

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 Featured Staff/
Faculty... Page 12**

**NTU Featured
Alumni... Page 13**

Big Flavor and An Even Bigger Impact: An Unforgettable Achievement

GRAND RAPIDS, MI — At the American Culinary Federation (ACF) National Convention held from June 28 to July 2, 2026, Navajo Technical University's Baking Team, consisting of Sheila Begay and Melvina Jones, was honored with the prestigious Cutting Edge Award.

Alongside their colleagues, Sheila and Melvina immersed themselves in an inspiring week of educational seminars and valuable networking opportunities. They also witnessed some of the nation's most talented chefs competing at the highest levels, describing the immense passion, creativity, and professionalism on display as truly exceptional.

Reflecting on the achievement, Sheila Begay shared, "I am incredibly honored to be a recipient of the 2026 ACF Cutting Edge Award, presented by our ACF President during the national convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This recognition is deeply meaningful to me because the Cutting Edge Award is inherently focused on innovation, forward-thinking industry trends, and a commitment to mentoring the next generation of culinarians."

Chef Begay, who currently holds certifications as a Certified Sous Chef and a Certified Working Pastry Chef from the American Culinary Federation, is also actively pursuing her Executive Pastry Chef certification. She attributes much of her success to NTU and her instructors, particularly Chef Brian Tatsukawa, and she advanced to her current role as a Technical Instructor of Pastry & Confections at NTU.

Chef Melvina Jones also shared her heartfelt gratitude for her professional journey, extending special thanks to her mentors—Chef Brian Tatsukawa, Chef Robert Witte, and Chef Walter Cloud—for their unwavering support and guidance.



Summer Youth Running Camp

On July 7, 2026, the NTU Athletics Department, led by George LaFrance and assisted by Coach Lenord Lee, hosted a one-day youth running camp on the NTU main campus.

The camp began at 9:00 a.m. with an overview of the day's activities. George introduced participants to the fundamentals of sprinting, jogging, and distance running before the group moved outdoors for hands-on instruction.

Coach Lee then led participants through a series of running, sprinting, and jogging drills similar to those used by the NTU cross-country team. He emphasized proper running techniques, foot placement, and body mechanics to help improve performance while reducing the risk of common running injuries.

Following a lunch break, Coach Lee invited two former student-athletes to speak with the participants. They shared their experiences competing at the collegiate level and discussed the dedication, discipline, and commitment required to succeed as college athletes.



SAVE THE DATE

**Fall Graduation Petition
Due
Sep 25**

**Fall Midterm Exams
Oct 5-9**

**HOLIDAY - Veterans Day
Nov 11**

**Fall Break
Nov 23 - 25**

**HOLIDAY -
Thanksgiving/NN Family
Day
Nov 26 - 27**

**Final Exams
Dec 7 - 9**

**Fall Graduation
Dec 11**

**Winter Holiday
Dec 24 - Jan 1**

**HOLIDAY - Christmas
Dec 25**

**HOLIDAY - New Year's
Day
Jan 1**

**Faculty Return
Jan 11**

**New Student
Orientation
Jan 14**

**Last Day Registration
Jan 15**

**HOLIDAY - Martin Luther
King Jr. Day
Jan 18**

SAVE THE DATE

**Fall Graduation Petition
Due**
Sep 25

Fall Midterm Exams
Oct 5-9

HOLIDAY - Veterans Day
Nov 11

Fall Break
Nov 23 - 25

**HOLIDAY -
Thanksgiving/NN Family
Day**
Nov 26 - 27

Final Exams
Dec 7 - 9

Fall Graduation
Dec 11

Winter Holiday
Dec 24 - Jan 1

HOLIDAY - Christmas
Dec 25

**HOLIDAY - New Year's
Day**
Jan 1

Faculty Return
Jan 11

**New Student
Orientation**
Jan 14

Last Day Registration
Jan 15

Youth Baseball/Softball Camp

On July 13–14, 2026, the NTU Athletics Department hosted a Youth Baseball and Softball Camp at the Wellness Center on the NTU main campus. The camp was led by George LaFrance, with volunteer support from Jonathan Keown, Athletic Assistant for Window Rock High School, as well as local softball players Misty, Stormy, and Theresa.

