

## Amaya Pablo: My Inspirations at NAU



Meet Amaya Pablo, who is Kookyangwung'wa (Spider clan) and from the village of Mishongnovi. Amaya recently graduated from Flagstaff High School in 2022, and is now currently a freshman, attending college at Northern Arizona University.

The HEEF staff is grateful

that Amaya took some time from her studies to do this interview.

### What was your motivation to pursue a path to a post-secondary education?

“My main motivation to pursue a post-secondary education is that I would like to one day, become an Oncologist. I do envision myself in the future wanting to work somewhere more local to Arizona in the New Mexico area.”

### Who were/are your role models in education that has helped push/encourage you to pursue a degree in higher education?

“I would say pretty much everybody in my family has been really supportive, especially my parents. However, professional wise, I have two mentors at NAU, who have helped me pursue more in a post-secondary education, Dr. Naomi Lee & Dr. Linnea Evans.”

### What special connection/bond do you have with Hopi?

“Well except for myself and my brother, everyone else in my family has grown up on the Rez. Every Summer that I can remember, we had spent the entire summer at my grandparents' house. I would say we definitely have a really close connection to them and staying home with them.”

### What are your hobbies?

“At the moment, I particularly like beading earrings and I bead quite often, and probably running. We had just gotten a new puppy, Jack, so I've been trying to have him go on runs with me but it has been challenging as it's been really icy outside lately.”

### What is one positive thing you could change in our Hopi Communities?

“I believe in encouraging other Hopi students on and off the reservation to pursue a post-secondary or college degree.”

### What accomplishment are you most proud of in your collegiate experience?

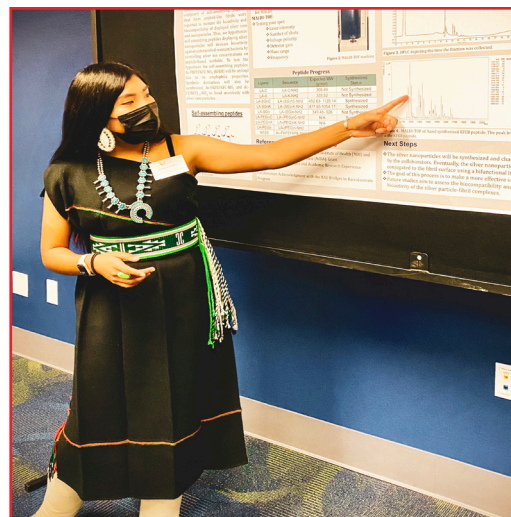
“What I am very proud of in my time at NAU, is that I did present my college research in the city of San Juan, Puerto Rico back in October (of 2022).”

### If you were to meet a donor from the HEEF that has helped you with scholarships, what would you say to them?

“Firstly, of course I would like to say thank you for not only their donation, but to their commitment towards other Hopi students. I really do appreciate it for helping students like myself, pursue an education where they wouldn't have been able to do it without their help. That any donation does help in the long run, however small or big the donation is.”

### What advice would you like give to your fellow students out on Hopi?

“What I would like to say is don't be afraid, be ambitious, and that you are smarter than you think you are.”



# Notes From The Director

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Hopiland. I'm sure that many of you know that up here in the high deserts of Northern Arizona we have been blessed with one of the most "wet" winter in decades. As March begins, we are experiencing our 4th snowstorm in a one-week period! Beautiful as it is, the snow also brings challenges such as making sure our families have the firewood, coal and resources needed to keep safe and warm. I am hopeful as I hear birds chirp signifying that Spring and planting season are just around the corner.

As many know, our long time **Finance Manager (FM) Oneita Tootsie** left the HEEF to accept a position in the BIA educational system. We are proud that her time with us prepared her to assume larger duties. We wished her well and know that she will always be part of the HEEF Family.

I am pleased to announce that we recently hired a new FM who comes to us from the Hopi school system. **Mrs. Marilyn Lomahaftewa** is from the village of Hotevilla and from the Spider clan. She brings many years of experience in accounting/business management and a desire to help us work to fulfill our mission to provide educational opportunities for our Hopi Sinom (people). We are proud to welcome her to our Team and our HEEF family.

