

# SKYHAWK PRESS

A PART OF YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE

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## Welcome Address to Spring 2026 Faculty Convocation

Crownpoint, NM - On January 12, 2026, Navajo Technical University is pleased to welcome our returning and newly appointed faculty for the Spring 2026 semester. We are proud to begin another academic term with a distinguished group of educators dedicated to student achievement, academic rigor, and cultural integrity.

Your expertise and commitment play a vital role in advancing the university's mission and in preparing students for leadership, service, and professional success. We appreciate the knowledge, mentorship, and professionalism you bring to the classroom and to the broader NTU community.

We look forward to a productive and successful semester and thank you for your continued dedication to excellence in higher education.  
Navajo Technical University

It begins from within.



## Empowering the Next Generation: NTEC Invests in NTU Student Success

Crownpoint, NM – On January 14, 2026, Navajo Technical University (NTU) announced today that the National Transitional Energy Company (NTEC) has donated \$35,000 to support student scholarships and strengthen technical education at the university.

The donation includes \$15,000 for student scholarships and grants and \$20,000 for equipment for NTU's Microelectronics Lab, which supports hands-on learning for engineering and technology students.

The donation was personally delivered on January 14, 2026, by Nathan Tohtsoni, Education Coordinator for NTEC, during a visit to the NTU President's Conference Room. While on campus, NTEC representatives met with NTU leadership to learn more about the university's academic programs and student opportunities. The discussion highlighted NTU's engineering and technical programs and how continued support can help students succeed in their educational and career goals.

"For seven years, NTEC has been a strong supporter of NTU and continues to stand behind the university's efforts to empower Navajo students," said Tohtsoni. "NTEC remains committed to supporting NTU and advancing success within the Navajo Nation."

In addition to the \$35,000 donation, NTEC also contributed \$1,250 to NTU's American Indigenous Business Leaders (AIBL) Club to help purchase new blazers for student members. This support follows a major achievement by the American Indigenous Business Leaders (AIBL) Chapter at NTU, which earned First Place in the Chapter of the Year – Tribal College category at the AIBL National Business & Leadership Student Conference held March 10–11, 2025, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

NTU expressed appreciation for NTEC's continued partnership and investment in student success. The university looks forward to continuing its collaboration with NTEC to expand educational opportunities and support the next generation of Navajo leaders in engineering, business, and technology.



## Academic Events & Calendar

**Spring Graduation  
Petitions Due**  
Mar 6

**Midterm Exams**  
Mar 9-13

**Spring Break**  
Mar 16-20

**Pre-Registration  
Summer Semester**  
Mar 23

**Spring Career Expo**  
Mar 25

**Last Day to Withdraw  
with a W**  
Apr 2

**Course Evaluations**  
Apr 27 - May 8

**Final Exams**  
May 11 - 13

**Final Grades Due**  
May 14

**Spring Commencement**  
May 15

**Memorial Day**  
May 25

**Navajo Nation Memorial  
Day**  
Jun 1

**Summer Instruction  
Begins**  
Jun 8

**Juneteenth**  
Jun 19

**Independence Day**  
Jul 3

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Petitions Due**  
Feb 27

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## NTU Main Campus Spring 2026 New Student Orientation

Crownpoint, NM — On January 15, 2026, Navajo Technical University (NTU) warmly welcomed new students to its main campus for Spring Orientation, held in the Wellness Center.

The event was led by Dee Ann Lee James, First-Year Experience Career & Academic Advisor, with support from the Student Services Department. The orientation aimed to help first-year and transfer students feel comfortable and confident as they begin their university journey, featuring interactive icebreaker activities that fostered connections among new students.

Dr. Bowman opened the orientation with inspirational remarks and shared success stories of NTU graduates. She emphasized NTU's dedication to supporting students' academic and personal growth, encouraging them to pursue excellence and assuring them that support is available throughout their educational journey.

Several departments, including Residential Life, Career Services, Information Technology, Financial Aid, Student Resources, and Online Learning, also gave presentations. Many professors and instructors attended the event to introduce themselves and offer words of encouragement. In addition, various departments hosted informational booths where students could learn more about available programs and services.

Attendees of the orientation were also served lunch provided by Sadie's Restaurant of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

As the only university located on the Navajo Nation, NTU remains committed to supporting students every step of the way as they begin their higher education experience.



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...



Humans have jumped farther than horses.

'The Terminator' film script was sold for \$1.



Pigeon poop was once the property of the British Crown.



### Thoreau Middle School Visits the NTU Main Campus

Crownpoint, NM - On January 20, 2026, Thoreau Middle School students visited the main campus of NTU for an interactive tour. More than 30 seventh and eighth-graders traveled from Thoreau to Crownpoint, NM, for the experience.