Over the course of the two-day camp, participants learned the fundamentals of baseball and softball, including proper sportsmanship and etiquette, as well as essential skills such as pitching, catching, hitting, and throwing through a variety of drills. For many participants, this was their first introduction to the sport, and by the end of the camp, they had demonstrated noticeable growth and improvement in each skill area.

The volunteers worked closely with participants by leading individual drill stations, providing instruction, encouragement, and personalized feedback. They made adjustments to each participant's technique as needed, helping build confidence while reinforcing the fundamentals of the game.

George extends his sincere appreciation to all the volunteers who dedicated their time and effort to making the camp a success. Their commitment to teaching and mentoring the participants played an important role in helping the young athletes develop their skills and build confidence in the sport.

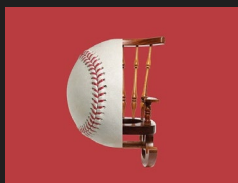


DO YOU HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE? CONTACT DALE MORGAN AT

dmorgan@navajotech.edu

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

I BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW...



Baseball umpires used to sit in rocking chairs.

The first commercial passenger flight lasted only 23 minutes.



The world's first novel may be missing its ending.

NCAA Division III Student-Athlete Announcement

Crownpoint, N.M. — Former Navajo Technical University student-athlete Myabelle Begay is set to advance her academic and basketball journey at Vermont University. Starting July 17, 2026, she will compete at the NCAA Division III level while pursuing a degree in Business Administration.

Begay explained that her experience as a student-athlete was instrumental in preparing her for this next step. “My coaches taught me the importance of accountability, communication, and teamwork,” she noted. “Those lessons will help me succeed in my education, athletics, and future career. My goal is to become a Navajo Nation Council Delegate,” Begay added.

Navajo Technical University proudly congratulates Myabelle Begay on her transfer and wishes her success in both her academic and athletic endeavors.

“Business Administration will provide the knowledge and leadership skills I need to help serve my community,” Begay concluded.



SAVE THE DATE

**Fall Graduation Petition
Due**
Sep 25

Fall Midterm Exams
Oct 5-9

HOLIDAY - Veterans Day
Nov 11

Fall Break
Nov 23 - 25

**HOLIDAY -
Thanksgiving/NN Family
Day**
Nov 26 - 27

Final Exams
Dec 7 - 9

Fall Graduation
Dec 11

Winter Holiday
Dec 24 - Jan 1

HOLIDAY - Christmas
Dec 25

**HOLIDAY - New Year's
Day**
Jan 1

Faculty Return
Jan 11

**New Student
Orientation**
Jan 14

Last Day Registration
Jan 15

**HOLIDAY - Martin Luther
King Jr. Day**
Jan 18

SAVE THE DATE

**Fall Graduation Petition
Due**
Sep 25

Fall Midterm Exams
Oct 5-9

HOLIDAY - Veterans Day
Nov 11

Fall Break
Nov 23 - 25

**HOLIDAY -
Thanksgiving/NN Family
Day**
Nov 26 - 27

Final Exams
Dec 7 - 9

Fall Graduation
Dec 11

Winter Holiday
Dec 24 - Jan 1

HOLIDAY - Christmas
Dec 25

**HOLIDAY - New Year's
Day**
Jan 1

Faculty Return
Jan 11

**New Student
Orientation**
Jan 14

Last Day Registration
Jan 15

**HOLIDAY - Martin Luther
King Jr. Day**
Jan 18

Navajo Technical University Hosts 2026 Navajo Nation Presidential Forum

Crownpoint, NM - On July 8, 2026, Navajo Technical University (NTU) served as the venue for the Navajo Nation presidential debate, held inside the wellness center. Following a welcome from Dr. Elmer J. Guy, the presidential candidates addressed critical issues currently facing the Navajo Nation.

