



## Isaac Durham | Staying the Course



Get to know Isaac Durham, who is *Hon'wung'wa* (Bear clan) from the village of Mishongnovi.

We are grateful that Isaac interviewed with us, as he prepares to receive his Master's degree after working tirelessly at Arizona State University.

### In your down time away from school, what are some of your favorite things to do for fun?

When I have free time, I do like to go on road trips, I try to visit national parks within different states. I try to go on 3-5 day trips, just to see the new sites, and to learn more about the unique places. Out of the national parks that I have recently visited, I like the Carlsbad Caverns, in New Mexico. We were able to see all the different species of bats flying out of the caves when the sun was starting to go down. Thousands upon thousands were flying out by sundown, and that was cool to see! As for movies, I have been recently watching a lot of documentaries, but have been wanting to go see *Killers of the Flower Moon* when I do get the chance.

### How does your relationships with your colleagues/family back home play a role in your desire to continue a post-secondary schooling career?

Relationships are definitely a pivotal role with my motivation to give back. When I think of my relatives and colleagues back on the reservation and even the ones in the city, it drives me to accomplish bigger things and lets me feel that we're in this together as a team and that I don't feel alone in my academic endeavors. I feel that it is contributing to the overall Hopi community. They are always challenging me to be disciplined in my studies to pursue my master's degree, to think bigger, and to not limit myself.

### What are some life experiences that have helped prepare you to pursue a college degree?

I would say being able to push on through under pressure. No matter how much you feel, there are still responsibilities that need to be taken care of, and being able to set a goal and see it through all the way to the end, no matter the up's and down's, or what you're going through, and staying consistent. I believe that transferred over to my academic discipline.

Sometimes it's either pulling through a tough day, a deadline, work piling up on a certain day, or even through a tragedy, I would definitely say being consistent and disciplined no matter the circumstances, also just keeping in mind that what you're doing now is for a higher purpose. Having a grounded mission on why you're pursuing a degree and not giving up.

### What college accomplishments are you most proud of?

I would say making it to a Master's level education, and being able to keep up and thrive in a competitive school environment, that's something that I feel proud of. I never really graduated high school, I started off with my GED and had to eventually get up to pace with everyone else. I'm currently in my second year in my Master's program. It's a very challenging program in Global Management, in a prestigious school. I'm glad to be able to make it this far and to be able to see the finish line in the near future, and am excited to graduate with a Master's degree.

### How do you plan to use your degree in the next 5 years?

I do have the vision but I can't exactly say how it's going to manifest. Right now I'm going into Strategy Consulting for Government & Public Services, with the key focus on Business. I have accumulated the knowledge, now I need to have some application to that knowledge on real projects at companies. I plan on exercising my skill set, building up my credibility as a consultant.



### What would you say to HEEF donors who have helped provide you with scholarships, if you met them?

I would say thank you for your generosity, your contribution has allowed me to go to college to obtain a Master's degree, I never would have been able to afford. I would not have had the confidence to continue my higher education if I didn't have this kind of support. It's beneficial to know that there are others out there that do want to help.

# LuAnn's Career Impact with the HEEF

## LUANN'S CAREER IMPACT

SEPT 9 2002

### HIRED BY THE HEEF IN 2002

LuAnn Leonard was hired as the first Executive Director of the Hopi Education Endowment Fund (HEEF), with no office, office supplies or other staff.

NOV 20 2000

### \$10,000,000

The Hopi Tribe makes the initial donation of \$10,000,00 to establish the HEEF.

2001

### HEEF LOGO CREATED

The HEEF logo was designed in 2001 by Sam Tenakhongva, HEEF Alumnus & former Marketing and Special Events Manager for the HEEF.



TIMELINE CONTINUED BELOW

2002

### FIRST SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE VIA HEEF FUNDING

The first scholarships are made available via HEEF funding to the Hopi Tribe Grants & Scholarships Program (HTGSP). Over 1 million is made available.

2004

### FIRST ALUMNI CHALLENGE

The first HEEF Alumni Challenge is held in 2004, resulting in over \$160,000 total raised all time.

2006

### HEEF RECOGNIZED BY HARVARD

The HEEF was recognized with the American Indian Economic Development Award by Harvard Project for best practices as a 7871 non-profit organization in 2006.

2004

### FIRST SILENT AUCTION

The first HEEF Silent Auction is held in 2004. Over time, this event would generate over \$400,000 in revenue used for scholarships.

2004

### BEGINNING OF IMAGINE GRANTS

In 2004 HEEF IMAGINE Grants are made available, serving all ages of Hopi sinom. IMAGINE Grants fund programs that incorporate Hopi cultural elements.

