

NTU's Tsosie student accepted into leadership program

CROWNPOINT – Leslie Tsosie, who earned her bachelor's degree in Diné culture, language and leadership from Navajo Technical University in December, was accepted into George Washington University's Native American Leadership Program for the spring semester in Washington, D.C., according to an NTU news release.

The program is offered under the American Indian College Fund and provides American Indian, Alaska Native, and Hawaiian Native students the

opportunity to study public policy, governmental functions and politics.

"I've been a recipient of the AICF scholarship since I've began the program here at NTU," said Tsosie, of Standing Rock, New Mexico.

She has also attended New Hampshire College and University of Michigan under similar scholarship programs in the past.

"A representative came to present the opportunity and I agreed to apply, and then

received a congratulations letter," she said. "The courses in leadership are more what I'm focused on because it will help me to better understand how I can contribute in a leadership role on the Navajo Nation."

Upon her return from Washington, Tsosie expects to return to NTU for the fall semester to begin her graduate program.

"Leslie is an outstanding student who demonstrates the highest level of commitment to her goals," said Wesley Thomas, dean of NTU's graduate studies

& research. "I'm very grateful for the multiple opportunities provided, and I know she will do a remarkable job there. Our Diné Studies program has taken positive strides and is being refined in its field."

Tsosie has a long list of accomplishments, including being a member of NTU's National Technical Honor Society. She has been a mainstay on NTU's president's and dean's list since 2016.

Prior to coming to NTU, Tsosie was a member of the American

Business League and served as the American Indian Higher Education Consortium's Southwest student representative.

She also served as a program assistant and intern at the Native American Women's Resource Center.

NTU offers bachelor's and master's degrees in Diné culture, language and leadership. Information: Henry Fowler, department chair, hfowler@navajotech.edu or Thomas, wthomas@navajotech.edu or Navajotech.edu.



Leslie Tsosie



COURTESY PHOTO

Seven of the 2019 Eve's Fund Scholarship awardees from left to right, are, top row, Keanu Reed, Sky Harper and Joshua Begay; and, bottom row, Hannah Dayzie, Florinda Attson, Kyla Watchman, Adinidiin Davis and Keona Hosteen.

\$10,500 awarded to 11 Navajo Prep students

FARMINGTON — Eve's Fund for Native American Health Initiatives has awarded \$10,000 in scholarships for 11 Navajo students attending Navajo Preparatory School through the end of the current academic year.

Ten of the students received the scholarship for the first time with one student continuing from previous years.

The awardees include: freshman Florinda Attson (St. Michaels, Ariz.), senior Irvilinda Bahe (Many Farms, Ariz.), freshman Joshua Begay (White Rock, N.M.), sophomore Adinidiin Davis (Thoreau, N.M.), sophomore Hannah Dayzie (Shiprock), junior Sky Harper (Indian Wells, Ariz.), junior Keona Hosteen (Crownpoint), senior Caitlan Nockideneh (Page, Ariz.), senior Keanu Reed (Round Rock, Ariz.), freshman KyLa Watchman (Farmington) and senior Keithen Dean Woody (Kirtland, N.M.).

The students were chosen based on demonstrated financial need, scholastic potential, and leadership skills. Each recipient received \$1,000 to cover

the school's required student fees.

Robert Crowell and Barbara Crowell Roy started the Eve's Fund Scholarship in 2011 to honor the memory of their daughter Eve Erin Crowell and as a way to address the significant educational needs of high school students on the Navajo Nation.

Eve's Fund president, Roy, said, "Our daughter Eve valued education and believed in the importance of equitable education for everyone on the planet. She would be proud to know that the financial support Eve's Fund is providing is helping these students achieve their academic goals and plan for a brighter future."

Ceceilia Tso, Navajo Prep's director of development, said, "Navajo Prep is grateful to Eve's Fund and its donors for this scholarship program, now in its 8th year. Many of our fine Navajo students would not be able to be here if it were not for the financial support provided by Eve's Fund."

Information: <http://www.evecrowellfund.org>.

Guest lecturer discusses achievement gap

TUBA CITY – The academic achievement gap that accompanies income inequality is growing faster than the income gap, said Kelly Cowan, Ph.D., in recent Diné College lecture.

