

Kyle Secakuku: Living Through the Winds of Change



Kyle Secakuku is Piqōs'wungwa (Bear Strap clan) from the village of Songopavi. Kyle graduated as the salutatorian from Hopi Jr./Sr. High School in 2017, then attended Glendale Community College. He spent three years there, before transferring to his current school, Southern Utah University where he is a Senior.

Why did you choose the degree that you are pursuing?

"I am finishing up credits for my bachelor's in Criminal Justice. I plan to work in the police force, my overall career goal is to work with K-9's and be a K-9 officer. Growing up, I lived in the outskirts of the village. I lived near bootleggers, and drug addicts. I witnessed a lot of alcohol abuse, property theft, and vandalism. This influenced me to go into the police force. When I got older, and my older brother left home for college, I was the only male in the house. Coming home late at night from the Kiva, I didn't feel safe. Hopi has a small police force, and that motivated me to learn how to improve factors dealing with the law, especially drugs and alcohol. After college, I want to join a police force in a different community, learn what their issues are and how they solve them. I can come home armed with this knowledge to improve our own criminal system. In high school, I was in Junior ROTC, and served in leadership positions. I think this experience could come into play when it comes to joining a police academy."

How important has scholarships been for you during your college career?

"Scholarships helped me pay for a lot of things, it relieved financial stress. When I first attended community college, scholarships helped pay for all my tuition. What was left over, helped pay for my books and other expenses. Having scholarships allowed me to pay more attention to school. I was motivated to maintain my GPA, to keep myself in good standings so that I could qualify for scholarships outside of funding from the Hopi Tribe. I was able to maintain my GPA at 3.6.

How important is Hopi culture to you? "Hopi is important to me because it is my core identity in the outside world. I was fortunate to be raised on the reservation, participating in farming and ceremonies. I believe that when a person has good grounding, that they can be a healthy individual. In the kiva, I learned the importance of people and land. When I left home for school, I learned that some aspects of the Pahana (Anglo) world are important, because things are changing, and our people need to keep up. To me, Hopi's have survived through many changes, from Spanish Conquistadors to the Boarding School era. Through all of that, we still have our land, language, and knowledge. With our special history, those pillars are what makes our identity. When I look at other Native cultures, who

experienced similar changes, they don't have a lot of what they use to have. We still have our core values today, which we've preserved from hundreds of years ago."

What do you think is unique about being a Hopi college student?

"It is a challenge, especially for those who grew up on the reservation, they get homesick easily. They always want to go home. Some students will give up school for home. What many of us are told, when we leave home to go to school, is that our culture will still be here when we get back. But I don't think this is the case for our generation because our culture is eroding, and due to COVID, those with knowledge are no longer here. It makes it a difficult decision for some Hopis to choose school or being home. I grew up with a lot of discipline from older family members. We were raised to not to show weakness, or fear. Moving to Utah, was different. I meet people with different mentalities, that had issues of anxiety and panic attacks. I had to learn to have compassion and show comfort. I had to adjust to different people who had a different culture. I had to learn to treat people differently, then from how we were treated back home."

What hobbies do you have outside of your schoolwork?

"I like being a part of the different culture clubs that are part of the Center of Diversity & Inclusion on campus. There are Native American Clubs, Asian Clubs, Latin Clubs, and African American Clubs. These clubs make students feel comfortable and welcome. It is helpful, especially for people who are far from home. The clubs help you to learn from one another. I served as President of the Native American Club, and we did many things. We had Pow Wow performances, beadwork workshops, cultural exchange, and shared stories. It gave me entertainment and a comfort zone so I wouldn't get homesick. The Native Americans who didn't grow up on the reservation, and didn't have a strong Native identity, it gave them a chance to learn about Native culture. We also liked to go hiking, we went to many large parks, such as Bryce Canyon and Zion National Park."



What would you like to say to our HEEF donors?

"Thank you for your support, time, and energy for our Hopi students. We are a small tribe, and you have helped a lot of Hopi students, many of which grew up in poverty and didn't have access to a lot of opportunities. You helped us pay for our tuition and books. Your generosity has helped us to achieve our goals and in turn, we can come home to improve our communities."

Notes From The Director



Dear Friends,

Life on Hopi is good. We are seeing crops harvested, wood being chopped and the return to important ceremonies such as Hopi Weddings. People are gathering to carry on these tasks and we are hopeful that our life will return back to a “new” normal in the new year.

Each October, the members of the Hopi Education Endowment Fund (HEEF) gather to formally conduct business in the form of an Annual Meeting. Meeting face to face in October in Flagstaff, AZ proved to be enjoyable and productive for the 30 member Board. During the meeting the Board was provided information on the status of programs and finances of the HEEF. Although this is a challenging time for the investments, the Board was assured that due to prudent management, the HEEF will continue to fund programs and scholarship/grant opportunities for Hopi students in 2023.

HEEF members come from all walks of life ranging from a former NAU President to a HEEF funded student starting her career. This diversity bring much needed views on topics affecting the education of our Hopi Sinom. During this meeting the Board was treated to a presentation from their fellow HEEF Member **Dr. Amanda Tachine** on her recently published book “*Native Presence & Sovereignty in College*”. The presentation helped shed light on the challenges Native students face as they attend colleges and universities across the U.S. The presentation generated much needed discussion on the current status of Hopi students and how the HEEF could enhance programming to meet the new challenges that our students face.

This gathering is also an opportunity to say goodbye and give thanks to members who are not returning. These members include: **Barbara Poley**, Founding Member, **Aaron Secakuku**, **Gloria Grover**, **Ty Stahl** and **Raymond Tewawina**. This is also a time to welcome renewing members back: Renewing members include: **Dr. Pam Powell**, **Dr. Jana Wilbricht**, **Peter Chestnut**, **Dr. Amanda Tachine** and **Dr. Felina Cordova Marks**.

