@navajotech.edu)

RoadRunner Food Bank Distribution at NTU Main Campus

Crownpoint, NM - On August 20, 2025, RoadRunner Food Bank, in collaboration with Navajo Technical University (NTU), hosted a food distribution event at the NTU Main Campus. Organized by the NTU Peer Navigators team alongside RoadRunner Food Bank, the event aimed to support both NTU students and the local community with essential shelf-stable food items.

Distributed items included canned corn, tomato sauce, corn flakes, instant chicken-flavored rice, pinto beans, instant oatmeal, and 1% milk. RoadRunner Food Bank is committed to continuing these food distributions at NTU throughout the fall semester.

Attendees are encouraged to bring their own boxes or wagons, as supplies may be limited. Upon arrival, please complete the brief survey before entering the distribution area.

NTU Peer Navigators extend their sincere gratitude to RoadRunner Food Bank for their continued support and look forward to future food distribution events later this fall.



NTU Fall Semester Campus Kickoff

Crownpoint, NM - On August 27, 2025, the NTU Career Services Department hosted a Fall Semester Campus Kickoff inside the Wellness Center at the NTU Main Campus. The event was designed to allow campus departments to showcase the services available to all enrolled students. In addition, Career Services invited all active student clubs to participate and promote their organizations to help recruit new members for the academic year.

Departments and clubs in attendance included Athletics, Student Senate, Financial Aid, Career Services, Biology Club, and Film Club, among many others. Attendees had the opportunity to visit each table, engage with representatives, and learn more about the resources and opportunities available across campus.

Career Services provided a catered lunch from Sandie’s Restaurant to show appreciation for student and staff participation. The event ran from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Career Services extends sincere thanks to all departments and student clubs that set up booths and shared valuable information with students, contributing to the event’s success.



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NTU Cross Country Signings Propel Students Toward Infinite Academic and Athletic Horizons

Crownpoint, NM - On August 19 and 27, 2025, Navajo Technical University students, Adriana Bochindonny, Telicia Tom, and Elley Noble, officially signed with the NTU Cross Country team. They will continue their academic programs while representing the university in competitions.

Adriana Bochindonny from Steamboat, Arizona, attended school in Ganado and is now studying welding at Navajo Technical University, planning to graduate this Fall. She has joined the NTU women's cross-country team, pursuing her passion for running to strengthen her body and mind. Running has been more than just a sport for Adriana—it has been a teacher, helping her learn more about herself and life.

Telicia Tom, from Mariano Lake, New Mexico, recently graduated from Wingate High School. This fall, she begins her journey at Navajo Technical University, where she will pursue a Bachelor's degree in Biology while continuing her cross-country pursuits under Coach Lee. As the first of her siblings to attend college, Telicia is proud to take this next step in her education and looks forward to making her family proud.

Elley Noble from Nashchitti, NM has joined the NTU Cross Country team. She is entering her second year at Navajo Technical University, pursuing a Culinary Arts degree focusing on professional cooking. Elley is excited to learn skills ranging from dessert creation to meat preparation, aiming to work in a fine-dining restaurant. Outside of school and running, she enjoys working out and emphasizes her mental and physical health.

While representing NTU, students develop discipline, leadership, and teamwork skills while pursuing degrees in diverse programs such as engineering, business, culinary arts, information technology, healthcare, and more.



Precision and Passion: Donovan's Journey with NTU Archery

Crownpoint, NM - On August 27, 2025, Donovan Martinez, a first-year student in the Automotive program at Navajo Technical University, is excited to bring his energy and enthusiasm to the NTU Archery Team.

Donovan sees archery as an incredible opportunity to build confidence, sharpen skills, and gain knowledge that benefits himself and his community. His interests in learning how to hunt; he views this experience as a unique chance to grow, saying, "You never know when an opportunity like this will come again."

By participating in archery, Donovan is developing his abilities, strengthening his connection to the community, and fostering personal growth. His dedication highlights the many benefits students can gain from joining NTU athletics—building discipline, teamwork, and lifelong skills while pursuing their passions. Navajo Tech's co-ed archery team competes under the U.S. Collegiate Archery Association (USCA) and continues to rise with focus, precision, and discipline. Representing NTU with skill and dedication, the team aims to set a new standard in collegiate archery.

Apply now to become a Skyhawk and be part of NTU's growing archery program.



