

HEEF NEWSLETTER

Fall 2019



Student Highlight: Kyle Kootswatewa

“I consider myself a quiet person that tends to find peace and comfort in nature. Native plants and their relationship to Hopi living is one of my main interests and inspirations to strive for a higher education.”

Kyle Kootswatewa, is from the village of Lower Mungapi and belongs to the Katsinwungwa (Kachina) Clan. Kyle is currently pursuing a degree in Indigenous Liberal Arts at the Institute of the American Indian Arts (IAIA) located in Santa Fe, NM.

What are some of your accomplishments in school so far?

“Here in college, I have spent much of my undergrad years working with our Land Grant Program conducting USDA research while cultivating our communal garden. Other activities I’ve been involved with in the past (as a student representative) include a Tribal Relation Committee that sought to bridge and strengthen IAIA’s relationship with the surrounding Indigenous communities in New Mexico. I was also a part of our Native American Heritage Month planning committee. Puebloan staff, faculty, and student clubs converged to plan sharable cultural events with IAIA to help welcome other students to the Southwest and to promote food sovereignty through demos.”

Why did you choose IAIA?

“Deciding to come to IAIA happened so fast for me. My life wasn’t in a good place and I was not making any progress in securing a career through the programs and vocational trainings. At that time, to a degree, I knew that my ideas, passion and experience had little to do with any trades of work that was being presented. My outlook was on exploring contemporary issues in Hopi so that I could learn how to help my family and community heal from certain traumas. I found IAIA after researching issues in Indigenous communities. After learning about other Indigenous scholars, I knew IAIA had the fundamental knowledge and professionals that I could learn from, and that it was a good space to collaborate with other young scholars.”

Where does your motivation and support come from?

“Every day, my motivation to keep going is my family. Being able to exemplify a good life for my younger siblings is motivation, helping my mother find stability is motivation and keeping the Hopi knowledge my So’am (grandmothers) instilled into me is highly motivational.

My biggest supporters have always been my family, but almost everyone I have met on this journey has provided some type of support. Just like a village, our “Indian College” is very close and communal. I’ve been lucky enough to also have mentors from different Indigenous nations and backgrounds help understand academia.”

We noticed you were able to secure an internship here in Hopi, tell us about the work you did.

“This summer I was able to complete dual internships with the Hopi Tribe’s Cultural Preservation Department and Education Department through IAIA’s Journey Home Internship. With these internships I was able to learn and work closely with Daryn Melvin, staff assistant of the Vice Chairman’s office. I was tasked to participate in the tribe’s immersion program learning Hopi Lavayii (language). Alongside my studies, we also helped to revamp versions of the Hopi Proficiency Examinations that were created to promote and preserve the language. Throughout the summer we had created new materials that would test the comprehension, grammar, reading and spelling of Hopi individuals wanting to become certified teachers and translators academically.”

You’ve donated a hand woven basket (poota) hand made by you, what motivated you to donate to HEEF?

“This year, during the annual HEEF Silent Auction, I felt obligated to reciprocally contribute to the fundraising that helps all us Hopi students work towards our academic goals. Over the years I’ve seen and felt the support from HEEF. Their role is vital in helping Hopi become better equipped with scholars that are very much needed in our communities. I made a kwa’poota to offer my support towards the new and returning students of the Hopi Tribe.

As we learn how to manage our affairs through both western and Indigenous epistemologies, we always look back at our core cultural values to distinguish what is good in life. When I get bombarded and feel out of place while working on projects, I look back and meditate with nature. This is often done through weaving. The small poota donated was a creation of that process.”

What excites you about your degree program?

“What excites me about my program is the outcomes of our student’s research. Each year we have seen unique projects grab the attention of main stream society. We have seen projects aimed at protecting Indigenous knowledge, Environmental fortification, Indigenous Identity, and many others that have continued to spark encouraging social changes in “Indian Country”.

HEEF Student Donor Recognition Banquet



Dear Friends,

I hope this message finds you all in good spirits and doing well. I'm happy to report that both the HEEF Staff and Board continue to do the good work that our founding members set out to do - that of course, is to continue to grow the fund and help make educational endeavors more accessible to Hopis both on and off the reservation. There are a couple updates and events that I would like to share with you.

The HEEF Staff were able to take a short but well - earned break in April for the first-ever, staff retreat. The retreat created a space for each team member to grow both personally and professionally by participating in team - building exercises, learning their individual leadership styles and setting goals. Alex and Deanna, who were hired in the first quarter continue to bring new energy and complement the existing knowledge, passion, and expertise within the other team members. Everyone came back from the retreat with a renewed sense of purpose around our HEEF mission.