Upon arrival, the students were welcomed by Michael McMillan, who handed out NTU swag bags filled with informational materials and school supplies. Following his welcome, Coach Perry and Lee presented on the athletic programs, offering insight into student-athlete life at NTU. Afterward, the students were divided into three smaller groups and guided on a campus tour led by Michael McMillan, Kory Begay, and Mallorie McKerry.

Students visited various academic programs, including the trades program, and observed first-day class sessions throughout the tour. A standout moment was their visit to the fabrication lab, where staff members gave an in-depth tour of the facility and its state-of-the-art equipment. This experience provided valuable insight into different career pathways and the steps students can take to prepare for their futures after graduation.

"In essence, NTU provides a strong local pathway for Thoreau students to gain valuable skills, explore careers, and build community, aligning education with cultural values for future success," explained Ms. Gordon, Vocational Instructor at Thoreau Mid.



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## Advancing Higher Education Opportunities Through Navajo Technical University

Window Rock, A.Z. — On January 27, 2026, Navajo Technical University (NTU) Student Senate helped raise awareness about the importance of expanding higher education opportunities for students across the Navajo Nation. Part of this effort includes highlighting Legislation No. 0169-25, which proposes \$30 million to be equally distributed among Diné College, Navajo Technical University, and the Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship & Financial Assistance to strengthen student access, affordability, and long-term academic success.

Navajo Technical University remains committed to integrating Diné cultural values with high-quality academic and technical education. NTU offers certificate, associate, bachelor's, and graduate degree programs in fields such as science, technology, business, applied technology, and the arts. Through these programs, the university prepares students for meaningful careers while fostering leadership and service within their communities.

Prospective students interested in beginning their higher education journey are encouraged to explore available programs, admissions requirements, and application steps by visiting the main campus and instructional sites.

NTU also offers a variety of institutional scholarship opportunities designed to make higher education more accessible and affordable. Students are encouraged to review eligibility requirements and application deadlines through the scholarship section of the NTU website.

For more information about academic programs, enrollment services, financial aid, or student support resources, visit [www.navajotech.edu](http://www.navajotech.edu) or contact the appropriate university department directly.



## The Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Task Force Hosts Awareness and Education Event

CROWNPOINT, NM — The Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Task Force recently held an awareness and education event at Navajo Technical University's main campus to address human trafficking and violence affecting Native communities. The event focused on increasing knowledge, strengthening prevention efforts, and supporting healing for individuals and families.

The training introduced participants to the “4 Ps” framework—prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnership—and emphasized a survivor-centered approach to response and recovery. Attendees learned how to recognize signs of labor trafficking, identify potentially illegal activities linked to trafficking, and understand the unique challenges Native communities face. The session also shared resources for healing and discussed ways to build stronger, community-based prevention efforts, especially for vulnerable populations.

The Task Force thanked community organizations and service providers who supported the event by hosting informational booths and sharing resources. Participating partners included the Navajo Nation Police Department; Utah Navajo Health System; Division of Behavioral and Mental Health Services (Gallup, New Mexico); Navajo Division for Children and Family Services; Division of Public Health Health Promotion Program at Crownpoint Healthcare Facility; Sexual Assault Services of Northwest New Mexico; NTU Counseling Services; Coalition to Stop Violence Against Women; and the Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Coalition.



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## CHINLE INSTRUCTIONAL SITE

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### NTU Chinle Welcomes New Students for Spring 2026

Chinle, AZ — On January 14, 2026, Navajo Technical University's Chinle Instructional Site hosted its New Student Orientation inside the two-story building. The event was designed to help first-year and transfer students adjust to campus life and learn how to succeed academically at NTU.

Throughout the day, students took part in educational sessions and interactive group activities. Faculty and staff served as motivational speakers, highlighting academic programs and sharing guidance for student success. The orientation also provided an overview of the many services available to support students during their time at NTU.

Representatives from Residential Life, Financial Aid, Career Services, Admissions, the Bookstore, IT, the Library, Transportation, Athletics, Student Activities, and Student Services gave brief presentations and introductions. These sessions helped students become familiar with campus resources and offered practical tips for navigating college life.

In addition, several departments hosted informational booths throughout Building F, allowing students to ask questions, connect with staff, and learn more about campus services and student life opportunities.



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## KIRTLAND INSTRUCTIONAL SITE

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### NTU Kirtland Instructional Site Spring 2026 Orientation

Kirtland, NM – On January 21, 2026, Navajo Technical University brought together students from the Four Corners region in the Bond Wilson Banquet Room, marking the beginning of their journey toward a brighter future through education.

NTU Kirtland Site Director Garrett Yazzie introduced the campus as an extension of the main site, offering unique programs like plumbing alongside established ones such as mathematics, welding, and computer science.