The event opened with remarks from Master of Ceremonies Mr. Wilbur Tso and a blessing from Wilson Gilmore. NTU student moderators guided the discussion, allowing each candidate 1 minute for a self-introduction, followed by 3 minutes to articulate their strategic plans and core priorities to promote the best interests of the Navajo Nation.

Each panel addressed a wide range of topics, including climate change, natural resources, water security, higher education, and NTU-tribal college partnerships. Additionally, candidates discussed administrative measures to establish internships, career pathways, and workforce initiatives that align academic programs with the Navajo Nation's workforce needs and encourage local graduates to build careers at home.

The forum concluded with candidate closing statements, rapid-fire questions, and an open-mic session, with a strong emphasis on community investment, housing, and education. Shaneaya Watson, NTU Student Senate President, delivered the closing prayer. All participating candidates shared positive feedback regarding NTU's coordination of the event.

Our Diné People got a chance to hear the forum and determine their Primary Election vote today. Navajo Nation Voter Registrars are available at most chapter houses. Voter registration is also open to Navajos living off the reservation. This year's election will determine the Navajo Nation presidency, the 24 seats on the Navajo Nation Council, the Navajo Board of Election Supervisors, the Navajo Board of Education, and other offices.

All candidates: Justin Jones, Crystalyne Curley, Dr. Jordan Begay, Arvin Trujillo, Debbie Nez-Manuel, Tom T. Chee, Frank Dayish Jr., Donovan Begay, Buu Nygren, Alexander Chambers, Emily Ellison, Johnny Russell Jr., Myron Lizer, Larry Noble, and Andrew Curley gave much positive feedback for NTU hosting the event.



From Equations to Experimental Learning: Build, Play, and Discover

Zuni, NM — On July 15, 2026, the Early Childhood Multicultural Education Program hosted a Math Fair at the Zuni Instructional Site of A:shiwi College, situated within the Vocational Room.

Students enrolled in the Early Childhood Multicultural Education (ECME) Program's Math 1115 course presented interactive lesson plans for children. This event highlighted experiential learning through engaging, hands-on activities for children and their families. The gathering was well-attended by community members and families, who offered their support to the students. Refreshments were provided, and initial participating families received special attendance incentives.

"These presentations demonstrated multiple engaging strategies, such as hands-on activities, for teaching mathematical concepts to children, thereby providing families with practical methods to support mathematical education at home," explained Thomas Yazzie, Program Coordinator.

Children engaged in educational activities featuring vibrant, stimulating visuals and math-oriented tools, including numerical figures, geometric shapes, counting blocks, and rulers. The event's design was warm, multicultural, and family-oriented, reflecting the core values of the Early Childhood Multicultural Education Program.



