

Kamden Sekaquaptewa: Haskell Indian Nations University



Meet Kamden Sekaquaptewa, who is Patki'wungwa (Water clan) from the village of Sipaulovi. Kamden recently graduated from Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas, earning his Associate's degree in Community Health this past Spring.

We are grateful that Kamden interviewed

with us, as he prepares for his next educational journey transferring to Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado, to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Exercise Physiology in the Fall.

What influenced your decision to go on your path to Haskell Indian Nations University?

"I was recruited to play Basketball by Coach Downing of the Men's Basketball team there. I had a great opportunity to continue to play basketball at a collegiate level. I also got to visit the campus and just their words of how unique of a native community it is there and how they've had a great time at the institution."

How much influence did with your classmates/family back home play a role in wanting to continue your career in Basketball and Academics?

"My family is just very competitive from the start, and that includes all of my distant relatives and cousins. We always push each other to be the best versions of ourselves, including academics and sports. My sister also played basketball so it was always a dream and goal of mine to continue to do it at a collegiate level. My parents stressed the importance of getting our education and receiving our diploma."

What unique bond/relationship do you share with Hopi?

"My family and I had lived out there for most of my childhood, so I've felt that I've always had a strong connection to Hopi. I have a few uncles on my Hopi side that are very hardworking and dedicated to the lifestyle of farming and tending to their fields & animals, as well as taking care of their families. It makes me feel grateful to be in the position that I am now in Scottsdale, AZ, and to remember to take advantage of the opportunities that I have now, for when the times do come to take care of my family as well."

Why is Hopi culture important to you, and do you have any aspirations to learn the Hopi language?

"I did go to school at Second Mesa Day School for a time, so I've always had the desire to learn more about the language, I'll definitely be taking more trips with my family in the Summer to learn more. I think just for what I've learned so far in my life about living life as a Hopi, is something that I've kept close to myself in terms of the hard work to overcome adversity and giving strength and doing things for others."

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

"What I'm most proud of is when I graduated, I didn't realize until the graduation event that they had told me I was graduating with honors. I was very excited to hear about that. The other past achievements were making the President's list and Dean's Honor Roll throughout my semesters at Haskell. On my sports side, I was really thankful to Coach Downing for nominating me for our 2023 Basketball season for an award called the 'Champions of Character', which is something that our conference gives out to players at the end of the season."

What are your future plans with your degree?

"I am definitely wanting to go into the Sports Exercise Science world, and there are lots of areas that I'm interested in. This includes being a physical therapist, to an exercise physiologist, to even becoming an athletic trainer."



What would you say to a HEEF donor who has helped provide you with scholarships if you met them?

"I'd definitely shake their hand and say Kwak'wah (Thank you), that it does mean a lot to have their help and support in pursuing our goals and

dreams. I hope that they understand how much it means to us, as students. The help and foundation that they have given me has allowed me to plan not just 5 years ahead, but even 10 years from now."



Greetings Friends,

The recent “promotion” ceremony for 5 year olds (one of which is my granddaughter Amelia Guzman) leaving Hopi Head Start to enter into kindergarten wraps up the 2023 graduation season on Hopi. Over my 35 year career with tribal government I find that I now recognize less and less of the graduates. The reason being that the current graduates are now the children or grandchildren of the Hopi students I once served. I can’t tell you how fulfilling it is to experience this as it reinforces the importance of our work and our mission of providing educational opportunities for generations to come. Congratulations to all of the graduates and their proud families. We look forward to continue growing the fund so that we can help others on their academic journey.

As we reach the mid-year point, I want to again assure you that the Hopi Education Endowment Fund (HEEF) Executive Director Search Committee is working diligently to provide recommendations to the Board on the next Executive Director. As of now the position is open until filled. More information can be found at www.hopieducationfund.org

Many thanks to the IMAGINE Grant Review Team consisting of HEEF Board Members who worked with me to recruit, review and award the 2023 Grantees. The IMAGINE Grantees include:

Walpi Village Youth @ Work- To offer Walpi youth ages 14-17 the opportunity to gain work experience while serving their village. This will be done by engaging the youth in community based enrichment projects and activities that will nurture cultural responsibility, integrity, respect and well-being.

