

SKYHAWK PRESS

A PART OF YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

NTU Events
Pages 1 - 10

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

NTU Chinle Events
Pages 11 - 12

NTU Featured Staff/
Faculty ... Page 13

NTU Featured
Alumni... Page 14

NTU Featured
Student... Page 15

NTU Launches Fast-Track Construction Trades Program

Crownpoint, NM – On June 27, 2025, Navajo Technical University (NTU) officially launched its new Microcredentials–Construction Trades program under the Construction Technology department. This intensive course gives students the chance to learn 16 weeks' worth of construction skills in just 9 weeks.

Six dedicated students, including Bryce Martinez from Dalton Pass and Rodney Walthall from Mariano Lake, attend the program full-time—Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Within just two weeks, they successfully completed testing for the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER).

The course is taught by instructor Tom Bebo, with support from assistant Kirby Chapo and faculty member Christopher Storer. One recent focus was on personal protective equipment (PPE), where students learned and demonstrated the correct use of safety gear like goggles, hard hats, gloves, and steel-toe boots.

“When I teach, I’m glad to use NCCER’s Core curriculum,” said Bebo. “It helps students build real-world skills in math, communication, and employability that they’ll use on the job.”

Support for the program comes from many NTU departments, including team members like Dr. Delores Becenti, Shawna Begay, Kami Morgan, DeeAnna James, Jerlynn Henry, Lucille Barbone, and Dr. Bowman. Funding for this effort was made possible through a Navajo Nation grant focused on building a strong and skilled workforce. Navajo Nation Council Delegate Carl Slater played a key role in securing this funding and has shown strong support for programs led by tribal colleges and universities.



NTU Brings the Heat with 2025 Youth Baseball & Softball Camp

Crownpoint, NM — On July 7–8, 2025, Navajo Technical University hosted its annual Youth Baseball and Softball Camp as part of its summer youth programming. Led by NTU Athletics Director George LaFrance, the two-day camp brought together young athletes from children to teens for hands-on training in the fundamentals of the game.

Coach LaFrance guided participants through various drills focused on developing essential skills such as catching, throwing, batting, positional awareness, equipment care, pitching mechanics, and game strategies. Each morning began with a team huddle, where LaFrance laid out the day’s goals and provided an overview of the drills.

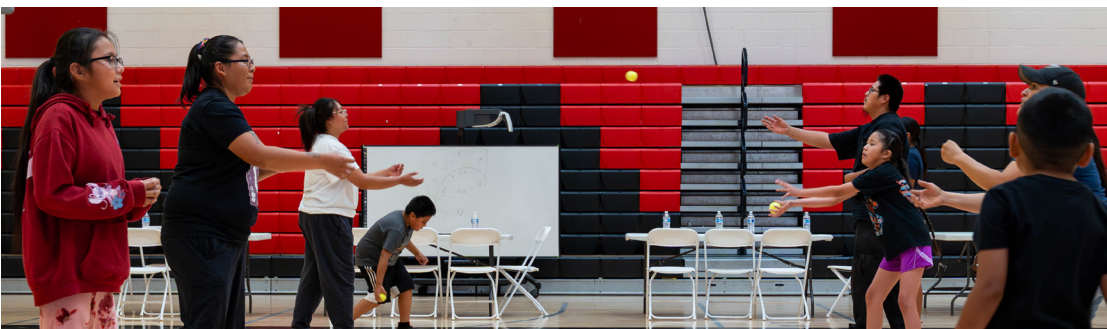
With a supportive coaching style, he ensured every camper received individual attention and feedback. All equipment was provided, allowing participants to focus solely on learning and improving their skills.

Jamie Watchman-Johnson, an NTU alum with an associate degree in Law Advocacy, shared her thoughts on the camp experience:

“Since I like to be involved with the community, I want to take advantage of NTU’s programs, like these summer camps. I bring my kids here to enjoy themselves, and we’re also looking forward to future camps like football and volleyball. It keeps me involved in sports with my kids.”

The camp included game-like scenarios that gave students a chance to apply their new skills in a fun, competitive environment. Throughout the camp, LaFrance emphasized teamwork, discipline, and sportsmanship.