Dr. Colleen Bowman, NTU Provost, and Jerlynn Henry, Dean of Student Services, followed with an introduction to the various programs and other resources, including financial aid, admissions, data report, athletics program, and academic calendars. Cheryl Atine, NTU Student Counselor, detailed the support available through Student Career Services, including resume building, job search assistance, and career counseling. Bookstore Assistant Kamie Morgan explained how students could conveniently purchase books online or in-person to prepare for their classes.

Campus Welding Instructor Ramondo Begay spoke about the Kirtland site, emphasizing its accessible location and strong academic programs tailored to support students in the welding program in the Four Corners area.

Guest speaker Chizz Bah closed the event with an inspiring message about overcoming adversity and striving for success. She reminded students to stay balanced and mindful by saying, “Achieve your academic and professional goals. NTU has the programs and resources available for personalized support from faculty and staff, and hands-on learning opportunities designed to prepare students for their careers. You are somebody and make the better choice.”



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# KCZY 107.3 FM

## SKYHAWK RADIO

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### KCZY Skyhawk Radio

Navajo Technical University (NTU) launched its community and educational radio station, 107.3 FM KCZY, in 2016. Broadcasting to the eastern agency of the Navajo Nation and available online, KCZY informs listeners about NTU news, community events, and activities.

Cuyler R. Frank manages the station, overseeing operations and volunteer broadcasters who provide live information and entertainment. KCZY enhances its programming with syndicated shows from the Koanic broadcasting network, including Native America Calling, National Native News, and Indigifi, offering diverse music and up-to-date news from Native communities across the nation.

Furthermore, the station provides a platform for NTU students, faculty, staff, and community members to share their stories through radio. For more information about KCZY, contact Cuyler R. Frank at [cfrank@navajotech.edu](mailto:cfrank@navajotech.edu).



## Featured Staff

Navajo Technical University proudly introduces Ramondo J. Begay. Mr. Begay is Bit'ahnii born for Kin lichíí'nii. His maternal grandparents are Nihóbáanii, and his paternal grandparents are Tsé nahabí'nii. Originally from White Sheep Mesa, north of Crownpoint, NM, Mr. Begay resides in Holland, MI.

Mr. Begay graduated from Michigan State University, Washtenaw Community College with the title of Certified Instructor and Pipe Fitting Industry, and from Ohio State University. He has lived there for 37 years and retired 3 years ago. He is at the end of his career and is only giving back to the community.

Ramondo, an NTU Welding Instructor at the Kirtland Instructional site, is an AWS Certified Welding Inspector, a Skill Trade Pipefitter, and a Combination welder. He has years of experience as a UA Certified part-time welding instructor and as an Authorized Testing Representative.

Mr. Begay, with all his skills and years of experience, states, "I hope to see our welding students develop confidence to pass welding tests in our forever-changing industry and become successful in their skill trade and move on to extended education."

His opportunity to discuss further advanced knowledge and skills with students extends his welcome to contribute to the growing premier institution of the Navajo homeland.

If you are interested in our welding program at our Kirtland Instructional site, please get in touch with Ramondo J. Begay at [begay.ramondo@navajotech.edu](mailto:begay.ramondo@navajotech.edu) or (505) 609-5019 ext 2004.



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## Featured Student

Navajo Technical University is pleased to welcome Corey Yazzie, a proud member of the Navajo Nation. Her clans are Tábaqahá, born for Aheedlínii. Her maternal grandparents are Ma'iideeshgiizhnii, and her paternal grandparents are Áshjjihi.

Corey currently lives in Many Farms, Arizona, where she raised her three children, whom she considers her greatest blessings. She is a dedicated student in the Bachelor of Business Administration program at Navajo Technical University. As a first-generation college student, Corey strongly advocates for the power of higher education.

Her educational journey is fueled by her desire to build a strong foundation for her children, family, and community. Corey has already earned her Associate's degree from San Juan College and is on track to receive her Bachelor's degree from Navajo Technical University. Excelling in the Bachelor's Business Administration program, she maintains an impressive 3.9 GPA and has earned a spot on the Dean's list. She is also an active member of the American Indian Business Leaders club (AIBL). Corey's achievements prove that anything is possible with self-belief, perseverance through hardship, prayer, and dedication.

Corey stated, "I would like to thank my children and husband for their love, cups of coffee, and endless support! To my family, thank you for your constant encouragement, guidance, love, and support throughout my educational journey! T'áá hó'ájít'éego, t'éiyá! (It's all up to you/ go for it)!"

For those interested in the Business Administration program, please get in touch with Christine Reidhead at [creidhead@navajotech.edu](mailto:creidhead@navajotech.edu).