Hopitutuqaiki- Hopi Lavayi and Culture for Hopitsatsayom: Their goal is to encourage Hopi Cultural awareness in Hopi children and their parents in a Hopi language environment. This will be done by engaging artists and other cultural consultants into the Hopi language immersion preschool. Additionally, Hopi art instructors will work to share art activities relating to Hopi culture.

The staff and I continue to be busy working on the recruitment of 10 Board Members and preparing for our FY 2022 Audit. However, we are most excited to implement the return of the first post-pandemic in-person event- the HEEF Silent Auction. Taking place on August 5th the event will be held at the world renowned Heard Museum in Phoenix, AZ. The response by companies willing to Sponsor has been overwhelming and we extend our heartfelt appreciation to the following:

- Title Sponsor:** Arizona Public Service
- Heritage Sponsor:** Terri Hall & Pat Ryan
- Premier Sponsors:** Osborn Maledon Attorneys at Law, Clause Law PLLC, Merrill Lynch
- Major Sponsors:** Red Mountain Engineering, Freeport-McMoRan, Northern Arizona University
- Supporting Sponsors:** Chestnut Law, P.A., GoalBusters Consulting, The Hopi Foundation, Mangum Wall Stoops & Warden PLLC. Attorneys, & FSA Advisory Group

We hope you can join us on August 5th. Here’s looking forward to what’s ahead!

Askwali,
Dr. LuAnn Leonard, Executive Director



Hopi Head Start Promotion
Amelia Guzman



Hopi Jr/Sr High 2023 Graduation



Hopi Graduate Jaeda Honani &
Executive Director Leonard

Adrian Nasafotie | Artist Feature



With the 2023 HEEF Silent Auction right around the corner, we are happy to highlight Hopi artist Adrian Nasafotie. Adrian is the donor of the signature piece of this year’s auction a beautiful 12 1/2” Honan Kachina carving. He has won several art awards for his work. From the village of Moencopi, and from the Pikyas’wungwa (Corn clan), Adrian earned the Best of Show award at the Southwestern Association of American Indian Art’s (SWAIA) Annual Indian Market in 2016. He also earned best of show at the Hopi Festival of the Arts hosted by the Museum of Northern Arizona in 2009.

He spent his childhood in the village of Moencopi and village of Songopavi. He attended Phoenix Indian High School and then attended Haskell Indian Junior College in Lawrence Kansas. He learned to carve, watching his uncles and his father Fraizier Nasafotie. Following Hopi tradition, he was taught that Katsina Dolls represent both the Katsina and is a teaching tool, for people, to respect oneself and all living things in life.

Adrian carved his first full figure doll at the age of 9. He utilized cloth, leather, and feathers of eagle and hawk that he collected from the roofs of relative’s homes in Songopavi village. He states “Katsinam (Kachina’s) and the practice of carving Kachina dolls allows Hopi to teach other people to live in harmony and appreciate the simple things in life, be it a gentle rain or the vivid colors of a rainbow”.

The generous donation that Adrian made to the HEEF in terms of art value is the largest individual art donation that we have received to date. We were honored and created ad’s that will be featured in the August Issue of Cowboys and Indians magazine and the Phoenix Magazine to promote this piece. It is our hope that collectors see his art and participate in our auction. The sale of Adrian’s piece would provide much needed educational support for Hopi student’s pursuing a college education.

We are elated that Adrian chose to support the HEEF by donating this signature piece, and we expect it to help bring great success to our event. It is because of the generosity of talented artists like Adrian that we can showcase amazing art in our auctions. We invite you all to participate in the 2023 HEEF Silent Auction online beginning July 24th, ending on August 5th. 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!

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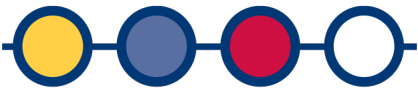
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“The Hopi Education Endowment Fund grows and protects financial resources to provide every Hopi the opportunity to pursue their educational dreams to assure the future of our sinom (people).”



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