Susana Pablo, a school counselor from Becenti, NM, appreciated the opportunity NTU offers local families saying, “I like that the university teaches kids something they may not normally be exposed to. We attended the previous basketball camp and plan to join the football camp. This is a great local resource that’s accessible and meaningful.”



Academic Calendar

2025 - 2026

Faculty Return
Aug 11

New Student Orientation
Aug 13

Navajo Nation Code Talkers Day
Aug 14

Last Day of Registration
Aug 15

Instruction Begins
Aug 18

Last Day to Add/Drop Classes without a “W”
Aug 22

HOLIDAY Labor Day
Sep 1

Census Date
Sep 5

Fall Graduation Petition Due
Sep 26

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

Academic Calendar

2025 - 2026

Faculty Return

Aug 11

New Student Orientation

Aug 13

Navajo Nation Code Talkers Day

Aug 14

Last Day of Registration

Aug 15

Instruction Begins

Aug 18

Last Day to Add/Drop Classes without a "W"

Aug 22

HOLIDAY Labor Day

Sep 1

Census Date

Sep 5

Fall Graduation Petition Due

Sep 26

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

New Nursing Pathways: NTU and UNM Partner for Student Success

Crownpoint, NM – On July 9, 2025, Navajo Technical University (NTU) and the University of New Mexico (UNM) have taken a big step forward in nursing education. Leaders from NTU's Nursing Program and UNM's College of Nursing met at NTU's Student Union Building to discuss a new partnership.

Dr. Michelle Kahn John shared an overview of NTU's Registered Nursing (RN) Program and introduced NTU's nursing team. Both schools talked about program challenges, strengths, and goals. They also covered topics like the impact of rural locations, limited resources, and the structure of the RN curriculum.

The meeting led to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which outlines the goals of the one-year collaboration between NTU and UNM. As part of the visit, guests toured NTU's nursing facilities, including new modular buildings and renovated spaces designed for nursing students. These buildings now offer updated classrooms and areas for faculty, staff, and administrators. UNM will begin working closely with NTU's incoming nursing faculty next semester.

"We've been working with UNM on our RN program. Their experienced faculty will help guide and support us. This collaboration is grounded in the Diné philosophy, and NTU will also offer cross-cultural training," said Dr. Kahn John. "UNM faculty and staff will be able to take Diné language classes, helping both schools learn from each other."

The MoU focuses on sharing faculty, curriculum, resources, and technology. It also lays out plans for faculty training, leadership growth, and exchanging knowledge over time.

Next steps include legal reviews and final approval by both universities. Dr. Kahn John's long-term goal is to build a clear academic path from NTU's associate degree program to doctoral programs at UNM.



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

dmorgan@navajotech.edu

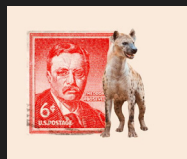
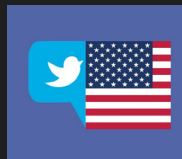
YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT WILL APPEAR IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH'S NEWSLETTER.

I BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW...



H&M the clothing retail shop actually stands for Hennes & Mauritz.

The U.S. government saved every public tweet from 2006 through 2017.



Theodore Roosevelt had a pet hyena.

NTU 2025 Youth Football Camp

Crownpoint, NM—On July 21-22, 2025, Navajo Technical University conducted a two-day football camp at the wellness center on NTU's main campus. The camp, organized by George LaFrance, NTU's athletics director, focused on teaching fundamental football skills.

Participants learned about playmaking, route design, catching, and route running, covering offensive and defensive techniques. George also led catching drills, ensuring that students used proper techniques.

During the drills, students practiced route-running while being assigned specific paths to catch the ball. George guided them on defensive and offensive strategies, helping them understand play calling and how to read the game effectively. Safety was a priority, and George used his extensive football background to tailor his coaching to each student's needs.

"We missed the earlier camps, but won't miss the upcoming basketball camps. I enjoyed participating with my kids; it gives me time to be with them and get to know them better. George hosts an awesome camp, and I wish it were longer since there are plays and skills I didn't know about. Now I've learned something at the football camp," Ursula Johnson, owner of Ursula's Tea, a tenant at Navajo Tech Innovation Center, stated.