SAVE THE DATE

Fall Graduation Petition Due
Sep 25

Fall Midterm Exams
Oct 5-9

HOLIDAY - Veterans Day
Nov 11

Fall Break
Nov 23 - 25

HOLIDAY - Thanksgiving/NN Family Day
Nov 26 - 27

Final Exams
Dec 7 - 9

Fall Graduation
Dec 11

Winter Holiday
Dec 24 - Jan 1

HOLIDAY - Christmas
Dec 25

HOLIDAY - New Year's Day
Jan 1

Faculty Return
Jan 11

New Student Orientation
Jan 14

Last Day Registration
Jan 15

HOLIDAY - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan 18

Academic Events & Calendar

**Fall Graduation Petition
Due**
Sep 25

Fall Midterm Exams
Oct 5-9

HOLIDAY - Veterans Day
Nov 11

Fall Break
Nov 23 - 25

**HOLIDAY -
Thanksgiving/NN Family
Day**
Nov 26 - 27

Final Exams
Dec 7 - 9

Fall Graduation
Dec 11

Winter Holiday
Dec 24 - Jan 1

HOLIDAY - Christmas
Dec 25

**HOLIDAY - New Year's
Day**
Jan 1

Faculty Return
Jan 11

**New Student
Orientation**
Jan 14

Last Day Registration
Jan 15

**HOLIDAY - Martin Luther
King Jr. Day**
Jan 18

PAGE 7

High School Students Tour Navajo Technical University Campus

Crownpoint, NM — Navajo Technical University recently hosted a campus visit for a group of 40 high school students. The event began at the Wellness Center, where Michael McMillan greeted the prospective students and delivered an introductory presentation covering NTU's academic offerings, student support services, and educational opportunities.

After the opening session, attendees split into five smaller tour groups to explore the campus facilities. The guided route included visits to the Academic Building, Student Union Building, Culinary Arts Department, Library, Fabrication Lab, and Trades Building, offering direct access to the university's instructional spaces and resources.

During the tours, McMillan detailed key elements of each academic program and outlined the student experience at NTU. At key stops, faculty members and program representatives met with the groups to answer questions, explain program specifics, and showcase specialized equipment.

The visit wrapped up with lunch at the campus cafeteria before the students departed.

NTU offers customized campus tours for schools, organizations, and community groups. Designed around each group's specific goals and interests, these tours provide a comprehensive look at the university's academic offerings, campus community, and student services.



Navajo Technical University 2026 Trout Fishing Tournament

Tsaile Lake, Arizona — On July 18, 2026, anglers gathered at the beautiful Tsaile Lake for a wonderful event sponsored by Navajo Technical University. Filled with friendly competition, family fun, and fishing, the 2026 NTU Trout Tournament proved to be a major success. Despite an initial bout of rain, the weather cleared, allowing participants to escape the busy weekend hustle and enjoy the many excellent fishing spots around Tsaile Lake and its surrounding areas.

Anglers utilized a variety of fishing methods throughout the tournament. Some opted to venture out onto the pristine waters in boats, while others chose to station themselves along the shoreline, precisely casting out their lines with high anticipation. The overall atmosphere was filled with the excitement of the chase as everyone competed to reel in the most impressive trout.

The Youth Scoreboard highlighted several outstanding accomplishments:

1st Place: Christopher James — 15 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches / 1 lb. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

2nd Place: Dalton Yazzie — 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches / 1 lb. $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

3rd Place: Alzado Lansing — 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches / 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

4th Place: Aaron Tsosie Jr. — 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches / 13 oz.

5th Place: StevieRay Ashley — 13 inches / 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

6th Place: Shiah Jim — 12 inches / 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

7th Place: Dalton Yazzie — 12 inches / 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

The Adult Scoreboard also featured a series of impressive triumphs:

1st Place: Kellen Denny — 17 inches / 1 lb. 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

2nd Place: Arlo Lansing — 16 inches / 1 lb. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

3rd Place: Tavon Judge — 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches / 1 lb. 8 oz.

4th Place: Owen Morris — 15 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches / 1 lb. 8 oz.

5th Place: Kellen Denny — 16 inches / 1 lb. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

6th Place: Lyle Billy — 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches / 1 lb. 6 oz.

7th Place: Maxton Calladitto — 16 inches / 1 lb. 6 oz.

Reflecting on the successful day, George commented: “I want to express my gratitude to the Marketing team, Dale and Wade, as well as our Chinle recruiter, Jarvis Draper, for their incredible support during the event. We also owe a huge thank you to the Crownpoint and Chinle Business Offices for handling the credit card payments. I couldn’t have done this all by myself, and I am just so happy that we were able to create lifelong memories with our friends and families.”



