

## ASU student from Dá'ák'eh Halání awarded Udall Scholarship

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Ethan Tacheene, a business law major at Arizona State University, earned a Udall Scholarship, which provides up to \$7,000 for eligible academic expenses and access to the Udall Alumni Network. COURTESY

**TEMPE, Ariz.** — Arizona State University student Ethan Tacheene has been awarded the Udall Undergraduate Scholarship, a major federal fellowship for college sophomores and juniors who demonstrate leadership, public service, and commitment to issues related to Native American nations or the environment, the Lorraine W. Frank Office of National Scholarships Advisement announced.

The scholarship provides up to \$7,000 for eligible academic expenses and access to the Udall Alumni Network.

“I feel amazing about being chosen as a Udall Scholar. It is something to be very proud of,” said Tacheene, who comes from Many Farms, Arizona, where his home had neither running water nor electricity.

Tacheene, a junior business law major and student in Barrett, The Honors College at ASU, is the 42nd ASU student named a Udall Undergraduate Scholar since the program began in 1997. He was an honorable mention for the scholarship last year.

“After being an honorable mention, I thought that if I could get the scholarship, I would be able to have a stronger voice and be a better representative of my people and show that it’s possible to try again and succeed,” he said.

Tacheene is among 55 Udall Scholars from throughout the nation selected in 2024. Madison Eklund, a sophomore conservation biology and ecology major and Barrett Honors College student, was an honorable mention this year.

Tacheene, who is interested in tribal law and policy and the economies of small, rural communities like his hometown, said scholarships have been fundamental to his being able to get into and stay at ASU.

“I have spent most of my time wondering how I was going to be able to afford school and how I was going to be able to live a life different than the one in my hometown,” said Tacheene, who, in addition to the Udall Scholarship has received the Obama and the Chief Manuelito scholarships and was a Flinn Scholarship semifinalist.

He has served as chief operations officer for the Native American Business Organization at ASU. He has been active in the Office of American Indian Initiatives and the Alliance of Indigenous Peoples.

Tacheene has advised Barrett Honors College about ways to encourage Native American students to enroll at ASU and has assisted high school students in his hometown with applications for admission, scholarships, and financial aid. His honors thesis is a comprehensive study of the Navajo Nation’s contemporary economic landscape and formulation of strategic initiatives to promote economic growth and advancement. Tacheene said he wants to learn as much as he

can about business and law in order “to take it back to where I came from and try to see if I can find ways to open doors for people – students and future generations – so they can be able to attend school, learn as I have learned and to understand that it is possible to grow and become greater.”

His ultimate goals are to attend law school, practice corporate law, and eventually establish a law firm where he can employ Native Americans.

This year’s 55 Udall Scholars, from 50 colleges and universities, will connect Aug. 6-10 at the annual Udall Scholar Orientation, where they’ll meet one another and program alums, learn more about the Udall legacy of public service, and interact with community leaders in environmental fields, tribal health care, and governance.

The Udall Scholarship is a program of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation, known as the Udall Foundation. The U.S. Congress established the foundation to honor Arizona Rep. Morris K. Udall’s lasting impact on the nation’s environment, public lands, and natural resources and his support of the rights and self-governance of American Indians and Alaska Natives. In 2009, the foundation’s name was amended to include Stewart Udall, who served as U.S. Secretary of the Interior from 1961 to 1969.

The award is open to full-time sophomores and juniors at any accredited academic institution in the U.S.

Students may apply in one of three areas: tribal policy, Native American health care, or environmental. Those who apply in the policy or health

care categories must be Native Americans or Alaska Natives.

Applicants for the Udall Scholarship must be nominated by their institution, and each college or university is limited in the number of students it may nominate.

At ASU, the application process is managed through ONSA, which organizes a faculty committee to review and approve nomination applications. ONSA collaborates with many ASU units, including the School of Sustainability and American Indian Student Support Services, to identify and prepare candidates for the Udall Scholarship.

ASU students interested in applying for the Udall Scholarship in a future cycle can visit [onsa.asu.edu](http://onsa.asu.edu) to schedule an advising meeting.

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### EDUCATION BRIEFS

#### Murphy James named to South Dakota State University's spring 2024 dean's list

**BROOKINGS, S.D.** — South Dakota State University announced on June 10 that Murphy James of Piñon, Arizona, has been named to the dean's list for the spring 2024 semester.

James is a SDSU's College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences student.

More than 3,300 students were recognized for their outstanding academic performance over the spring 2024 semester at SDS by being named to the dean's list.