Academic Calendar

2025 - 2026

Faculty Return
Aug 11

New Student Orientation
Aug 13

Navajo Nation Code Talkers Day
Aug 14

Last Day of Registration
Aug 15

Instruction Begins
Aug 18

**Last Day to Add/Drop Classes
without a "W"**
Aug 22

HOLIDAY Labor Day
Sep 1

Census Date
Sep 5

Fall Graduation Petition Due
Sep 26

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

Academic Calendar

2025 - 2026

Faculty Return

Aug 11

New Student Orientation

Aug 13

Navajo Nation Code Talkers Day

Aug 14

Last Day of Registration

Aug 15

Instruction Begins

Aug 18

Last Day to Add/Drop Classes without a "W"

Aug 22

HOLIDAY Labor Day

Sep 1

Census Date

Sep 5

Fall Graduation Petition Due

Sep 26

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

Students in the Microcredentials-Construction Trades Program receive OSHA 10 Training

Crownpoint, NM – On July 16–17, 2025, the Navajo Technical University (NTU) Microcredentials–Construction Trades program, part of the Construction Technology department, had students receive OSHA 10-hour training, which provides a basic awareness of workplace safety and health hazards.

Students completed testing with Mr. Richard Bates, Safety Officer at the Navajo Nation Occupational Safety and Health Administration (NNOSHA). This provided consultation, education, and enforcement, exercising NNOSHA's authority to set and enforce its occupational safety standards for NTU's Construction Trades program.

"This is an excellent stepping stone, regardless of where you work. I am confident you will make a positive impression with the OSHA card, whether you apply for a construction position," explained Mr. Bebo.

In addition to his community service, Mr. Bates guided his students, stating, "Do it yourself. Continue the road ahead. Like the lines on the road, the yellow line signifies caution, and the white line indicates proceeding. My grandmother advised me to follow the corn pollen (white and yellow) to pursue education and not cease there. The elderly have long understood what benefits us."

Christopher Storer, Welding Instructor, also provided advice regarding success in the trades program, emphasizing, "Safety is an issue and safety is a significant priority."

Both instructors expressed their gratitude to Mr. Richard Bates. He covered safety topics such as hazard communication, electrical safety, hand and power tool safety, and more. As part of the remaining summer program, students will continue hands-on projects for the next few weeks, such as building storage sheds, custom house doors, and mixing concrete.



Navajo Technical University 2025 Trout Fishing Tournament

Tsaile Lake, Arizona - On July 19, 2025, anglers gathered at the scenic Tsaile Lake, sponsored by Navajo Technical University, for a day filled with fishing, family fun, and friendly competition. Participants escaped the weekend hustle and bustle to find the perfect fishing spot at Tsaile Lake and its surrounding area, which offered plenty of options, making the 2025 NTU Trout Tournament a success.

The tournament saw competitors embrace different fishing approaches, with some opting for boats to navigate the pristine waters. In contrast, others stationed themselves along the shoreline, casting their lines with precision and anticipation. The air was alive with the thrill of the chase as each participant sought to claim victory by reeling in the most impressive trout.

The Youth Scoreboard showcased the following outstanding achievements:

- 1st Place: Michael S – 14 inches / 1 lbs. 0.5 oz
- 2nd Place: Hunter - 13 ¾ inches / 1 lb 0.5 oz
- 3rd Place: Marleigh - 13 inches / 11 oz

Meanwhile, the Adult Scoreboard featured impressive triumphs as well:

- 1st Place: Ashton - 17 Inches / 1 lbs. 11 ½ oz
- 2nd Place: Skye - 16 inches / 1 lb. 11 ½ oz
- 3rd Place: Myrus – 15 ¾ inches / 1 lbs. 9.5 oz
- 4th Place: Cordell - 16 inches / 1 lb. 9 oz
- 5th Place: Randy - 16 inches / 1 lb. 8 oz

“This event was wonderful for families, friends, and NTU staff. I want to thank everyone for joining us. It’s always a joy to see kids fishing with their families. We appreciate all who made this possible—our volunteers, sponsors, and especially the families and students who came out to cast their lines and make lasting memories,” said George.

LaFrance expressed heartfelt gratitude to everyone who helped make the event successful. The event was more than just a competition; it also celebrated sportsmanship.