2008

### APPOINTMENT OF ABOR POSITION

LuAnn Leonard becomes the first American Indian appointed to the Arizona Board of Regents in March 2008

2002 - 2023

### \$12,000,000 PROVIDED

to the Hopi Tribe Grants & Scholarships Program (HTGSP), resulting in over 600 degrees earned ranging from the Associates, Baccalaureate, Masters, Professional Degrees to the PhD level

2002 - 2023

### AUDIT REVIEW

From 2000 to 2023, the HEEF has received unmodified audits, which is a remarkable accomplishment.

2020

### BEGINNING OF HHEEF

In 2020, the Hopi Higher Education Emergency Fund (HHEEF) is created to help bridge the technology gap by helping Hopi students to buy laptops and other technology needed for online learning.

2002 - 2023

### OVER 120 HOPI & NON-HOPI'S SERVED ON THE HEEF BOARD

This group all have worked with LuAnn to fulfill the HEEF's mission.



# 2023 HEEF Silent Auction Aftermath



The HEEF Silent Auction has come and gone! In our last newsletter, we featured Adrian Nasafotie, who donated the signature piece and gave thanks to our generous sponsors. Now we are happy to share the outcome of our silent auction and in-person Grand Finale event. The Silent Auction began on July 24th online, and concluded on August 5th, at the Grand Finale event, that was held at the Heard Museum in Phoenix Arizona. The Silent Auction was primarily online and featured over 80 items made by Hopi and American Indian artists. We promoted the auction through social media, website, email blasts, and purchased ads through Cowboys and Indians Magazine, the Phoenix Magazine, and digital ads with Front Doors Media.

The Silent Auction portion raised over **\$15,000**, with people participating from all over the country, including one bid that came from overseas. In addition to raising this amount, we raised the most in sponsorships for any special event in the history of our organization. The generosity of our sponsors, who include our Title Sponsors Arizona Public Service, Heritage Sponsors Patricia Ryan and Terri Hall, our Premier Sponsors Clause Law PLLC., Osborn Maledon, and Merrill Lynch, our Major Sponsors Red Mountain Engineering, Northern Arizona University, and Freeport McMoran, and our Supporting Sponsors Chestnut Law Offices P.A., Goal Busters Consulting, the Hopi Foundation, Mangum-Wall-Stoops-and Warden PLLC., Summit Administration, and FS Advisors have helped to make this event a record setting event.

The in-person Grand Finale event was attended by over 100 attendees at the beautiful world-renowned Heard Museum. We were elated to have many donors, sponsors, and community members in attendance, considering this was the first in-person event we held since 2019. Attendees of our event were able to see the auction items in-person, had access to the Heard Museum exhibits, were privy to cultural entertainment and heard great speeches from our HEEF students. In total, **we raised over \$60,000** to help our people with their educational endeavors. We are thankful for everyone who participated in the auction, bought raffle tickets, donated art pieces, and made donations towards the event. We are looking forward to continuing to host the HEEF Silent Auction in the future.

Askwali/Kwak'wa/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

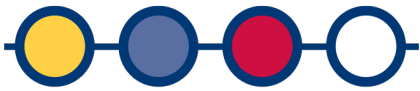
PO Box 605

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](mailto: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).”



Stay connected & follow us on Social Media!

## 2023 HEEF Alumni Challenge Aftermath

We are happy to share that the 2023 HEEF Alumni Challenge was a successful fundraising campaign! The challenge was held from September 11th to September 25th. Alumni teams representing Arizona State University (ASU), Northern Arizona University (NAU), the University of Arizona (UA), and Arizona Crushers (AZC/non-state schools) challenged each other to raise the most money for college scholarships. This year, Team ASU was the winner raising a total of \$9,048.00! Team NAU came in second place raising \$6,466.00, Team AZC came in third place raising \$3,525.00 and Team UA came in fourth place respectably raising \$2,405.00. Overall, the **challenge raised \$24,619.00** (including late donations), making this year the second most successful Alumni Challenge of all time.

The challenge started in 2004, with the idea that Hopis generally are competitive and have pride in their alma-mater's. It was a good way to harness the competitive nature, and pride for the betterment of our people's education. Since 2004, Team NAU leads all alumni groups with 13 total victories. Team ASU, including this year's victory is second with 4 victories. Team AZC has won twice, and Team UA has won once. Because the HEEF Board leads the charge for this campaign, meaning there is little to no cost, the Alumni Challenge is easily one of the most successful fundraising campaigns the HEEF hosts annually.

We are happy that we have many Hopi alumni representing schools all over the country, not just here in Arizona. It is a full circle process, that our alumni received HEEF support and are now helping to fundraise to help the current and next generation of college students. Over the last few years, the Alumni Challenge has gotten bigger and more competitive. Where we once had goals to raise \$10,000, our goals are now getting bigger. We would like to thank all our HEEF Alumni Challenge donors. You have helped to make this year's fundraising successful!

Askwali-Kwak'wa-Thank you!