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CNA Students Participate in Family Health & Fitness Day

Chinle, AZ – On June 9, 2025, Navajo Technical University CNA students participated in Family Health & Fitness Day at the Chinle Chapter softball field. The students interacted with the community, conducted complete interviews, and practiced vital signs/blood pressure on community members.

The event was a valuable hands-on learning opportunity reflecting the real-world experience students gain at NTU.

“The students answered key questions about the importance of managing blood pressure. The event also served as an outreach/recruitment to the community to inform them about our CNA program that graduates 30+ students a year. The next class starts in Fall 2025,” Karinne Dohi, CNA Administrative Assistant, explained.

For those interested in joining the program this fall, now is the perfect time to apply and take the next step in making a difference in healthcare across the Navajo Nation.

Navajo Technical University encourages anyone interested in pursuing a career in healthcare to consider enrolling in our Nursing program, which continues to grow and serve our communities. This fall, nursing classes will be available at our Chinle Site, where students can begin their journey toward becoming a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and beyond.

Navajo Technical University. Endless Possibilities.



Caring for the Future: NTU CNA Students Earn Certification

Chinle, AZ – On August 1, 2025, Navajo Technical University CNA students proudly completed their certification requirements for nursing assistants. Congratulations to all the students who attended the pinning ceremony at the Chinle campus, held inside the two-story building among friends, family, faculty, and staff.

Ella Tallis opened the ceremony with a prayer, followed by Arlena Benallie, NTU Chinle Site Director, and NTU Provost Dr. Colleen Bowman, who welcomed everyone. Each student dedicated months of hard work, with some pursuing further education or advancing their nursing careers. This graduation marks a new chapter for them.

Krista Haven, Program Coordinator, and Candace Tallis, CNA Instructor, delivered the keynote speech, inspiring attendees and presenting awards to each student.

“Whether you continue your education or enter the workforce, I encourage you to set goals. Goals help us enjoy a happy, healthy, balanced, and successful life. They are the dreams and tasks you aim to accomplish,” Krista Haven stated.

The students received training programs that included essential skills such as patient care, vital signs, and basic nursing procedures. Various organizations and programs offer financial aid to support students. Their certification helped meet healthcare needs in hospitals and nursing homes as part of their curriculum.

Candace Tallis, CNA Instructor, added, “Congratulations to all newly certified nursing assistants (CNAs). The field offers ongoing learning opportunities, allowing CNAs to expand their skills and knowledge throughout their careers. Their dedication to compassionate patient care and supporting nurses is invaluable.”

CNA student Ashleigh Clyde gave closing remarks, summarizing key points, offering a call to action, sharing a memorable quote, and thanking the audience as fellow student Matthew Haven closed the ceremony with a prayer.



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BHP Fuels NTU Dreams: Chinle Students Awarded Scholarships

Chinle, AZ— On August 8, 2025, Navajo Technical University proudly announced that students from our Chinle instructional site received scholarships from Broken Hill Proprietary (BHP) for the second year. These scholarships honor their academic dedication and commitment to higher education and training.

Dennis Dedman, NTU Lead Security, opened the ceremony with a prayer that expressed NTU's mission and journey. Arlena Benallie, the Navajo Tech Chinle site director, graciously welcomed all attendees and briefly introduced the campus, highlighting its remarkable features. She proudly noted the campus's growth and development as she and Starr O. LaPahe, 2024-2025 Miss NTU, and Judy Yazzie, the Financial Aid Assistant, presented the awards to the scholars.

The scholarship helps NTU students pursue their academic and career goals in high-demand fields such as Advanced Manufacturing, Environmental Science, Information Technology, and Sustainable Energy. Through these programs, students gain practical skills in computer-aided design, industrial safety, environmental monitoring, data analysis, and clean energy systems, all while staying connected to their communities.

"Thank you, BHP, for investing in the future of our students and supporting Indigenous education in meaningful ways. Congratulations to our Chinle scholars—your hard work continues to move our people forward through knowledge, innovation, and cultural strength," Arlena Benally said. By combining technical training with cultural relevance and academic rigor, NTU prepares students with the knowledge and experience to meet local and regional workforce needs.

Congratulations to all BHP scholarship recipients! Go Skyhawks!



