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7Gen Center: NAU & TCU Faculty Exchange Program Presentation

Crownpoint, NM – On September 4, 2026, Beatriz Perez—a Lecturer in Northern Arizona University's English Department and a PhD candidate in Arizona State University's Writing, Rhetoric, and Literacies program—delivered a presentation online and in-person at the Hospitality Center as part of the faculty exchange initiative between NAU and Navajo Technical University.

The session focused on practical approaches to incorporating AI technology into writing pedagogy, aiming to foster student engagement while safeguarding against undue reliance. Key discussions addressed critical ethical dimensions, including authorship, access, and environmental impacts. Throughout the event, Perez highlighted various AI tools and walked attendees through actionable assignment models and classroom exercises.

A native of Phoenix, Arizona, Beatriz Perez holds a faculty position at Northern Arizona University, where she teaches professional writing and rhetoric. Her current research and academic focus center on the pedagogical integration of generative AI, the promotion of linguistic equity, and the cultivation of supportive frameworks for first-generation students.

Following the formal address, Perez engaged with students and faculty through an interactive dialogue session. Designed to meet the higher education needs of communities across Northern Arizona and the Navajo Nation, the NTU exchange program provides academic advising and essential guidance to foster student achievement.





Green-E-Neighborhoods Master's Thesis Defense

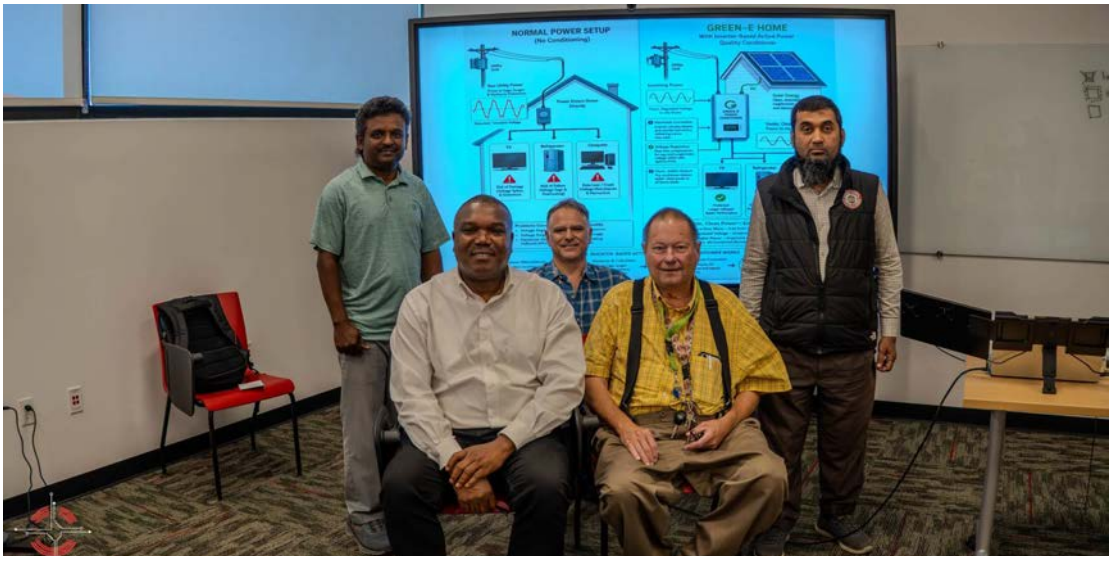
Crownpoint, NM - On September 9, 2026, the Department of Electrical Engineering at Navajo Technical University (NTU) commemorated a notable academic achievement within the Master of Science in Electrical Engineering (M.S.E.E.) program following the successful thesis defense of Mykl C. Greene, which took place in Room 103 of the NTU Academic Building.

In his thesis, titled "Redirecting Grid Upgrade Funding to Distribute Energy Resources (DER)," Mr. Greene presents a strategic framework for modernizing power grid infrastructure. Rather than allocating capital exclusively to conventional large-scale infrastructure projects—such as high-voltage transmission corridors and substation transformers—the study advocates for the strategic reallocation of investment funds toward Distributed Energy Resources (DERs).

