

Traci Nahsonhoya: Making an Impact



Traci Nahsonhoya is Qal'wungwa (Sun forehead clan) from Sipaulovi village. Traci is a recent graduate of Arizona State University (ASU), graduating in the Spring 2022 semester earning her Bachelors of Arts in Elementary Education. She enjoys hanging out with family, going on hikes, and volunteering with her free time. She hopes to return to Hopi and make an impact using her degree by serving as an educator for her people.

What was your motivation to attend college?

I have always been education oriented, but never thought of college until high school. My friends and peers already knew what they wanted to pursue in college and that made me scared. I leaned towards engineering and applied for schools that had good engineering programs. At first, I wanted to attend a school in the east coast, but I would not have had my mother close to me, who is the powerhouse of our family and my biggest supporter. I want to take care of her when she gets older as a way of paying her back.

Why did you choose the degree that you pursued? How will you use your degree to help on Hopi?

I began my first semester at ASU as an Engineering major. I felt like I didn't have a connection with what I was learning. During my first semester, I took an education related course as an elective. Before my first semester was completed, I made an impulse decision to change my degree program, understanding that I could make an immediate impact back on Hopi. My family was always education oriented, so I couldn't have made a better choice. I hope to inspire future generations of Hopi to pursue college because Hopi needs it.

Why did you choose to attend Arizona State University?

I decided on ASU because of the engineering program and the courses that they offered at the time. ASU offers a lot of summer courses for students who are incoming freshman, and I thought it would be a good way to get acclimated with the ASU community. As a Native student, it is hard to fit in when you go to a large university. At ASU, they helped you to fit in with the large American Indian community. The distance was also of benefit, as it was not too far of a distance for my mother to visit. If I had chosen a school on the east coast, I would not be able to be involved with family activities and seeing my mom as often.

What kind of student clubs were you involved with?

ASU has so many student clubs, and it was hard to choose one or two to be involved with. There was an ASU online portal that listed all the clubs. My first-year success coach from freshman year mentioned she was a member of a sorority, named Alpha Pi Omega, and then I became interested in joining, but I didn't get to join as soon as I

would have liked. I was more concerned with course work, and it wasn't until I became a sister of Alpha Pi Omega Sorority Inc., that I became more involved with other American Indian student clubs. There was a lot. I was happy to be a part of these organizations, I did a lot of networking. Another organization that I liked, was the Arizona Mentor Society. I loved to volunteer, tutor, and working to help starving children and food drives.

What kind of advice do you have for other young Hopi students who would like to attend college?

If you want to attend college, it is up to you to take the first step to pursue that journey. You may think your high school years will be the best of your life, but college is much better than that. If you want to go to college, go for it, there will always be barriers, but you can get through them.

One thing I wish I knew about college before I went, was to do research on the colleges that I wanted to attend. ASU was a diverse college, and I wish I knew about all the support that there was for American Indian students. I also wish that I knew you could minor in American Indian Studies (AIS). I met other students who were minoring in AIS, and I wish I had done the same.

How did scholarships help you on your educational journey?

I cannot express how thankful I am for grants and scholarships. I came from a low-income household, my mom encouraged me to apply for scholarships. I was adamant to maintain a certain GPA, because I was worried about having to take out a loan, my mother could not pay out of pocket. I am happy that I am debt free because of scholarships. My college years were less stressful that I didn't have to pay for school.



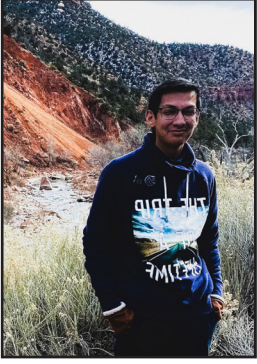
What would you like to say to the HEEF donors?

I would like to express my gratitude to the HEEF donors for the generous funding, affiliated with students of the Hopi Tribe. I appreciate having expenses paid for by individuals who believe in us, it not only helps us, but helps Hopi overall.

Askwali!



Notes From The Director



Dear Friends,

We're back! I'm pleased to report that with our recent new hire, we are gaining our momentum back and are proud to present our first newsletter of 2022!

We hit the road running in 2022 as we planned and began implementation of the strategies for 2022. Once again **Arizona Gives Day** went well. Additionally, the **Second Annual Virtual Silent Auction** was a success. The new and improved software we used helped to generate more interest and action during the auction. More importantly, it took the event global.

As many of you know, we were able to hire Mr. Zion Ibarra as our new Marketing & Communications Manager (MCM). Zion is a graduate of Hopi High School and is Hopi, Navajo, & Hispanic from the village of Kykotsmovi. He spent most of his youth on the Hopi Reservation before moving to San Diego to pursue his degree at California College San Diego. He is very skilled in graphic design and IT and we use his skills to bring our ideas & work to life.

This year we received nine solid proposals for the **IMAGINE grant**. The review was competitive. In the end, four outstanding programs were selected as grantees. We thank the Hopi Foundation for their generous support of funding for the 2022 grant. The Grantees are: **Hopitutuqaiki** - The Hopi School to fund a series of cultural workshops to engage Hopi Participants in discussion on Hopi Symbols, The Hopi Wedding, Clans, Children's songs, games, and the Baby naming ceremony. **Kykotsmovi Cultural Project** - To engage village youth and elders in learning the history of Kykotsmovi and to conduct community projects. **Koho4Hopi** - To support efforts to provide critical heating to on-reservation residents and to provide beams for Kiva restoration projects. **Hopi Small Business Support Service Project** - focuses on creating opportunities and events that promote and support entrepreneurial activity throughout the Hopi Reservation.