39th Annual Central Agency Fair Parade - NTU

Chinle, AZ—On August 16, 2025, Navajo Technical University (NTU) participated in the 39th Annual Central Navajo Nation parade. This year’s theme was “Honoring our Colorful Horses with the Empowerment of Diné Language, Culture, and Tradition,” which reflected NTU’s vibrant spirit.

NTU Chinle Instructional Site Director Arlena Benallie made a special appearance, riding horseback through the dynamic community of Chinle, greeting attendees, and expressing gratitude for the community’s support. Jarvis Draper, Chinle Site Recruiter, organized NTU community volunteers to increase higher education awareness among students, staff, and faculty. The NTU Chinle instructional site is becoming more vibrant with independent education, new programs, and the CDL initiative, which trains students to operate tractor-trailers and heavy equipment.

NTU thanks student services, student workers, marketing, staff, faculty, athletics, security, and maintenance for their help during the parade. It also extends appreciation to all organizers, participants, and families who contributed to the success of the 39th Central Agency Fair Parade.

NTU enrollment is always open. Take advantage of this opportunity to further your education while staying close to home.



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Fall 2025 Orientation w/ RoadRunner Distribution - NTU Kirtland

Kirtland, NM – On August 20, 2025, Navajo Technical University's instructional site in Kirtland, along with Teec Nos Pos, brought together students from the Four Corners region to start their path to a brighter future through education, partnering with RoadRunner Food Bank to support students, staff, and faculty in the Bond Wilson Banquet Room.

The orientation began with sessions from the Athletics department. George LaFrance offered students advice on health and wellness, encouraging them to use the weight rooms and participate in various sports.

Continued sessions included Financial Aid, First Year Experience, Career & Academic Advising, and presentations with IT/ Online services. NTU's Single Sign-On System was showcased by Dody Begay, who highlighted its importance in giving students easy access to emails, coursework, and valuable resources like financial aid and academic calendars. Dee Anna James, a Career and Academic Advisor for First-Year Experience, outlined support services available to first-year students, including communication and effectiveness services, faculty and staff collaboration, and academic skills tutoring with Financial Aid Manager, Gary Segay.

At the Teec Nos Pos site, electrical trades student Aubree Clark from Shiprock, NM, shared her uplifting experience: "It's been an amazing time, and I've gained a lot of knowledge and met many new people. I'm almost done with my certificate and feel grateful and ready to chase my passion. My instructor, Norman Lameran, has been fantastic."

The event concluded with a powerful message from guest speaker Tom Chee, a former Navajo Nation Council Delegate, on overcoming obstacles and striving for success. Mr. Chee stated, "We have resilience within our people, as relationships are important. We need to communicate with one another and be respectful. Introduce yourself and stand out in the crowd. Thank you for supporting your local university at NTU, where you can stay home and go far." He encouraged students to honor the Navajo people's legacy while diligently pursuing their dreams.



NTU Featured Staff

Originally from Little Water, NM, Jared Ribble grew up near Crownpoint, NM. After graduating from high school, he aspired to attend medical school at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. However, on his first day, he felt overwhelmed by the rigorous curriculum and many students, leading to self-doubt and a sense of distance from home. To tackle these challenges, he enrolled at UNM-Gallup to complete his core medical classes.

During his studies, Jared discovered the Crownpoint Institute of Technology (CIT) and decided to take several programming and computer courses relevant to his medical degree. While attending school, he developed a passion for technology and worked for the Navajo Nation workforce in the IT office. This experience sparked his interest in computers and fueled a desire to learn new skills during his free time.

The IT department collaborates with nearly every aspect of the business—from accounting and operations to human resources and supply chain management—to develop the tools and processes needed for collecting, storing, managing, securing, and reporting vital information essential for running the organization. For Jared, this work is fulfilling. “Getting paid for your hobby makes it easy to do, and my kids see the work ethic,” he explained.

As the IT Director, Jared aims to foster growth within the department. He observes his employees tackling daily cybersecurity initiatives and developing a database for missing children and women on campus. Jared has experienced growing pains as he navigates these challenges. “Eventually, there will be days when the business will thrive, but in the IT world, things can take a year to reach that point. As technologies evolve, it doesn’t happen overnight,” Jared noted.

Jared intends to build his team toward Chinle’s instructional site, with one member overseeing the IT department at the sister site. He believes in “exploiting the norm and researching to fix the problems of running a business. Simply put, we must break things to fix the problems,” Jared expressed.