The research's primary outcomes underscore significant opportunities to mitigate capital expenses. Although conventional electrical networks are designed to accommodate rare peak-load conditions, the strategic integration of intelligent demand management and distributed energy storage installations helps dampen peak-consumption spikes. Consequently, this enhances operational efficiency across approximately 50 to 500 residences within rural and Indigenous communities—including the Navajo, Hopi, and Zuni Nations—by leveraging combined federal resources from IRA, USDA, REAP, and IIJA grant opportunities.

The defense concluded with an interactive question-and-answer session featuring inquiries from attending faculty members and students. Following the dialogue, Mr. Greene expressed formal appreciation to the audience for their support and acknowledged his primary academic advisors, Dr. Peter Romine (M.S.E.E. Program Advisor) and Dr. Steven Egarwvie (Thesis Advisor).

Mykl C. Greene was born in Gallup, New Mexico, and raised on the Navajo Nation. A multidisciplinary professional with experience across the electrical, construction, artistic, musical, and culinary fields, he has undertaken extensive academic study in Electrical & Computer Engineering, Health Sciences, and Psychology. He currently resides in St. Michaels, Arizona, where he serves as an educator and participates in community and civic initiatives.



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NTU at the 2026 Navajo Nation Fair Parade!

Window Rock, AZ - On September 12, 2026, Navajo Technical University was proud to participate in the 2026 Navajo Nation Fair Parade! It was great seeing our students, families, alumni, and community come together to celebrate.

Thank you to everyone who cheered us on along the parade route! Go Skyhawks!







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

dmorgan@navajotech.edu

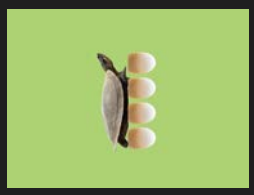
YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT WILL APPEAR IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH'S NEWSLETTER.

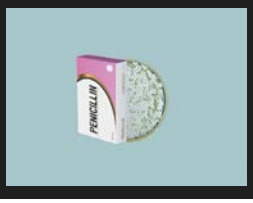
I BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW...



The British Empire was the largest empire in world history.

South American river turtles talk through their eggs.





Penicillin was first called "mold juice".

Navajo Nation Fair Kids Day 2026!

Window Rock, AZ - On September 10, 2026, NTU had a great time at the Window Rock Fairgrounds, celebrating Kids Day at the Navajo Nation Fair!

It was wonderful to see all the energy, excitement, and smiling faces throughout the day. We hope everyone had as much fun as we did!

Thank you for letting NTU be part of the celebration. Let's go, Skyhawks!









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Navajo Technical University Animal Science and Land Grant Program Proposed Project: Advancing Animal Science and Meat Processing Capability

Crownpoint, NM – On September 15, Navajo Technical University (NTU) announced an Animal Science project to advance animal science by constructing an on-campus meat processing facility funded by the USDA Development Division.

The public meeting opened with remarks from Dr. Irene Anyangwe, followed by an overview of the proposed project presented by Dr. Joel Alabi. The program anticipates securing funding for a three-year initiative to enhance educational opportunities and equip animal science students with skills for career success.

"There is a significant demand for qualified graduates, staff, and personnel within both the animal science industry and veterinary care services," stated Dr. Alabi. "Our objective is to prepare students to secure meaningful employment following graduation. The meat processing facility will also serve as a center for experiential learning offering extensive hands-on training."

Dr. Joel Alabi, Dr. Irene Anyangwe, and Dr. Casmir Agbaraji unveiled new equipment within the NTU Veterinary Clinic Complex. The laboratory will enable student research in population and molecular genetics, food processing, and product development.

"Students will apply the meat processing knowledge gained through elective coursework directly to practical applications," Dr. Alabi added. "This initiative fosters opportunities for research, collaboration, and professional growth, including studies on meat quality, preservation, and microbial reduction."

Additionally, Dr. Alabi highlighted community outreach plans focused on local livestock producers. The facility will provide local farmers and ranchers with access to processing services, enabling them to market their products at competitive prices rather than relying on commercial entities. Extension services will include workshops for farmers, ranchers, and youth, as well as educational programming, featuring a two-week summer camp for high school students next year.



NTU Cross-Country Program Welcomes New Runners

Crownpoint, NM - Seven student-athletes are joining the Navajo Technical University Cross-Country Program as it expands its roster for the upcoming season.