Academic Events & Calendar

**Fall Graduation Petition
Due**
Sep 25

Fall Midterm Exams
Oct 5-9

HOLIDAY - Veterans Day
Nov 11

Fall Break
Nov 23 - 25

**HOLIDAY -
Thanksgiving/NN Family
Day**
Nov 26 - 27

Final Exams
Dec 7 - 9

Fall Graduation
Dec 11

Winter Holiday
Dec 24 - Jan 1

HOLIDAY - Christmas
Dec 25

**HOLIDAY - New Year's
Day**
Jan 1

Faculty Return
Jan 11

**New Student
Orientation**
Jan 14

Last Day Registration
Jan 15

**HOLIDAY - Martin Luther
King Jr. Day**
Jan 18

Academic Events & Calendar

Fall Graduation Petition

Due
Sep 25

Fall Midterm Exams

Oct 5-9

HOLIDAY - Veterans Day

Nov 11

Fall Break

Nov 23 - 25

HOLIDAY -

Thanksgiving/NN Family Day

Nov 26 - 27

Final Exams

Dec 7 - 9

Fall Graduation

Dec 11

Winter Holiday

Dec 24 - Jan 1

HOLIDAY - Christmas

Dec 25

HOLIDAY - New Year's Day

Jan 1

Faculty Return

Jan 11

New Student Orientation

Jan 14

Last Day Registration

Jan 15

HOLIDAY - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Jan 18

NTU Athletics Hosts Successful Two-Day Youth Basketball Camp

Crownpoint, NM — On July 23–24, the Navajo Technical University Athletics Department welcomed more than 60 young athletes aged 10 to 17 to the Wellness Center on the main campus for a dynamic two-day Youth Basketball Camp.

Led by NTU Athletics Director George LaFrance, Women's Basketball Coach Aanor Louis, and special guest Miss Navajo Nation Camille Uentillie, the camp focused on developing fundamental skills, fostering teamwork, and promoting personal growth. Throughout the event, coaches grouped participants by age to deliver targeted instruction through skill-building drills, cooperative exercises, and interactive scrimmage games.

The camp provided a fun, encouraging, and supportive environment where local youth could build confidence and elevate their game. NTU Athletics remains committed to organizing events that empower young individuals to stay active and thrive both on and off the basketball court.

NTU Athletics extends a sincere thank-you to Miss Navajo Nation, Camille Uentillie, for her partnership, time, and inspiring leadership. Her involvement left a meaningful impression on all participating athletes, and NTU looks forward to partnering with her again for future youth camps.



Skyhawk Pride was on full display at the 2026 Navajo Nation Eastern Fair Parade

Navajo Technical University was excited to be part of this year's parade in Crownpoint, NM, celebrating alongside our community. Our students, faculty, staff, and supporters proudly represented NTU with enthusiasm, school spirit, and a shared commitment to education.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who cheered us on and to the organizers for putting together another outstanding Navajo Nation Eastern Fair. We're honored to be part of this tradition and grateful for the opportunity to celebrate with our community.

Ahéhee' to everyone who helped make the day memorable!



Academic Events & Calendar

Fall Graduation Petition Due
Sep 25

Fall Midterm Exams
Oct 5-9

HOLIDAY - Veterans Day
Nov 11

Fall Break
Nov 23 - 25

HOLIDAY - Thanksgiving/NN Family Day
Nov 26 - 27

Final Exams
Dec 7 - 9

Fall Graduation
Dec 11

Winter Holiday
Dec 24 - Jan 1

HOLIDAY - Christmas
Dec 25

HOLIDAY - New Year's Day
Jan 1

Faculty Return
Jan 11

New Student Orientation
Jan 14

Last Day Registration
Jan 15

HOLIDAY - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan 18

Academic Events & Calendar

**Fall Graduation Petition
Due**

Sep 25

Fall Midterm Exams

Oct 5-9

HOLIDAY - Veterans Day
Nov 11

Fall Break
Nov 23 - 25

**HOLIDAY -
Thanksgiving/NN Family
Day**
Nov 26 - 27

Final Exams
Dec 7 - 9

Fall Graduation
Dec 11

Winter Holiday
Dec 24 - Jan 1

HOLIDAY - Christmas
Dec 25

**HOLIDAY - New Year's
Day**
Jan 1

Faculty Return
Jan 11

**New Student
Orientation**
Jan 14

Last Day Registration
Jan 15

**HOLIDAY - Martin Luther
King Jr. Day**
Jan 18

PAGE 11

The New Mexico Higher Education Department Capital Outlay Summer Hearings

CROWNPOINT, NM - On July 28, 2026, Navajo Technical University convened a meeting inside the Academic Building with the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) to review state-funded project highlights, new initiatives, and current updates.