As an alumnus of NTU, he completed his master’s degree in Management Information Systems and is now considering pursuing a Ph.D. in Technology at Purdue University. He mentioned, “I need to finish some projects before I can devote my time to furthering my education.” When asked if earning his master’s degree changed him, Jared replied, “I am glad that I earned the degree, but the next day, it was back to the usual routine. It’s important because we are well-known in various parts of the country due to our research.”



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NTU Featured Alumni

Navajo Technical University proudly features alumna Jasmine Charley from Chi Chil Tah, New Mexico. Born for Hask'áánhadzohí, Jasmine's paternal grandparents are Ashjìhí, and her maternal grandparents are Kinyaa'áanii. She graduated from Wingate High School and earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology and an Associate of Science in Mathematics from NTU.

Jasmine attributes her success to NTU, which helped her achieve her academic goals and prepare for the challenges of graduate school. She explained, "I've had a successful journey as a first-generation student, largely thanks to Navajo Technical University. The University fostered my professional growth through leadership opportunities, advancing my career aspirations by enabling me to conduct research at Los Alamos National Laboratory. Most importantly, the guidance of exceptional mentors and the support of dedicated colleagues shaped me into the person I am today."

While at NTU, she was proud to be an AISES Region 3 Representative, NTU Student Senate President, and a National Society of Leadership and Success Nominee for UNM. She also credits her success as an undergraduate to the guidance of dedicated faculty, mentorship, and encouragement from supportive colleagues and peers.

As a PhD student in the Biomedical Engineering program at UNM, Jasmine has found the experience both challenging and rewarding. She noted, "It's a very different environment from what I was accustomed to, but thanks to the experiences and preparation I received at NTU, I've been able to adjust and grow."

Now in her second year, Jasmine is researching the development of a biosensor for detecting uranium on Native American land. She enjoys her program and research group, continues collaborating with Los Alamos National Laboratory, and loves her work in the lab at UNM and Los Alamos while taking courses that deepen her knowledge and skills.

Jasmine is currently a Research Assistant at UNM's Computer Science Department while pursuing her PhD in Biomedical Engineering in Albuquerque, NM.



NTU Featured Student

Taylor Pino is from Crownpoint, NM, and graduated from Crownpoint High School. She is Bit’ahnii and was born for Haltsooí. Her maternal grandparents are Tó aheadlínii, and her paternal grandparents are Naakai dine’é. Growing up immersed in Western culture, she is a fourth-generation rancher.

Taylor graduated from Crownpoint High School and earned two presidential awards—one from her senior class and another from the Mathematical, Engineering, Science Achievements Club.

Taylor competed in pole bending and goat tying at the Indian Junior Rodeo Association (IJRA) eastern region. She gradually learned to rope by participating in breakaway competitions at rodeo events and practicing every afternoon during the season. She was also crowned Miss IJRA Queen in 2024. Taylor enjoys being around horses and livestock her grandfather left her.

She chose to major in the Business Administration program and received guidance from Dr. Christine Reidhead, Chair of School of Business. Taylor’s mother, Nicole Pino, also the NTU Head Rodeo Coach, was excited that Taylor would begin her college journey, noting she was a dedicated student who loved challenging herself with daily, weekly, and long-term goals. Taylor also bonded with the NTU rodeo team and was warmly welcomed as their little sister.

“I knew that by committing to pursue my passion for breakaway at a higher level, I was also taking a significant step in furthering my education. I felt excitement and determination.”

Taylor received strong support from her family, friends, and especially her mother and head rodeo coach, Nicole Pino, which made her experience even more meaningful. This reminded her of the strong community backing her in this journey, pushing her to strive for academic excellence in the arena.

For more information about NTU’s Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration, please contact Christine at creidhead@navajotech.edu.



Academic Calendar

Census Date
Sep 5

Fall Graduation Petition Due
Oct 3

Midterm Exams
Oct 6 - 10

Spring 2026 Pre-Registration
Oct 20

Last Day to Withdraw
with a “W” Oct 27

HOLIDAY Veterans Day
Nov 11

Fall Break
Nov 24-26

HOLIDAY Thanksgiving Day/
NN Family Day
Nov 27-28

Final Exams
Dec 8-10

Grades Due to Registrar
Dec 11

Fall Graduation
Dec 12

Winter Holiday
Dec 24 - Jan 2