#### St. Michael Indian School celebrates 26 grads, announces 3 tribute scholarships

**SAINT MICHAELS, Ariz.** — The Saint Michael Indian School community celebrated its high school commencement on Saturday, June 1, on its campus. Twenty-six young men and women received their diplomas.

A highlight of the ceremony was the awarding of tribute scholarships to graduating seniors. These three annual awards, a testament to the legacy and values of the school's founders, are made possible through the generous support of Eve's Fund for Native American Health Initiatives. The exceptional contributions and achievements of these three outstanding Navajo students, each uniquely embodying the spirit and values of the school, were celebrated.

Osceola Denny was awarded the Saint Katharine Drexel Award, a \$1,000 scholarship, for his unwavering commitment to personal dignity and respect for the rights of others. Denny is a dedicated student and an avid athlete, participating in basketball, soccer, and track. His passion for history will guide him as he embarks on the next chapter of his educational journey at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. Shayla Meyers received the Sister Mary Honora Award.



From left to right, Osceola Denny (St. Katharine Drexel scholarship), Shayla Meyers (Sister Mary Honora scholarship), and Kasen Lester (Sister Katharine Barrett scholarship) hold up their awards during commencement in St. Michaels, Ariz., on June 1. COURTESY

This \$500 scholarship honors students for their deep reverence of the traditions and culture of the Navajo and other peoples within the community. Meyers is a talented softball player who has shown dedication on and off the field. She is driven to impact the healthcare field positively and plans to study radiology technology at Central New Mexico Community College in Albuquerque.

Kasen Lester was honored with the Sister Katharine Barrett Award, a \$500 scholarship, for his remarkable service and loyalty to the school community. Kasen enjoys playing video games and relaxing with family in his leisure time. His strong

Catholic faith inspires him, and he is looking forward to participating in a Catholic pilgrimage in Mexico this summer. Kasen will continue his academic pursuits at Coconino Community College in Flagstaff.

St. Michael Principal Velma Begay expressed her pride in the graduates, saying, “I’ve been blessed to see these graduates blossom, and I am excited for the journeys on which they will embark.”

“Our guest speaker, Brooke Morin, described this class as unique and resilient. I agree because these kids had their lives so impacted by Covid,” she said. “We are grateful for the support from all our Cardinal

community members, including Eve’s Fund, for their generous support of this important educational initiative.”

The Eve’s Fund president, Barbara Crowell Roy, said, “We join the Saint Michael Indian School community in wishing Osceola, Shayla, Kasen, and all the 2024 graduates continued success. This is the fourth year we have sponsored these scholarships in support of promising St. Michael School graduates, and we are committed to doing so for many more years to come in our beloved Eve’s memory.”

We are grateful to our ‘Friends of Eve’s Fund’ for their generous support of this important educational initiative.”

#### 15 attend NTU's 3rd Annual QCAM Summer Workshop

**CROWNPOINT** — Navajo Technical University on May 24 welcomed 15 students to its third annual Quality Control in Additive Manufacturing Summer Workshop. Over the past two weeks, students from each partner university were chosen to partake in immersive training on various topics related to additive manufacturing and quality control.

The enriching sessions encompassed computer-aided design, metal, and polymer AM, electrical discharge machining, X-ray computed tomography, metrology via coordinate-measuring machines, optical and scanning electron microscopy, and materials testing using digital image correlation. This incredible opportunity provided the participants with invaluable hands-on experience and knowledge.

Corwyn Shaughnessy, an industrial engineering student from New Mexico State University (NMSU), said, “I am currently studying the materials and processes involved in conducting experiments. NTU has exceeded my expectations, and I feel greatly inspired. This is the foundation for an engineer, and it has been helping me feel more positive about my future.”

Students were also introduced to all the fantastic opportunities available through NTU’s partnerships with the Los Alamos National Laboratory, the Kansas City National Security Campus, and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. NTU is a member of the National Nuclear Security Administration Minority Serving Institute Partnership Program.

During their last NTU days, the students prepared presentations on what they had learned while spending time with the advanced manufacturing program. This included what they acknowledged, what stood out most to them, and how much important work needed to be done within their communities. Students got to experience first-hand safety OSHA requirements in the laboratory, including types of metals, mostly 420 stainless steel, CAD modeling, CT scanning, and troubleshooting through many trial-and-error processes.

Working through these stages, students realized they were following the Diné philosophy, working with advanced modern technology using ntsáhakees, nahat’á, sih hasin, and iiná to accomplish their projects.