Academic Calendar

2025 - 2026

Faculty Return
Aug 11

New Student Orientation
Aug 13

Navajo Nation Code Talkers Day
Aug 14

Last Day of Registration
Aug 15

Instruction Begins
Aug 18

Last Day to Add/Drop Classes without a “W”
Aug 22

HOLIDAY Labor Day
Sep 1

Census Date
Sep 5

Fall Graduation Petition Due
Sep 26

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

Academic Calendar

2025 - 2026

Faculty Return

Aug 11

New Student Orientation

Aug 13

Navajo Nation Code Talkers Day

Aug 14

Last Day of Registration

Aug 15

Instruction Begins

Aug 18

Last Day to Add/Drop Classes without a "W"

Aug 22

HOLIDAY Labor Day

Sep 1

Census Date

Sep 5

Fall Graduation Petition Due

Sep 26

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

NTU Youth Basketball Camp with Miss Navajo Nation

Crownpoint, NM—From July 24 to 25, 2025, Navajo Technical University concluded its youth basketball camp. The two-day event at the wellness center on NTU's main campus attracted local youngsters. NTU's athletic director, George LaFrance, led the camp, collaborating with Miss Navajo Nation.

On the first day, interactive sessions allowed participants to practice their newly learned skills through quick pickup games. On the second day, George reviewed and reinforced these skills in preparation for the day's activities. The group also practiced offensive drills, including layups, dribbling into layups, and jump shots.

"I'm glad to share these skills so they can carry them forward. We want to give them every opportunity to excel in sports, but we also emphasize the importance of academics," explained Miss Navajo Nation, Ranisha Begay. "NTU is a university that provides higher education, and for our athletes to succeed in sport, they must also excel in the classroom. We focused on both, and it was a great event."

George LaFrance met with Miss Navajo Nation at an EAC basketball game last fall of 2024. Miss NN wanted another youth camp at NTU. George agreed and stayed in touch to organize the basketball event. The camp emphasized teaching fundamental skills like dribbling, passing, defense, and shooting.

"Today marks the end of our youth basketball camp, which was fantastic; students participated actively. Education is key. We also discussed teamwork and humility, which are core lessons at Navajo Technical University," George stated.

NTU Women's Basketball Coach Aanor Louis helped George run small-sided games—5 on 5—and led defensive drills with three women's basketball team members. NTU Bookstore also donated basketballs with Miss Navajo Nation, sponsored by Arctic, and provided camp shirts.



2025 Navajo Nation Eastern Fair Parade

Crownpoint, NM - On July 25, 2025, Navajo Technical University NTU showed up and showed out at the 2025 Navajo Nation Eastern Fair Parade!

Thank you to everyone who came out and supported Navajo Technical University during the Navajo Nation Eastern Fair Parade in Crownpoint, NM!

We were proud to represent our students, faculty, staff, and the power of higher education in the heart of our community. From our float to our Skyhawk spirit, we marched with pride and purpose!

Ahéhee' to the organizers and everyone who made it a success!



Academic Calendar

2025 - 2026

Faculty Return
Aug 11

New Student Orientation
Aug 13

Navajo Nation Code Talkers Day
Aug 14

Last Day of Registration
Aug 15

Instruction Begins
Aug 18

Last Day to Add/Drop Classes without a "W"
Aug 22

HOLIDAY Labor Day
Sep 1

Census Date
Sep 5

Fall Graduation Petition Due
Sep 26

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

Academic Calendar

2025 - 2026

Faculty Return

Aug 11

New Student Orientation

Aug 13

Navajo Nation Code Talkers Day

Aug 14

Last Day of Registration

Aug 15

Instruction Begins

Aug 18

Last Day to Add/Drop Classes without a "W"

Aug 22

HOLIDAY Labor Day

Sep 1

Census Date

Sep 5

Fall Graduation Petition Due

Sep 26

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

2025 NTU Strongman Competition

Crownpoint, NM – On July 26, 2025, the Navajo Technical University Weightlifting Club proudly announced the success of the 2025 Strongman Competition held during this year's Eastern Navajo Fair. The club extends its heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated, supported the competitors, and helped promote a healthy, active lifestyle within the NTU community. This event showcased the strength and dedication of our students' wellness and unity.

Event organizer Avery J. Velasquez said, "It was a great event—entertaining and inspiring. We look forward to hosting more activities in the future. Congratulations to all participants, and sincere thanks to everyone who contributed."