Looking ahead, we called on our fund-raising colleagues Alice Ferris & Jim Anderson from Goal Busters to assist us in the development of a Marketing Plan and a Succession plan. Through this process we were able to let ourselves envision how we want the HEEF to look well into the future.

In regards to the future, Several Ad Hoc Committees consisting of HEEF members are working on and researching various important topics to prepare us for the future. The topics include: **Revision/Update of the Tribal Ordinance #54** that created the HEEF, possible creation of a "**sister**" **501 c.3** that will enhance our grant seeking capabilities and the creation of a **Grants Committee** to focus on grant seeking and writing.

Our main theme for 2022 has been on Running and how it has helped some of our Hopi athletes with their educational journey. With that in mind, we are pleased to announce our first ever **Virtual Run**. Our theme **Strength-Pride-**



Education, speaks to the significance of running in the Hopi Culture. We hope that you can join in supporting the HEEF by registering to participate in the run.

I've included this photo of Hopi Chairman Timothy Nuvangyouma, Vice Chairman Craig Andrews and I as we were preparing to participate in the Spring 2022 **Arizona State University (ASU) American Indian Convocation**. I was honored to be invited to present the Welcome to the large crowd of proud graduates, family members, friends, and staff at Grady Gammage Memorial Auditorium. Events like this are important for us to participate in as it shows our support for our Hopi graduates and reminds us of the importance of our work.

In closing, I'm proud to share that last month, the new President of Northern Arizona University (NAU) Dr. Jose Luis Cruz Rivera and his wife Dr Rima Brusi, spent the day with me enjoying a Katsina dance at Lower Moencopi. The Informal visit was to share an important piece of Hopi culture as well as to help them understand the challenges and beauty of where our Hopi students come from. It's my hope that as they work to shape the future, that they will keep in mind their experience on Hopi. We look forward to keeping you informed on a regular basis. Askwali for your support!

Running for Strength, Pride and Education



On September 16th – 18th, 2022, the Hopi Education Endowment Fund (HEEF) will host the inaugural HEEF Virtual run. A running fundraiser seemed to fit in with who we are as a fundraising organization, serving the Hopi people. Recently, you all received an appeal letter, depicting the importance of running in Hopi culture and how it has helped some students to get into college. Here are stories of two recent collegiate runners, that used running as a means to work towards a college degree.

Veronica Casuse is Tawa'wungwa (Sun Clan) from the village of Songopavi, she ran collegiately for Paradise Valley Community College (PVCC), pursuing a degree in business. Here is a glimpse of her story...

How much did running play a part in your decision to go to college? *"It was the main reason, it helped me to make the decision of where to go. Being recruited, gave me benefits such as a running scholarship, and a book scholarship. I had other options, but I decided to run in college."* **What are you proud of, from your running experience?** *"It was knowing how far I could push my limit. In high school, we practiced once a day, but in college, we practiced twice a day, with 3-mile warmups and cool downs. The tougher practice schedule was something I thought I couldn't do, I couldn't do all the workouts at first, but at the end I got stronger, and could complete the whole thing."*

Leiah Andrews is Pamös'wungwa (Fog Clan) from the village of Kykotsmovi, she was Veronica's teammate at PVCC, and studied Pre-Med at PVCC, and here is a glimpse into her story **How has running strengthened you as a person?** *"Running has given me a lot of opportunities that I wouldn't have gotten. It has allowed me to go to new places, meet new people, and meet different coaches. PVCC Coach Barney, was good at giving me opportunities, such as going to running camps and mentor younger runners."* **How is running important to Hopi culture?** *"In the Hopi culture, we use it to pray, to run for those who can't run, for healing. My family likes to run, this past year, my grandma got ill, and we all ran the Tawaki Half Marathon for her."*



We are proud of students like Veronica and Leiah who represent Hopi while running for a collegiate running program. You can help support the legacy of running on Hopi by registering for the HEEF virtual run on our website, www.hopieducationfund.org

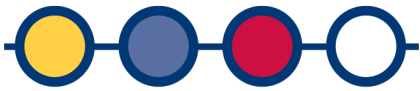
Give Today and Support Hopi Students

The HEEF is always thankful for your support, through donations, volunteering, and other contributions. The support you provide aids us in fulfilling our mission to assist our Hopi sinom (people). The HEEF aims to meet the scholarship needs of Hopi students. Please consider making a gift and help pave a pathway for other students.

Yes, I want to make an impact today!
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Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039

Name: _____
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Hopi Education Endowment Fund
PO Box 605
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Email: heef@hopieducationfund.org

“The Hopi Education Endowment Fund grows and protects financial resources to provide every Hopi the opportunity to pursue their educational dreams to assure the future of our sinom (people).”



Be sure to follow us on Social Media!



CONGRATULATIONS 2022 GRADUATES !

We would like to congratulate all the 2022 Hopi college and high school graduates! We are happy to know that more Hopi students are equipped with degrees to help strengthen our communities. Our students benefited from the generosity of HEEF donors, by being alleviated from financial burdens and being able to solely focus on their studies. This is a happy time for our organization. Askwali – Kwak'kwa – Thank you!