I'm also glad to share that the number of Hopi students that we serve continues to grow. In Arizona, the University of Arizona and Northern Arizona University have instituted programs to offer "free" tuition to students under established income thresholds. Although it may immediately seem that we would have a lot of "extra" money due to tuition being covered, this is not always the case as in addition to the growing numbers of students, that there are many other costs above tuition that students face as they attend school. We will continue to work with all colleges and universities to leverage our funds to ensure that we are able to meet the financial needs of our students.

This newsletter highlights one of our hardworking and deserving students. It's comforting to know that because of our efforts today, young Hopi leaders like Ms. Amaya Pablo will be equipped to lead our people into the future. All of this could not be done without your generous support.

2023 will bring back some of your favorite fundraising events such as the Alumni Challenge, Arizona Gives Day, and the Silent Auction. Staff is also busy strategizing on new opportunities for you to consider. Either way we hope to continue to garner your support as our mission to support our Hopi students will always remain.

Finally, the end of 2023 will bring significant administrative change to the HEEF. In 2022 ,after 20 years of service, I informed the Executive Committee (EC) of my intent to leave as Executive Director on 12/31/23. This was done a year in advance to allow the HEEF time to determine how to move forward to find the best person to take my place. I assure you that the EC immediately jumped on the tasks involved and have updated the position description for a formal job announcement. I am fully confident that the EC will find a highly qualified replacement who will have a solid foundation to begin their work. I am thankful for the opportunity to mentor and train my replacement as there is so much to learn. There is a lot yet to come and we will keep you updated on the search progress. In the meantime, know that I will be here to assist you in any way possible.

Here's wishing for all the blessings that Spring will bring for a fruitful planting season!

Sincerely,

Dr. LuAnn Leonard, Executive Director  
Hopi Education Endowment Fund



Marilyn Lomahaftewa





## We will participate in Arizona Gives Day on April 4th, 2023



Since 2014, the Hopi Education Endowment Fund (HEEF) has been participating in Arizona Gives Day (AZGD). In that time, the response from those that support Arizona non-profits has been tremendous. We have raised **\$87,461.37 total all-time**, allowing us to strengthen the HEEF endowment significantly. The HEEF’s participation in AZGD is key to the success of our overall fundraising, giving us the ability to support Hopi students with their educational endeavors. We are proud and happy to support students like **Meranden Numkena, C/O Spring 2024, who is attending Arizona State University**, studying Parks, Recreation and Sports Management. HEEF scholarships have helped Meranden by “relieving financial stress.” She also expressed, “I’m thankful for my mom who told me to apply to many different scholarships... I don’t have to worry about loans or any outstanding payments.”

It is the mission of the HEEF to support Hopi students in perpetuity, meaning, having this fund available for future generations. Hopi children now more than ever, are being encouraged to pursue a college degree. Meranden shares encouraging words for the younger generations of students, looking to pursue college: “I think college helps to prepare you for life. Not just what you learn in the classroom but getting to live on your own, understanding what your interests are, building relationships and exploring so much! There are so many resources out there and amazing people to guide you. It gets tough at times, but you learn ways to make yourself stronger.” We hope you will consider supporting students like Meranden, by **supporting the HEEF on Arizona Gives Day, April 4, 2023.**

You can donate in support of the HEEF at [azgives.org/hopieducationendowmentfund](http://azgives.org/hopieducationendowmentfund). If you have any questions or would like to learn more about Arizona Gives Day, please reach out at [heef@hopieducationfund.org](mailto:heef@hopieducationfund.org). You can still make a donation in support of the HEEF for AZGD even after April 4th, on the AZGivesDay website or the HEEF Website.

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Check & Money Orders can be made payable to:

Hopi Education Endowment Fund

PO Box 605

Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

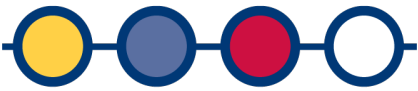
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“The Hopi Education Endowment Fund grows and protects financial resources to provide every Hopi the opportunity to pursue their educational dreams to assure the future of our sinom (people).”



Stay connected & follow us on Social Media!



**Help Support our Hopi Sinom’s Education this Arizona Gives Day on April 4th, 2023 via [www.azgives.org/hopieducationendowmentfund](http://www.azgives.org/hopieducationendowmentfund)**