The top three male and female competitors received cash prizes and medals. Be sure to check out the most impressive competitors from the event.

The competition results are as follows:

Female Division:

- 1st – Mykell Castillo
- 2nd – Shirlena Teller
- 3rd – Noah Ramone

Male Division:

- 1st – Andre Velasquez
- 2nd – Nelson Ramone
- 3rd – Randy Anderson

At NTU, students can develop academically, physically, and mentally through clubs like the Weight Club and events that promote teamwork, discipline, and confidence. Whether you're lifting weights, studying engineering, exploring Diné culture, or working toward your next goal, there's a place for you here at NTU. Feel free to reach out if you have questions or want to get involved.



NTU Youth Volleyball Camp

Crownpoint, NM— On July 28-29, 2025, Navajo Technical University hosted a two-day volleyball camp at the wellness center on NTU’s main campus. George LaFrance, NTU’s athletics director, Candice Craig, and Pamela Tso, a Haskell graduate experienced in coaching high school volleyball, led the camp.

During the first day, elementary, mid, and high school participants learned key skills such as passing, setting, player positioning, serving, team communication, and game rules. Pam tailored her coaching to each player’s skill level, offering personalized guidance. As the day went on, participants scrimmaged while receiving instruction from Pam and Candice Craig.

The next day, the campers were split into age groups and continued practicing the skills from day one. Candice emphasized setting, passing, and team communication; George and Pam were impressed by how quickly the campers improved.

Pamela Tso, from Crownpoint, NM, graduated from Crownpoint High, where she played volleyball. After graduating in 2007, she played collegiate volleyball at Haskell Indian Nations University for four years, where she now serves as an assistant coach.

“I saw the flyer and contact info, so I reached out because I enjoy helping the youth and high school community. I hope the camps continue at NTU and I can return to assist. Volleyball is growing, and most college sports lack women’s leagues. You can advance and take the initiative by joining these camps,” Pam said.

Looking ahead, NTU will host youth camps next summer, marking the end of this year’s summer camps. We sincerely thank the volunteers, students, parents, and guardians for their support and for taking time out of their busy schedules.



Academic Calendar

2025 - 2026

Faculty Return
Aug 11

New Student Orientation
Aug 13

Navajo Nation Code Talkers Day
Aug 14

Last Day of Registration
Aug 15

Instruction Begins
Aug 18

Last Day to Add/Drop Classes without a “W”
Aug 22

HOLIDAY Labor Day
Sep 1

Census Date
Sep 5

Fall Graduation Petition Due
Sep 26

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

SKYHAWK PRESS

CHINLE INSTRUCTIONAL SITE

P O B o x 8 4 9 , C h i n l e , A Z 8 6 5 0 3

Academic Calendar

2025 - 2026

Faculty Return

Aug 11

New Student Orientation

Aug 13

Navajo Nation Code Talkers Day

Aug 14

Last Day of Registration

Aug 15

Instruction Begins

Aug 18

Last Day to Add/Drop Classes without a "W"

Aug 22

HOLIDAY Labor Day

Sep 1

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

HOLIDAY Thanksgiving Day/ NN Family Day

Nov 27-28

Final Exams

Dec 8-10

Fall 2025 Graduation

Dec 12

Fall 2025 Registration Day at NTU's Chinle Instructional Site

Chinle, AZ - On July 15, 2025, Navajo Technical University's Chinle Instructional Site held a successful Fall 2025 Registration Day, drawing a lively crowd of visitors and guests. The event provided valuable information for prospective students about program offerings, financial aid, admissions, enrollment, housing options, and more.

This expansion highlights NTU's commitment to creating educational and business opportunities for students and the local community. Lunch was served, allowing families and friends to gather and celebrate the vibrant NTU community spirit while enjoying food and drinks.

Attendees had the chance to explore the exciting programs and opportunities available at NTU's Chinle campus in Arizona. With campus growth and a focus on excellence, your future looks brighter.



NTU Chinle Drums of Summer

Chinle, Arizona—On July 29, 2025, the 2025 Drums of Summer, held at Navajo Technical University’s Chinle campus, brought together Navajo drum groups to preserve and perform traditional songs rooted in cultural history, oral tradition, and lived experience.