Cowan, in her presentation titled, "Minding the gap between under-resourced and fully-resourced students," said, "Twenty percent of Americans control 80 percent of the wealth. This has devastating effects in the college classroom, and in society, in general."

Her talk at Diné College's Tuba City Center was attended by more than 30 students and staff. It was broadcast via ITV to the college's six campuses.

Cowan delved into parental involvement, financial issues and family responsibilities — each of which is instrumental to academic success, studies have shown.

Cowan is a member of the microbiology faculty at Miami University in Ohio. She was the interim director at the local campus of Cincinnati State Technical College in 2015 and is the author of two microbiology



COURTESY PHOTO | DINÉ COLLEGE

Diné College students in Tuba City with microbiology instructor Shazia Tabassum Hakim, middle, and Kelly Cowan, right, after a recent lecture about academic achievement.

textbooks — one of which is used at Diné College.

She was invited by Professor Shazia Tabassum Hakim, Ph.D., who teaches microbiology, biology, anatomy and physiology at Tuba City. The pair met in 2005 at an American Society for Microbiologists meeting in Atlanta.

Hakim said one message from Cowan was that nothing

is impossible, saying, "What we need is a little more interest, more willingness to be part of a solution and not the problem — more persistence and hard work."

At Diné College, many students are from poor backgrounds and most start in remedial math and reading courses. Hakim said remediation is one remedy that helps

bridge the academic achievement gap.

"The lack of parental involvement, financial issues and family responsibilities do contribute to dropout rates," Hakim said. "On the other hand, the institutions themselves face pressures from society to improve their accountability to keep their existence in the competitive world."

Don Yazzie, a student at the Tsaile campus, said there are students everywhere that are under-served and resourced. He thinks family and finances are the primary reasons behind student success rates or failures.

"You have to have family behind you to get ahead, we know that," Yazzie, 45, and from Tonalea, Arizona, said. "You can't get down on yourself. I think the help with school work is here, no matter the college, if you want to get that help."

A Kentucky native, Cowan earned degrees from the University of Louisville, the University of Maryland and the University of Groningen in the Netherlands.

Diné receives naturopathy scholarship

PORTLAND, Ore. — LaKota Scott, Diné, from Tuba City, is one of four students at the National University of Natural Medicine to be awarded up to \$35,000 per year to complete her naturopathic doctor degree, according to a NUNM news release.

In exchange for the help with tuition, the scholarship recipients will provide primary care to medically underserved areas of Oregon.

After completing her residency program, Scott plans to meet her Oregon Health Authority scholarship obligation on the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation.

Scott said volunteering as a Navajo-to-English interpreter at the Tuba City Regional Health Care Facility reinforced her desire to be a medical practitioner.

"I realized that they (patients) needed someone who understood not only their language but their cultural values and belief systems — that was missing in the care they received

from non-Native medical providers," she said in the release. "Naturopathic medicine resonated with the way I grew up and the way I understood healing culturally."

Scott is looking forward to her future career in Oregon.

"I'm very thankful for the opportunity to expose Oregon's tribal communities to naturopathic medicine," she said.

The Oregon Health Authority awarded NUNM a biennial grant of \$250,000 to provide educational scholarships for a select group of naturopathic medical students through the Scholars for a Healthy Oregon Naturopathic Physicians Opportunities program.

The scholarship funds were made available by the Oregon Legislature and OHA in 2017 as a health care incentive program to provide health care in underserved communities.

Oregon is the first state to offer scholarships for future naturopathic doctors.

Silversmith, Redhair graduate from ASU

TEMPE, Ariz. — Kurtis Silversmith, from St. Michaels, and Shaquille Redhair, from Rough Rock, Arizona, have graduated from Arizona State University.

Silversmith studied civil engineering and Redhair studied community health.

"My experience at ASU has taught me to be innovative and to seek a wealth of information from school and other resources," Redhair said. "It has taught



Kurtis Silversmith

me to think outside the box and that one can be creative within their designated job."

Redhair hopes to gain employment where his skills can be of use and to

continue his education to earn a graduate degree in nursing. Silversmith plans to work at Peabody Western Coal in Black Mesa, Arizona.

He may return to ASU to complete vwork at the W.P. Carey School of Business.