The incoming runners come from diverse communities and fields of study, bringing unique individual goals and background experiences to the team:

+ Adrian Roanhorse: A former high school cross-country runner pursuing dual studies in Automotive Technology and a Legal Law Certificate, returning to competitive running to test their potential.

+Avery J. Velasquez: A multi-disciplinary student (Counseling, Law, Criminal Justice, General Studies) graduating in December, who runs to relieve stress, spend time outdoors, and maintain a connection with the land and Native running traditions.

+ Elxcia Smith: A resident of Ganado, Arizona, studying Diné Culture with plans for graduate studies, whose primary focus for the season is tackling every challenge and completing each race.

+ Kayden Isaac: A Leupp, Arizona native pursuing an Associate degree in Construction Technology, returning to the sport to represent NTU in competition.

+ Keitha Harvey: An Animal Science major from Lukachukai, Arizona, and a multi-sport athlete in cross-country, basketball, softball, and rodeo (also competing on the NTU Rodeo Team).

+ Shanelle Smiley: An active student-athlete competing in both cross-country and women's basketball at NTU.

+ Wes Morgan: An enthusiastic addition to the program, excited to join the NTU Cross-Country team.

These new additions reinforce NTU Cross-Country's mission to encourage athletic participation, fitness, and institutional pride as students work toward their degrees.



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NTU Hosts 2026 Navajo Nation Presidential Debate

Crownpoint, NM — On Sep 25, 2026, Navajo Technical University (NTU) hosted the Navajo Nation Presidential Debate at the campus Wellness Center. Following opening remarks by Dr. Elmer J. Guy, the presidential candidates addressed key policy matters affecting the Navajo Nation. The forum offered students, faculty, and local community members an opportunity to examine the candidates' strategic plans, policy priorities, and long-term vision for the Tribal administration.

The proceedings commenced with opening remarks from Master of Ceremonies Wilbur Tso, followed by an invocation delivered by Dr. Sunshine Bia. The NTU Student Senate President and the Dean of Graduate Studies moderated the discussion. Each candidate was allotted one minute for introductory remarks, followed by two minutes to detail their strategic platforms and to offer rebuttals on major governance priorities.

The panel discussions covered critical topics including climate policy, natural resource management, water security, higher education infrastructure, and collaborative partnerships among tribal colleges. Candidates also presented administrative proposals to expand internships, develop professional career pathways, and establish workforce development initiatives to align academic curricula with regional economic demands.

The event concluded with closing statements and a public inquiry session focusing on housing, education, and community development. Shaneaya Watson, NTU Student Senate President, delivered the closing benediction. Participating candidates—Justin Jones, Emily Ellison, Crystalyne Curley, and Chris Deschene—expressed appreciation for NTU's organization and execution of the debate.

NTU offers its sincere gratitude to the Security Department and the Navajo Nation Police Department for maintaining campus safety throughout the gathering. Additional appreciation is extended to the Electrical Program, the NTU Film Club, the Campus Bookstore, and Black Sheep Coffee, as well as to the IT Department and KCZY Radio 107.3 FM for providing comprehensive media coverage through photography, streaming services, and live radio broadcasts.



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Student Success Spotlight with CDL Training Program

Chinle, AZ - Navajo Technical University extends its congratulations to five students: Christian Attson, Tionna Bradley, Shane Iyua, Hayden Benally, and Renfo Woody. These individuals have successfully obtained their Class A permits and are prepared to take the State Examination in Holbrook, Arizona.

“The students demonstrate exceptional dedication and diligence each day, maintaining strong grades between 95 and 100 percent. Enrollment in the Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) program at the Chinle Instructional Site continues to expand rapidly, drawing students from regions including Oklahoma and Phoenix, which is extraordinarily gratifying,” remarked Jerrison.

Enroll in the CDL Training Program, now available at the NTU Chinle Instructional Site, which prepares students for the written exam required to obtain a Class “A” Commercial Driver’s License and enter the trucking field.

It Begins From Within!