The brand new members of the Board Include: **Dr. Wayne Taylor, Jr.**, former Chairman of the Hopi Tribe from Shungopavi, **Natalynne Rogers** from Hotevilla, a HEEF funded graduate starting her career, **Elke Chenevy** a seasoned Finance professional from the Omaha Tribe, **Derrick David**, a Sales Force administrator from Sichomovi Village and **Loreal Scott** a Hopi/Navajo administrator working with Coconino County.

Additionally, the EC elected the following Officers for the upcoming year:
Ms. April Tutt, President starting her second term
Dr. Carrie Joseph, Vice President starting her second term
Dr. David Strip, Treasurer starting his second term
Dr. Felina Cordova Marks, Secretary

Other members of the EC include:
Romalita Laban, Editor of the Hopi Tutuvehni and former HEEF President from Walpi Village, **Adrian Tanakeyowma** a retired Education Administrator from Moencopi and **Dr. Wayne Taylor, Jr.** former Chairman of the Hopi Tribe. The EC is the main fiduciary of the fund and meets regularly with staff to provide leadership, direction and support.

We congratulate the AZ Crushers for winning the 2022 Alumni Challenge. The Crushers consist of non-AZ University alumni. Alumnus from Dartmouth, Cornell, New Mexico, New York, etc. make the Crushers a small but mighty opponent in the Challenge. More importantly, I'm pleased to share that the goal of raising \$20,000 during the Alumni Challenge has been met making this the second most successful Alumni Challenge in HEEF history.

As we begin to wind down 2022 we still have Giving Tuesday on November 29th and the Holiday appeal and a challenge to look forward to. Former NAU President and Current HEEF member- **Dr. Clara Lovett** has generously issued a challenge to match up to \$5,000 to all current and former HEEF members. More details will follow.

We look forward to finishing the year on a positive note and to sharing the “Fruits of our Labor” in January. Please know that your support means a lot to the students we serve.

Askwali,
Dr. LuAnn Leonard



Running for Strength, Pride and Education Aftermath



We are happy to announce that we hosted a successful inaugural HEEF Virtual Run...Running for Strength, Pride and Education event. Much of the year, we have shared stories of students who used running to get into college, which was the inspiration for hosting a virtual run. When initial planning began, we set out **with a goal to raise \$20,000** total through sponsorship, race registrations, and donations. We were successful in recruiting over 150 runners to participate. The money raised from this, plus support from our generous sponsors, and received donations, **the event raised \$20,220.00!** It was a learning experience, but mostly we were encouraged that the event was widely supported by donors, community members and business partners.

Registered runners received a racing packet that included racing t-shirt, racing bib, racing medal and a HEEF sports bag. Registered runners came from the reservation, and all throughout the United States. The virtual aspect of this event allowed us to invite all supporters nationwide to participate. We encouraged runners to take pictures and share them on social media using #HEEFVirtualRun and #Running4HopiEducation. Through our own HEEF social media account, we shared these pictures sharing the support for the run. It was a new approach, promotng the virtual run, virtually through social media. The success of our virtual run makes us optimistic to host this event again and may look to host an in-person run.

We would like to give a special thank you to our *Yung'yapu* (premier) sponsors **Terri Hall, Patricia Ryan, and Clause Law PLLC.**, our *Poota* (major) sponsors **Salt River Project, Osborn Maledon,** and lastly our *Tutsayu* (supporting) sponsor **Summit Administration.** The event would not be successful if not for the support of our sponsors. We are happy that the work of our organization continues to interest our business partners, and we feel they deserve this special recogniton. Running is an important aspect of Hopi life, and we are glad that we could share these stories so that they will benefit our students pursuing a college degree.



Askwali-Kwak'kwa- Thank you.

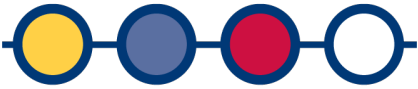
Please consider giving a gift that will support Hopi Education

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 our students.

Yes, I want to make an impact today!
Charge Visa Mastercard
Please accept my donation of \$10 \$25 \$50 Other _____
Card Number: _____
Expiration Date: _____
Vcode (3 digits): _____
Signature: _____ Date: _____

Check & Money Orders can be made payable to:
Hopi Education Endowment Fund
PO Box 605
Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____



Hopi Education Endowment Fund
PO Box 605
Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039

Ph: 928-734-2275

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!

HEEF 2022 Impact

(In 2022, the HEEF has awarded...)

\$45,500 in IMAGINE Grants awarded to 4 community programs

- The Hopi School:** Cultural Seminars
- Kykotsmovi Village:** Cultural Projects
- Hopi Relief:** Hopi Business Support Services
- Koho4Hopi:** Lestavi/Firewood Project

\$571,923 total in HEEF Scholarships awarded

- \$497,820 in tuition scholarships
- \$30,919 in book scholarships
- \$42,000 in Hopi Academic Achievement & Diane Humetewa Scholarship awarded
- \$834 awarded for standardized testing fee's
- \$350 awarded for enrichment grants

\$16,000 in Special scholarships awarded:

- 4 George Then Business Scholarship awarded (\$500 each)
- 4 Susan Then Science Scholarship awarded (\$500 each)
- 2 Arthur & Gloria Ross Scholarship awarded (\$5,000 each)
- 3 Itasoy Wuwniwuy (Grandmothers Wisdom) Scholarship awarded (1 at \$1,000 & 2 at \$500)

\$3,790 in Hopi Higher Education Emergency Fund Grants awarded

9 students were awarded