These summer hearings offer a vital opportunity for Higher Education Institutions, Special Schools, and Tribal Colleges and Universities to submit funding requests for capital outlay projects deemed most consequential to the institutions and the state.

NTU's leadership team, represented by Dr. Jason Arviso, Vice President, Dr. Elmer Guy, President, and Mr. Abe Bitok, Director of Support Services, detailed the day-to-day operations of their capital outlay projects. NMHED holds a statutory responsibility to administer an equitable annual review and recommendation process for public post-secondary capital outlay funding. As part of its recruitment and retention strategy, NTU aims to expand academic pathways with high schools each semester, ensuring graduating students who transition into the university receive continued support.

Current updates on campus projects include:

- A 17,000-square-foot expansion of the Trades Building.
- Renovations to the NTU Science and Trades Building.
- Classroom HVAC improvements.

NTU hosted all participating New Mexico tribal colleges during the event, including the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA), which focuses on artistic disciplines; the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI), which specializes in vocational and technical education; and Diné College, which centers its mission on Navajo culture, language, and heritage.

Following a presentation by NTU's Biology department, State of New Mexico officials, including Cabinet Secretary Stephanie Rodriguez and Director of Communications Aurellia Ortiz, shared lunch with university representatives. They then conducted a campus tour to inspect sidewalk infrastructure concerns and review the designated site for the Trades Expansion Project.



Featured Staff/Faculty

Navajo Technical University is proud to spotlight Carlos R. Paez-Paez, originally from Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico.

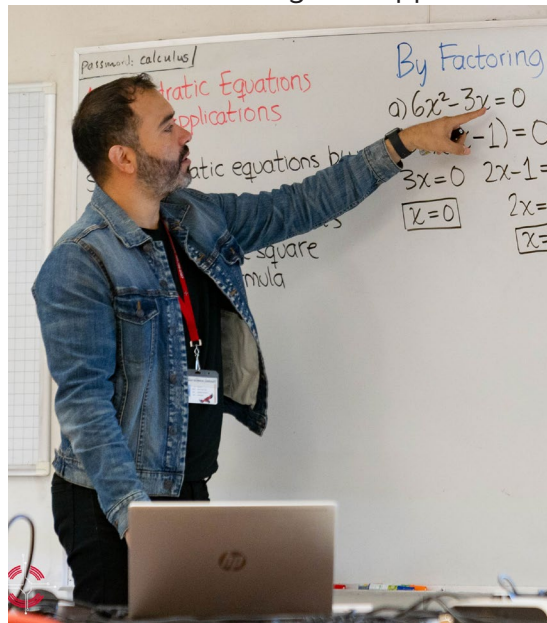
Carlos earned a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Instituto Tecnológico de Ciudad Juárez in 2006, an M.S. in Mathematics Education from Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez in 2009, and a Ph.D. in Teaching, Learning, and Culture (STEM specialization) from The University of Texas at El Paso in 2014.

Carlos reflected, “My background blends Electrical Engineering, Mathematics Education, and STEM Education. This interdisciplinary foundation deeply shapes how I teach mathematics, driving my commitment to bridge abstract mathematical ideas with practical applications, technology, and broader STEM disciplines.”

