

SKYHAWK PRESS

A PART OF YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

NTU Events
Pages 1 - 17

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

NTU Chinle Events
Pages 15

NTU Featured
Alumni... Page 16

NTU Featured
Student... Page 17

Monument Valley High School Senior Commits to NTU Rodeo Team for 2026-2027 Season

Crownpoint, NM – On March 4, 2026, Navajo Technical University (NTU) is excited to announce the signing of Aiden Etcitty from Black Mesa, AZ, to the NTU Rodeo team for the upcoming 2026–27 season in Bareback riding. Aiden formally committed to the program by signing his letter of intent at an event attended by the NTU Athletics Program and Head Coach Pino.

A senior at Monument Valley High School, Aiden brings a strong passion for rodeo, which he developed at a young age, inspired by his rodeo family and his experience with chute dogging in junior rodeo. While at NTU, he plans to major in the Electrical Trades program, a field he is interested in through his high school construction classes. Aiden is Tó'áhani, born for Áshjìhí, and his maternal grandparents are Ma'ii Deeshgiizhni, and his paternal grandparents are Tódich'ii'nii.

His decision to attend NTU and compete in collegiate rodeo was made following discussions about going to college and was deeply influenced by his family. His commitment was finalized soon after attending NTU's first High School Senior Day.

Aiden, determined to become an electrician and continue his rodeo career, met with instructor Vigil House at NTU. Mr. House provided Aiden with an overview of the classroom and the available hands-on training, reinforcing Aiden's commitment to completing his education.



Kayenta Unified School District Campus Tour

Crownpoint, NM – On March 5, 2026, Navajo Technical University (NTU) welcomed students from Monument Valley High School for an engaging campus tour designed to introduce them to life and academics at the university.

The day began at the Wellness Center, where NTU Recruiter Michael McMillian provided a warm welcome and an overview of NTU's diverse academic programs and degree opportunities. George LaFrance also engaged the students in self-introductions, encouraging them to speak in Navajo and share their hometowns. LaFrance emphasized the Athletics Department's commitment to physical activity, sportsmanship, and honoring student-athletes who embody fairness, civility, and honesty.

Students were then taken on a comprehensive tour that included stops at the biology and chemistry labs, the game room, the library, and the advanced fabrication lab. During these stops, Nylana Murphy and Adriane Tenequer highlighted NTU's strong emphasis on hands-on learning experiences and career pathways from the fabrication lab. The visit concluded with lunch provided at the NTU Cafeteria.



Academic Events & Calendar

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

Last Day of Class/ Grades Due
Jul 14

Fall Semester/Faculty Return
Aug 10

New Student Orientation
Aug 12

Instruction Begins
Aug 17

Last Day to Add/Drop Classes
Aug 21

Academic Events & Calendar

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

Last Day of Class/ Grades Due

Jul 14

Fall Semester/Faculty Return

Aug 10

New Student Orientation

Aug 12

Instruction Begins

Aug 17

A Taste of Talent

Crownpoint, NM - On March 12, 2026, Students from the Culinary Arts program hosted a tasting event where they presented dishes they've been developing throughout the semester. From presentation to flavor, each dish reflected the hard work, creativity, and dedication of our future chefs.

We asked one of the students what the most exciting part of the tasting experience was. Ellen Hope Noble, a sophomore in the Culinary Arts program, shared:

"The most exciting part of today's tasting was learning how important time management and communication are in the kitchen. I was working in the back of the house preparing and plating appetizers, so everything had to be timed perfectly. It was a fast-paced environment that required staying focused, handling pressure, and making sure the dishes still came out with great quality."



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...



Japan released sushi-inspired KitKats.

An espresso maker was sent into space in 2015.



The word 'aquarium' once referred to a watering place for cattle.

NTU SkillsUSA Brisket Sale a Success

Crownpoint, NM - On March 5, 2026, the NTU SkillsUSA Club successfully hosted a Brisket Sale on the main campus. Held near the gazebo by the cafeteria, the event drew a strong turnout, with customers forming a line even before noon.

The menu offered a choice of a brisket plate, a spare ribs plate, or a combination plate. Each meal was comprehensive, including baked beans, potato salad, fruit salad, slices of bread, watermelon, and a drink.