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Commercial Tobacco vs Traditional Smokes Presentation

Chinle, AZ - On September 15, 2026, Navajo Technical University hosted the "Commercial Tobacco vs. Traditional Smokes" presentation at the NTU Chinle Instructional Site. The presentation addressed the differences between commercial tobacco products and the traditional use of Native mountain smoke, including cultural practices, purposes, and health considerations.

Mr. Anson Etsitty delivered the presentation, noting high engagement and constructive dialogue among attendees.

Key discussion topics comprised:

+ Commercial tobacco products encompass cigarettes, e-cigarettes/vaping devices, and smokeless tobacco.
+ Traditional and ceremonial applications of Native mountain smoke.
+ Health implications related to commercial tobacco consumption.
+ Tobacco education and preventative strategies.
+ Safeguarding traditional knowledge and cultural heritage.

Mr. Peter Nez, on behalf of the Southwest Navajo Tobacco Education Prevention Project, detailed tobacco control initiatives within the Navajo Nation and emphasized the critical need for community education about the long-term consequences of commercial tobacco use.

Mr. Hershel Walker Clark, representing the Air Is Life Coalition, outlined efforts to enhance public awareness regarding the health risks of commercial tobacco products. Furthermore, he addressed initiatives to reclaim sacred tobacco and to support comparable efforts across Tribal communities nationwide.
The presentation provided information on commercial tobacco, traditional tobacco practices, and ongoing tobacco education and prevention efforts.

Navajo Technical University — It Begins From Within.



NTU Featured Student

Joaquin Yazzie, a dedicated student from Shiprock, NM, proudly introduces his traditional Navajo lineage. He is born into the Hask' aan Hadzhoi clan and the Honágháahnii clan. His maternal grandparents belong to the Ta'bahii clan, and his paternal grandparents are of the Tó dichinii clan. As an ambitious first-generation college student, Joaquin is currently pursuing his major in welding technology at the NTU Kirtland Instructional Site, paving the way for future academic and professional success within his family.

Throughout his journey toward earning professional certifications, Joaquin has thoroughly enjoyed his hands-on training and the supportive learning environment. Highlighting the strength of the program, he shared, "It is a great school, great program to be a part of, and instructor. Ramondo is a great instructor. He's knowledgeable and checks on us students. He likes to put himself in there and tell you if anything is wrong and fix it." Inspired by his comprehensive educational experience, Joaquin is also actively exploring opportunities to broaden his vocational skills by looking into other trade programs offered at the Kirtland site, including plumbing and construction.

The curriculum in the welding program offers a structured progression designed to build technical mastery, starting with foundational flat welding, then advancing to vertical and horizontal techniques, and ultimately to complex overhead and pipe welding processes. Reflecting on his career aspirations, Joaquin stated, "I want to develop confidence to pass welding tests in our forever-changing industry and become successful in the skilled trade and move on to extended education."

Currently balancing his commitments by working part-time while attending classes, Joaquin demonstrates a remarkable work ethic and commitment to his growth. Looking ahead, he hopes to enroll as a full-time student in the upcoming Spring semester to expand his qualifications and earn another professional certification.

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





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NTU Featured Staff

Navajo Technical University is pleased to introduce April N. Horne as the Dean of Student Services. From Tsah Bii Kin and Many Farms, AZ, she is Naakaii dine'é, born for Táchii'nii, with maternal grandparents from Nakaiiłbáhí and paternal grandparents from Tódích'ii'nii.

Mrs. Horne is an accomplished Indigenous education researcher and seasoned student affairs professional with nearly ten years of leadership experience spanning university and community college settings at Arizona's Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions. Over the course of her career, she has maintained a steadfast dedication to empowering Indigenous and Native American students, families, and communities.

Prior to her current appointment, April served at the University of Arizona, where she made key contributions to the Norton School of Human Ecology's Community Research, Evaluation & Development (CRED) team, the College of Engineering's ENGAGED initiative, and the College of Education's Native SOAR (Student Outreach, Access, and Resiliency) program. She recently completed a two-year term on the Board of Directors of the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) and is currently finalizing her PhD in Higher Education through the Center for the Study of Higher Education at the UA College of Education.

In her personal time, she loves trying new restaurants, following K-dramas, and playing Minecraft with her husband, Garrett, their daughters, Helena and Sybil, and their two children, Machaca and Chemawa.