The event provided a meaningful space for cultural exchange. The drum rhythm connected elders and youth, honoring ancestral teachings while encouraging future generations to carry them forward as community members from the region gathered to witness one of the most enduring forms of Navajo cultural expression.

Participants engaged in traditional dances and shared in a welcoming, respectful environment emphasizing cultural pride, knowledge transfer, and generational unity. With campus growth and a focus on excellence, the future looks brighter.

Jarvis Draper remarked, “In its third year, Drums of Summer has grown considerably, requiring extra parking. Volunteer groups contributed songs and support, and I thank everyone who helped make this event successful. Anson Etcitty, our adjunct instructor, served as MC this year, with Wade Shannah from the marketing department capturing photos and supporting NTU.”

Miss NTU Star O’riah LaPahe reinforced the vital role of music and storytelling in maintaining identity and strengthening community bonds as the community enjoyed a lunch of vegetable mutton stew and fry bread provided by the Chinle staff and faculty.

Arlene Benally reflected, “Since its beginning, Drums of Summer has steadily grown in attendance, attracting diverse groups across New Mexico. Families, including elders and youth who traveled to participate in this meaningful event, fostering intergenerational connections and preserving Navajo culture.”

She expressed gratitude for NTU’s support, especially from the dedicated Chinle staff, which was crucial in organizing the event.

“I am grateful for the community’s involvement, including the vendors who provided amenities like bouncy houses, snow cones, and cotton candy. The singers, who shared ancient stories, added to the event’s spirit and motivated attendees of all ages. Special thanks to Virginia and other booth organizers from the Crownpoint campus,” Arlene stated.



Academic Calendar

2025 - 2026

Faculty Return
Aug 11

New Student Orientation
Aug 13

Navajo Nation Code Talkers Day
Aug 14

Last Day of Registration
Aug 15

Instruction Begins
Aug 18

Last Day to Add/Drop Classes without a “W”
Aug 22

HOLIDAY Labor Day
Sep 1

Census Date
Sep 5

Fall Graduation Petition Due
Sep 26

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

Academic Calendar

2025 - 2026

Faculty Return

Aug 11

New Student Orientation

Aug 13

Navajo Nation Code Talkers Day

Aug 14

Last Day of Registration

Aug 15

Instruction Begins

Aug 18

**Last Day to Add/Drop Classes
without a "W"**

Aug 22

HOLIDAY Labor Day

Sep 1

Census Date

Sep 5

Fall Graduation Petition Due

Sep 26

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

NTU Featured Staff/Faculty

Navajo Technical University proudly introduces Sharon Nelson, an instructor in the Diné Studies Department. She has earned a Master's degree in Diné Culture, Language, and Leadership. Sharon J. Nelson identifies with the Tódích'íinii (Bitter Water clan) and the Ta'neesáhnii (Tangle Water clan). Her maternal grandparents belong to the Tótsohnii (Big Water clan), and her paternal grandparents are from the Tł'ashchí'í éí (Red Cheek clan). The father of her children is of the Kinyaa'áanii (Towing House clan). Sharon hails from Tsin Hastxéhi'áhi (Ladder into a natural spring).

"I am humbled to be a silent warrior woman pushing back against settler colonization through the revitalization and sustainability of Diné culture and language. As a Diné woman—grandmother, mother, aunt, sister, and daughter, my purpose is to be and become a Knowledge Holder and Keeper of Diné language and cultural stories for our people."

Ms. Sharon Nelson is a Diné Culture, Language, and Leadership lecturer at Navajo Technical University. She is the current Faculty Congress President, a past Chair of the Diné Studies Undergraduate program, the Language Director for GALACTIC, a Board Member of the Navajo Language Academy, and the Heartbeat Music Project Executive Director. Raised at Navajo Tech, she believes every Diné has the inherent right to know and learn about their culture and language.



NTU Featured Alumni

Warlance Chee aims to provide traditional teachings & ser-vices to the urban Diné communities within and around Albuquerque, New Mexico. Chee currently serves as the project lead for Saad K'idlyé, a grassroots organization dedicated to creating and establishing a Diné language nest in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where his wife and four children reside. Saad K'idlyé's language nest opened its doors on August 15, 2022, and has experienced a steady increase in attendance, including families who are ex-pecting, as well as newborns and toddlers. "Children at the nest are spoken to in their traditional language throughout the day and are taught basic commands and responses," Warlance explained. "With all my experience in the education system, including the Bureau of Indian Education (BIA) and charter schools, I can see little equity for our language. Most language classes last only thirty minutes per week," Chee stated.