The SkillsUSA Club is grateful for the consistent support shown at these sales. The proceeds are vital, helping the NTU team prepare for upcoming state and national competitions throughout the spring and summer season.



Academic Events & Calendar

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

Last Day of Class/ Grades Due

Jul 14

Fall Semester/Faculty Return

Aug 10

New Student Orientation

Aug 12

Instruction Begins

Aug 17

Last Day to Add/Drop Classes

Aug 21

Academic Events & Calendar

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

Last Day of Class/ Grades Due

Jul 14

Fall Semester/Faculty Return

Aug 10

New Student Orientation

Aug 12

Instruction Begins

Aug 17

Last Day to Add/Drop Classes

Aug 21

PAGE 5

COSMIC COCOA: NTU Culinary Artists Ignite the Chocolate Stage

Albuquerque, NM - On March 7, 2026, Navajo Technical University's Culinary Arts Program brought creativity and craftsmanship to the spotlight during the 34th Annual Chocolate Fantasy Competition.

Representing NTU, students Santae Joe and Rachael Billie earned third place in the Most Artistic Sculpture category for their striking chocolate showpiece titled "Celestial Explosion." The sculpture demonstrated a powerful blend of technical precision and artistic vision, highlighting the hands-on training and innovation fostered within the university's Culinary Arts Program.

Also competing at the event was NTU student Bryton Sewequeqtewa, who presented his chocolate sculpture "Rapid Expansion." His work further showcased the imagination and skill emerging from NTU's growing community of culinary artists.

Baking instructor, Sheila, commended the students, saying, "Congratulations to Navajo Technical University's Professional Baking/Culinary Art students—Santae Joe, Rachael Billie, and Bryton Sewequeqtewa—for their outstanding performance in the annual New Mexico Museum of Natural History Chocolate Fantasy competition. NTU has a history of achieving success at this event, which features entries from local culinary schools, artists, and restaurants. This competition demands considerable effort and commitment. We commend our students for their notable accomplishments."

The students impressed the judges with two distinct bonbons: a cherry ganache and a habanero-raspberry. Furthermore, they conceptualized and executed entirely edible sculptures (comprised of at least 80% chocolate) as a class project, carefully transported them to Albuquerque for exhibition, and prepared over 300 tasting samples.

Competitions like the Chocolate Fantasy event provide NTU students with the opportunity to apply their classroom training in a professional environment while sharing their creativity with a wider audience. Their participation and achievements reflect the program's strength and inspire future chefs and pastry artists to pursue their passion through the Culinary Arts Program at Navajo Technical University.



NTU Recognized by Achieving the Dream as a 2026 Leader College

Crownpoint, New Mexico — On March 4, 2026, Navajo Technical University announced today that it has been designated a 2026 Leader College by Achieving the Dream (ATD), a national organization committed to advancing community colleges as accessible hubs of learning, credentialing, and economic mobility.

“I am truly honored to receive this recognition for student success. This award reflects Navajo Technical University’s continued commitment to improving student outcomes and strengthening our institution,” said Dr. Elmer J. Guy, President of Navajo Technical University. “It represents the collective effort of our dedicated faculty, staff, supportive families, and, most importantly, our students. Their resilience, curiosity, and determination inspire everything we do. Through our partnership with Achieving the Dream, we continue to use data-informed strategies to expand opportunities, strengthen pathways to completion, and prepare our students for workforce success and community advancement across the Navajo Nation. I also want to thank ATD and Coach Dr. Connie Green for believing in our mission and supporting our work to improve student achievement.”

Leader Colleges are recognized for meaningful progress in expanding access; improving early-momentum metrics, such as retention; advancing relevant student-success strategies with evidence of implementation and early results; and growing institutional capacity through culture and capacity-building efforts. Navajo Technical University has been part of the ATD Network since 2017.

“The 2026 Leader Colleges demonstrate sustained commitment and measurable progress in advancing student success,” said Dr. Karen A. Stout, president and CEO of Achieving the Dream. “By using data to guide decisions and continuously strengthen their practices, these institutions are producing real gains in student outcomes, strengthening their practices, and deepening their impact in the communities they serve. Their leadership sets a powerful example for colleges across the ATD Network, reflecting the focus, discipline, and follow-through required to achieve lasting institutional change.”