An Assistant Professor in the School of Engineering, Mathematics, and Technology since January 2015, Carlos considers his 11+ years supporting NTU math and STEM education a major achievement. Key contributions include:

- + Curriculum Development: Updated certificate and associate programs, course descriptions, and co-developed a proposed B.S. in Secondary Mathematics Education.
- + Graduate Education: Appointed to Graduate Faculty in 2026, helping revise the Graduate Catalog and Handbook.
- + Grant Initiatives: Provides instruction to educators through TSETS and supports NSF TCUP math projects.
- + Statewide Service: Serves on the New Mexico Mathematics Standards Task Force.
- + Research: Published on STEM, border education, and co-authored a 2023 ASEE paper, “Experiential Learning Approaches to Health-themed STEM Education That Addresses Medical Concerns in Hispanic Communities.”
- + Service & Teaching: Active in Faculty Congress; aims to help students overcome math anxiety and build confidence.

Grateful for his experiences with NTU colleagues and students, Carlos looks forward to continuing his support for mathematics and STEM education.



Academic Events & Calendar

Fall Graduation Petition

Due
Sep 25

Fall Midterm Exams

Oct 5-9

HOLIDAY - Veterans Day

Nov 11

Fall Break

Nov 23 - 25

**HOLIDAY -
Thanksgiving/NN Family
Day**

Nov 26 - 27

Final Exams

Dec 7 - 9

Fall Graduation

Dec 11

Winter Holiday

Dec 24 - Jan 1

HOLIDAY - Christmas

Dec 25

HOLIDAY - New Year's

Day
Jan 1

Faculty Return

Jan 11

**New Student
Orientation**

Jan 14

Last Day Registration

Jan 15

**HOLIDAY - Martin Luther
King Jr. Day**

Jan 18

Academic Events & Calendar

Fall Graduation Petition

Due
Sep 25

Fall Midterm Exams

Oct 5-9

HOLIDAY - Veterans Day

Nov 11

Fall Break

Nov 23 - 25

HOLIDAY -

Thanksgiving/NN Family

Day

Nov 26 - 27

Final Exams

Dec 7 - 9

Fall Graduation

Dec 11

Winter Holiday

Dec 24 - Jan 1

HOLIDAY - Christmas

Dec 25

HOLIDAY - New Year's

Day

Jan 1

Faculty Return

Jan 11

New Student

Orientation

Jan 14

Last Day Registration

Jan 15

HOLIDAY - Martin Luther

King Jr. Day

Jan 18

Featured Alumni

A graduate of Crownpoint High School, Robyn Yazzie originally hails from Crownpoint, NM. She is Áshjį́hí (Salt People), born for Naakaii Dine'é (Mexican People). Her maternal grandparents are Tó' Baazhni'ázhí (Two Who Came to the Water People), and her paternal grandparents are Ta'neeszahnii (Tangled People).

Robyn's artistic passion was sparked by her grandmother, who raised her alongside her traditional artwork. Seeking a quality education close to her family and children, Robyn selected Navajo Technical University (NTU), enrolled in the Baking program, and earned her degree in 2016.

Throughout her studies at NTU, Robyn actively volunteered at culinary events and participated in the Chocolate Fantasy competition, experiences that helped her refine her culinary skills in the bakery. Her growth was deeply influenced by her mentor, Chef Walter Cloud—whom she continues to meet at competitions—and Chef Brian Tatsukawa, both of whom served as key inspirations in her culinary journey.

Following graduation, Robyn gained professional experience as a pastry chef with establishments such as Special Touch Catering and Vinaigrettes before making her home in Albuquerque, NM. Today, she operates a successful freelance baking business, accepting custom orders. "It's important for the customers that I do a good job and come through for them. I love the art that comes out of baking and to be a part of someone's celebrations and milestones in their life," Robyn shared.

Looking to the future, Robyn intends to establish a café in collaboration with family, friends, and former colleagues. Reflecting on her career path, she noted, "Just in general, out in the field, it really depends on what you want to do with your degree. You can do one thing or push yourself as far as you want to, even with an associate. It takes practice."

To learn more about the Baking Program, please contact Sheila Begay, Technical Instructor of Pastry & Confections, at sheilabegay@navajotech.edu.