As Saad K'idlyé enters its third year, the Diné language nest has improved to engage families in attendance and participation. Warlance aims to ensure that parents are committed and fulfilling their responsibilities. "We are here to produce first-language speakers and to encourage the continued use of the language at home," Warlance stated.

Enrolling in the program entails many commitments and expectations. Various events, classes, projects, and other pro-gramming are planned. Babies and infants absorb language easily by being surrounded by it and spoken to regularly.

Warlance éí Tsénahabíłnii is from Lake Valley, New Mexico, and is a member of the Kintłichíí'nii clan. He graduated from Lake Valley Navajo School and then attended Navajo Preparatory School in Farmington, New Mexico. After high school, Warlance enrolled at the University of New Mexico, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in American Studies with a minor in Native American Studies. He also obtained a Master of Arts in Diné Culture, Language, and Leadership from Navajo Technical University in Crownpoint, New Mexico.

Warlance has worked as a Diné language and culture teacher for nine years. He has taught at various institutions, including Cuba Independent Schools, Tóhajiilee Community School, and most recently, at the Native American Community Academy (NACA) in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Currently, he is participating in a two-year fellowship with the NACA Inspired Schools Network (NISN).



Academic Calendar

2025 - 2026
Faculty Return Aug 11
New Student Orientation Aug 13
Navajo Nation Code Talkers Day Aug 14
Last Day of Registration Aug 15
Instruction Begins Aug 18
Last Day to Add/Drop Classes without a "W" Aug 22
HOLIDAY Labor Day Sep 1
Census Date Sep 5
Fall Graduation Petition Due Sep 26
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

Academic Calendar

2025 - 2026

Faculty Return

Aug 11

New Student Orientation

Aug 13

Navajo Nation Code Talkers Day

Aug 14

Last Day of Registration

Aug 15

Instruction Begins

Aug 18

Last Day to Add/Drop Classes without a "W"

Aug 22

HOLIDAY Labor Day

Sep 1

Census Date

Sep 5

Fall Graduation Petition Due

Sep 26

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

NTU Featured Student

Navajo Technical University is thrilled to celebrate Tamalaya Begaye, a remarkable individual from Na Ah Tee Canyon, AZ. She proudly identifies with Táchii níí and Tł'izi lání clans, with her maternal grandfather belonging to the Mą'íideeshgíízhíníí and her paternal grandfather from To'dích'ii'níí. After graduating from Crownpoint High School in 2022, Tamalya is making significant strides as a third-year dual major student at Navajo Technical University.

As a devoted single mother to her adorable two-year-old son, Tamalaya is deeply committed to her studies. She is diligently working towards achieving her Administrative Office Specialist certificate and associate's degree, with ambitions of graduating in December. Further fueled by her passion for learning, she plans to continue her education and pursue a bachelor's degree.

Tamalaya enthusiastically shares her journey, saying, "I am continuing my education as a peer navigator at Navajo Technical University. I proudly serve on the Student Senate as Master of Arms."

With heartfelt gratitude, Tamalaya acknowledges the unwavering support of her family, which has played a crucial role in her pursuit of educational excellence. She thanks Mr. Quink and Christine Reidhead for their instrumental guidance in her personal and academic growth.

"I want to sincerely thank my family and friends for their encouragement and support throughout my achievements. I'm confident I can accomplish even more with them by my side," Tamalaya reflects. "I also want to recognize my professors, especially Mr. Quink and Christine Reidhead, for their invaluable mentorship. Additionally, I appreciate my friends who stand by me during challenging times and the student senate and student services at NTU for their support in navigating my studies."

NTU's Administrative Office Specialist program equips students with vital skills and knowledge necessary for today's dynamic workplace. With a curriculum incorporating modern equipment and software in business environments, this program opens doors to exciting careers in office settings. It lays a solid foundation for advanced professional degrees. We're proud to have dedicated students like Tamalaya driving forward on this journey!