Academic Events & Calendar

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

Last Day of Class/ Grades Due

Jul 14

Fall Semester/Faculty

Return

Aug 10

New Student

Orientation

Aug 12

Instruction Begins

Aug 17

Last Day to Add/Drop

Classes

Aug 21

Academic Events & Calendar

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

Last Day of Class/ Grades Due

Jul 14

Fall Semester/Faculty Return

Aug 10

New Student Orientation

Aug 12

Instruction Begins

Aug 17

Last Day to Add/Drop Classes

Aug 21

PAGE 7

NTU Prominently Featured at the AIHEC 2026

Bismarck, ND - On March 16 - 20, NTU students, coaches, and staff proudly participated in the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) 2026 Student Conference held in Bismarck, North Dakota. This distinguished ceremony unites Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) from across the nation to honor unity, sovereignty, and the enduring strength of Indigenous higher education.

NTU joined TCUs from across the country to participate in over 20 competitive events that underscore student expertise, leadership, creativity, and collaborative teamwork. From knowledge bowls and research presentations to cultural, artistic, and leadership competitions, students had the opportunity to demonstrate their talents while serving as NTU representatives on a national platform.

This event successfully brought together TCUs from across the nation to represent their institutions, celebrate their distinct cultures, and showcase their institutional spirit. The sight of students, faculty, and staff uniting in pride and solidarity is consistently inspiring. We commend our students for representing Navajo Technical University with distinction and enthusiasm.



NTU Rodeo Team Kicks off Spring Season with Strong Performances

The Navajo Technical University (NTU) Athletics Rodeo Team launched its Spring 2026 season with two impressive showings in the NIRA Grand Canyon Region.

University of Arizona Rodeo (March 7, 2026)

Competing in the first regional rodeo of the spring, hosted by the University of Arizona, NTU established itself as a top contender. Bareback rider Isaiah Tom led the team by securing 1st Place with 145 points. Douglas Perry, competing in Steer Wrestling, contributed by placing 6th with 50 points.

CAC College Rodeo (March 14 & 15, 2026)

Building on their previous success, the team excelled again the next weekend at the CAC College Rodeo in Casa Grande again. Isaiah Tom secured another victory, repeating his 1st-place Bareback win with 145 points. Douglas Perry also delivered a strong showing, earning 6th Place in Steer Wrestling with 50 points. Cajun's barrel runs clocked in at 29.49 and 27.02.

Seven Skyhawk Student-Athletes competed in each rodeo, including:

- + Isaiah Tom: Bareback
- + Douglas Perry: Steer Wrestling
- + Wade Brown: Team Roping and Saddle Bronc
- + Adrian Begay: Saddle Bronc
- + Alvaro Begay: Bareback
- + Andre Foster: Bull Riding
- + Cajaan Cleveland: Barrel Racing

Great job, Skyhawks!



Academic Events & Calendar

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

Last Day of Class/ Grades Due

Jul 14

Fall Semester/Faculty Return

Aug 10

New Student Orientation

Aug 12

Instruction Begins

Aug 17

Last Day to Add/Drop Classes

Aug 21

Academic Events & Calendar

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

Last Day of Class/ Grades Due

Jul 14

Fall Semester/Faculty

Return

Aug 10

New Student

Orientation

Aug 12

Instruction Begins

Aug 17

Last Day to Add/Drop

Classes

Aug 21

NTU Competes at the 2026 SkillsUSA New Mexico State Leadership Conference

Albuquerque, NM—On March 21, 2026, Navajo Technical University (NTU) students showcased their talents and dedication at the 2026 SkillsUSA New Mexico State Leadership and Skills Conference (SLSC).

Held under the theme “Champion Your Future,” the four-day event offered NTU students the opportunity to compete against peers from across the state in various program areas, including culinary arts, speech, and information technology. Industry and community leaders were also present for this significant showcase of technical skill and leadership development.

+ In the Electrical Trade category, Jeremy Hosteen won silver, and Manuel Chiquito earned a bronze medal.

+ Jonathan Dennison and Shinaeya Watson secured silver in Cybersecurity.

+ Miryan Phillips claimed gold in the Job Skills Demonstration Open category, while Brighton Sewequoatewa took home gold in Restaurant Services.

“With a small group advancing to the state level, anticipation for earning medals was high. The students rose to the challenge, competing with determination and commitment. Most importantly, they completed the competition, actively participated, and demonstrated the skills they developed in the classroom by applying them in a real-world setting,” explained Wilbur Tso, NTU Skills Advisor.

These achievements underscore NTU’s steadfast commitment to delivering high-quality training and fostering professional growth, skill development, and leadership qualities. The recognition received at SkillsUSA continues the university’s strong tradition of excellence at both the state and national levels.

Congratulations to the Navajo Technical University students! They represented their institution with pride and dedication, demonstrating their talents, expanding their professional network, and taking a significant step forward in their careers.



NTU Archery Team Shines at 2026 Hit-or-Miss 3-Spot Championship

Albuquerque, NM - On March 14-15, the Navajo Technical University (NTU) Archery Team showcased their skill at the 2026 Hit-or-Miss 3-Spot Championship, held at the Hit or Miss Archery Center. Three dedicated student-athletes represented NTU: Faith Benally (Women's Barebow), Semira Gray, and Nona (both competing in Women's Compound Freestyle).

The competition was rigorous, requiring archers to shoot 600 arrows across 20 rounds, with three arrows per round. Following the initial 20 rounds, the top five competitors in each division advanced to a high-pressure shoot-off.

Faith Benally performed exceptionally well, finishing fourth after the preliminary rounds and earning a coveted spot in the shoot-off. The shoot-off demanded precision; archers had to consistently hit the 7-point ring to advance, with the target size diminishing after each round. Benally successfully navigated two rounds before her elimination. Her impressive performance culminated in a third-place finish in the Women's Barebow division.

Join the Skyhawks. Competing under the U.S. Collegiate Archery Association (USCA), Navajo Tech's co-ed archery team is continually rising, driven by focus, precision, and discipline. The team aims to establish a new standard in collegiate archery, representing NTU with distinction and dedication.

Aspiring archers are encouraged to apply now and become a Skyhawk, joining NTU's dynamic and growing archery program.



Academic Events & Calendar

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

Last Day of Class/

Grades Due

Jul 14

Fall Semester/Faculty

Return

Aug 10

New Student

Orientation

Aug 12

Instruction Begins

Aug 17

Last Day to Add/Drop

Classes

Aug 21

KCZY 107.3 FM

SKYHAWK RADIO

A PART OF YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE

Academic Events & Calendar

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

Last Day of Class/ Grades Due

Jul 14

Fall Semester/Faculty Return

Aug 10

PAGE 11

KCZY Community Outreach

KCZY 107.3 FM, the radio station of Navajo Technical University, is proud to be out at the Becenti Chapter House in Becenti, NM today for a community outreach event.

Broadcasting great music over the air and building connections on the ground, the station team has been spending the day visiting with community members, socializing in the parking lot, and enjoying the beautiful weather together.

Events like this highlight KCZY 107.3's role in bringing people, culture, and conversation together through radio.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by and shared part of the day with us.



2026 Spring Career Expo

Crownpoint, NM - On March 25, 2026, the NTU Office of Career Services hosted its annual Spring Career Expo at the Wellness Center on the NTU main campus. Shawna Begay, the Career Services Coordinator, organizes two career expos each year—one in the spring and one in the fall. She invites a wide range of companies and organizations to set up booths, all with a focus on hiring upcoming college graduates or offering internship opportunities for our students.

The career expos are a crucial opportunity for students, allowing them to engage directly with recruiters in fields they're interested in. Many students attended, building valuable connections that could lead to opportunities after graduation. Shawna also extends her gratitude to the companies and organizations that took the time to meet with our students and help foster these important connections.



Academic Events & Calendar

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

Last Day of Class/ Grades Due

Jul 14

Fall Semester/Faculty Return

Aug 10

New Student Orientation

Aug 12

Instruction Begins

Aug 17

Last Day to Add/Drop Classes

Aug 21

Academic Events & Calendar

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

Last Day of Class/ Grades Due

Jul 14

Fall Semester/Faculty Return

Aug 10

New Student Orientation

Aug 12

Instruction Begins

Aug 17

Last Day to Add/Drop Classes

Aug 21

First Annual STEM Day

Crownpoint, NM - On March 25, 2026, the 1st Annual STEM Day at Navajo Technical University (NTU) was successfully launched with opening remarks from Dr. Irene Ane-Anyangwe of NTU, Mack Hathaway, and Dr. Kathryn Hollar of Harvard University.

Hosted by NTU's BICEP Club, the event provided a dynamic day of exploration and hands-on learning for students, faculty, and staff. Students from Window Rock High School also attended, strengthening the connection between secondary and higher education and encouraging future academic pursuits.

Attendees participated in interactive STEM activities, demonstrations, and discussions designed to inspire the next generation of STEM leaders. Highlights included NTU chemistry student Wyant Billie sharing research insights and a hydroponics greenhouse tour led by Latasha Chaquito, who showcased sustainable techniques and traditional Navajo plant cultivation. The day concluded with a Physics Department presentation in the Tech Building, featuring NTU student Nicholas Retan and Dr. Abraham Meles demonstrating advanced tools.

STEM Day provided an engaging look at NTU's academic programs and facilities, fostering excitement for STEM fields and highlighting the university's commitment to education, innovation, and community outreach. The success was driven by the leadership of the NTU BICEP Club officers and advisors, including Vice President Della J. Wilson and President David Willi.



Navajo Technical University Celebrates New Academic Building with Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

Navajo Technical University (NTU) inaugurated its new \$12 million Academic Building on March 27, 2026, marking a major step in its commitment to high-quality, culturally relevant education for the Navajo Nation.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony included a welcome by Provost Dr. Colleen Bowman, a traditional blessing by Sherman Woody, and opening remarks by President Dr. Elmer Guy. Dignitaries present included the NTU Board of Regents, New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, and Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren. Dr. Guy emphasized the facility's dedication to students, noting it signifies progress for NTU and the surrounding communities.

The vital contributions of NM Representatives Luis Campos, Gerald Hoehne, and Carlos Muerrieta of Merge Architect Firm were also recognized. The building will provide crucial access to higher education for rural community members near Crownpoint, NM, supporting healthy communities, sustainable economies, and Navajo culture.

Guest speakers, including Governor Grisham and President Nygren, along with NTU Student Senate President Shinaeya Watson, praised the initiative. Governor Grisham highlighted NTU's role in supporting students across disciplines and in contributing to healthcare and the workforce. President Nygren thanked the leadership for providing campus resources near home.

Following a guided tour, attendees enjoyed a luncheon hosted by the Culinary Arts Programs. NTU extended gratitude to all contributors, specifically Abe Bitok, Director of Support Services, and the dedicated staff, faculty, students, and security team. NTU offers the widest selection of degree and certificate programs on the Navajo Nation, encouraging prospective students to explore their options.



Academic Events & Calendar

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

Last Day of Class/ Grades Due

Jul 14

Fall Semester/Faculty

Return

Aug 10

New Student

Orientation

Aug 12

Instruction Begins

Aug 17

Last Day to Add/Drop

Classes

Aug 21

SKYHAWK PRESS

CHINLE INSTRUCTIONAL SITE

A PART OF YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE

Academic Events & Calendar

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

Last Day of Class/ Grades Due

Jul 14

Fall Semester/Faculty Return

Aug 10

PAGE 15

Navajo Technical University's Chinle Site is honored to host the 250 American Traveling Museum

Navajo Technical University's Chinle Site successfully hosted the prestigious 250 American Traveling Museum on March 30, 2026. This event reflects NTU's dedication to providing valuable historical and educational resources to the community.

The Opening Ceremony, starting at 10:00 AM, included remarks from Chinle Chapter and NTU officials, preceded by a special performance from Rock Point Community School. Tsaile Elementary School, the only school from the Chinle Unified School District to attend, was notably present.

The traveling museum offers a comprehensive collection of artifacts from American history and culture to students, faculty, and the public for a limited time. NTU Chinle Site Director Arlena Benallie called it an "exceptional and memorable event" for Diné Native American Heritage, emphasizing the wide, inclusive invitation to community members and officials.

The event featured local food vendors and cultural performances and was open to the Chinle Unified School District and the public. The interactive exhibit blended national history with Arizona's unique stories, offering a valuable educational experience. Attendees participated in the "Dear America, Love Arizona" postcard activity, sharing personal narratives alongside exploring immersive panels and a video presentation on Arizona's past, present, and future, including the vital contributions of the Navajo people.

NTU extends gratitude to security, staff, and faculty. Logistics were coordinated with the NTU-Chinle Site, with assistance from teams like Arizona Lions volunteers for crowd management and guided tours.



Featured Alumni

Navajo Technical University proudly recognizes Robinson Tom of Crownpoint, NM. A member of the Chiricahua Apache, he is born for Red Running into Water, with maternal grandparents from Zia Pueblo and paternal grandparents from the Bitter Water People.

Robinson made history in 2020 as the inaugural graduate of NTU's Bachelor of Science in Biology program.

Following graduation, Mr. Tom achieved another milestone: he became the first NTU student to enroll at Harvard University for higher studies, having received a Post-Baccalaureate Degree Admission through the NSF PREM project. During this time, he contributed to the NSF PREM project pipeline alongside Dr. Thiagarajan Soundappan, and he wishes to express his gratitude to the NSF PREM division for his success.

While participating in the NSF PREM research initiative, Mr. Tom is now enrolled in a graduate program at Harvard University. This is part of a unique partnership between NTU and the Harvard MRSEC, which aims to establish sustainable pathways for Native American undergraduates into STEM. The initiative achieves this by integrating traditional tribal perspectives and methods of scientific inquiry into materials science research and education.

Mr. Tom is currently pursuing a PhD in Bioengineering at Harvard University. Before beginning his graduate studies, he spent two summers conducting research at the Army Research Laboratory. His work there concentrated on developing a gel electrolyte for a flexible 4V aqueous lithium-ion battery. Specifically, his project involved fabricating and electrochemically analyzing electrodes and aqueous gel electrolytes to create lightweight, non-flammable lithium-ion batteries suitable for U.S. Army soldiers operating in the field.



Academic Events & Calendar

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

Last Day of Class/ Grades Due

Jul 14

Fall Semester/Faculty Return

Aug 10

New Student Orientation

Aug 12

Instruction Begins

Aug 17

Last Day to Add/Drop Classes

Aug 21

Academic Events & Calendar

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

Last Day of Class/ Grades Due

Jul 14

Fall Semester/Faculty Return

Aug 10

New Student Orientation

Aug 12

Instruction Begins

Aug 17

Last Day to Add/Drop Classes

Aug 21

Featured Student

Navajo Technical University is pleased to introduce Leanna Joe Lewis, a current student in the Certified Nursing Assistant program. Leanna hails from Rough Rock, Arizona. She is Dibé Lizhinii, born for Tó'ahdlinii, with her maternal grandparents being Tsenáajinii and her paternal grandparents being Tó'dishchinii. Her mother is from Rough Rock, and her father is from Chinle.

As the oldest of four siblings, Leanna has developed strong leadership skills and a sense of responsibility. Education is a family tradition, as both her father and maternal grandmother attended NTU. Her father earned a degree in the Electrical Trades program, and her maternal grandmother earned a degree in Construction. Leanna shared, "Their accomplishments alone help me keep focus on my goals and encourage me to attain my degree in the Nursing field."

Leanna's artistic talents shone at Chinle High School, where she earned multiple ribbon titles, including third place in various art projects. In her senior year, she was introduced to ceramic art and created a pottery piece with engraved sunflowers that earned the 'Best of Show' plaque. This artistic achievement complemented her strong academic performance in honors classes, including algebra, chemistry, and advanced computer science.

As a first-year NTU student, Leanna discovered a fondness for Chemistry. She was glad to take the class and noted, "My access to state-of-the-art equipment to use in the lab was very inspiring. I thank my chemistry instructor for recognizing my interest in chemistry." She believes her time at NTU has allowed her to connect with her heritage, stating, "Attending NTU has allowed me to tap into my roots and align Navajo teachings with my structural thinking." Leanna also credits her success to her family, adding, "My deepest thank you goes out to my uncle Sheldon, who has always been there since the beginning of my educational journey and never doubted me. He is my biggest supporter and my guide towards setting myself up for success."