In May, both the staff and the Board gathered for the HEEF Strategic Planning Session to do an overall evaluation of where we are at as an organization. There is a collective sense that having the opportunity to reflect back on our almost 20 years, we are entering a stage of change and are open to the possibility. The conversations around our shared mission, our policies, and the future were dynamic and hopeful. We look forward to sharing more when we get the final report from our facilitators.

Finally, the HEEF Staff have wrapped up their 2019 Student and Donor Recognition Banquet after a busy month of planning. Coming up, is our always fun, always competitive, and ever popular fundraising event, the HEEF Alumni Challenge that will take place throughout the month of October. We are more than halfway through the year but our hearts are full. We continue to be amazed and incredibly grateful for the generosity of our donors. We know there are many deserving organizations doing great work and we are humbled and honored that you choose to support us. Askwali (thank you).

Candace Hamana, HEEF Board President
(2018-2019)
Badger Clan, Village of Upper Moenkopi

Congratulations to our New HEEF Officers for 2019- 2020
Dr. Kim Corkin, President Stephanie Parker, Treasurer
Candace Hamana, Vice President Dr. Sherry Markel, Secretary

Help Dreams Come True

“All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them.”
-Walt Disney

Having the desire to pursue education starts with a dream. Hopi students have dreams of being the next leaders in the Hopi community and beyond. Supporters like you are key to making educational dreams and goals come to life. Contributions made to the Hopi Education Endowment Fund are used for scholarships, community grants, and support of Hopi Education. We are looking forward to what lies ahead for our people, villages, and communities.

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: _____

In the Community

Our Annual Student and Donor Recognition Banquet was a huge success! We welcomed over 170 guests that comprised of current donors, students and their families, Hopi community members, and our business/organizational partners. “Imagine” was the theme of the banquet. We hope our students, donors, and supporters “imagine” countless opportunities as it pertains to education, leadership, and growth. No goal or idea is too small, and we would like our students and the Hopi people (sinom) to envision those possibilities and believe that they can achieve them.

This event is hosted to recognize newly awarded scholarship recipients as we feel it is important to celebrate their accomplishments. In addition, we also recognize our special donors who have helped to make these scholarships a reality. We are happy to connect our HEEF student scholars with our generous donors. It was an opportunity for our donors to see who their gifts are helping and for our students to express their gratitude to those that help to make these scholarships possible.



We were pleased to feature former staff member to John McCain, Deborah Baker (village of Sipaulovi) as our keynote speaker. Her words uplifted our guests as she had them “imagine” the potential that they have to pursue their passions and goals in life. As the evening went along, guests enjoyed a special performance by well-known Hopi performer Ryon Polequaptewa and 7-time National Hoop Dancing Champion, Derrick Davis. To close the evening, we welcomed our student scholars to the stage, each receiving a commemorative backpack, individualized award certificates, and their academic scholarship.

The Hopi Academic Achievement Award is a merit-based scholarship and is highly competitive. It is awarded to a current graduating high school senior who has demonstrated high academic achievement. Included with this award is a laptop for the student to use in their schooling. We were happy to award and present this scholarship during the banquet to Gabriel Fredericks.

About Gabriel:

Hometown/Village: Kykotsmovi

Parents: Aaron and Lynn Fredericks

Attending School: Ft. Lewis College

Degree: BA Marketing

Personal Goal: “To bring positivity and creativity back to the Hopi community.”

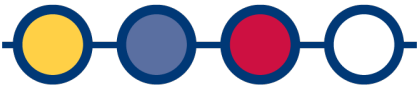


At the conclusion of our Student and Donor Recognition Banquet, we captured the excitement of Gabriel using his laptop for the first time. We are excited for Gabriel to begin his academic studies at Fort Lewis College.

Thank you to those of you who attended and supported this event. Special thanks to our event sponsors: Peabody Energy, Salt River Project, Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University, University of Arizona, Walker & Armstrong LLP, Patricia Ryan & Terri Hall, Clause Law PLLC., Freeport-McMoRan, Terraform Development LLC., The Bott Group Merrill Lynch, Osborne Maledon, ASU - Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts, and Kewenvoyouma Law PLLC.

Askwali & Kwa’Kwah for your continued support!





Hopi Education Endowment Fund
PO Box 605
Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039

Ph: 928-734-2275
Email: heef@hopieducationfund.org

“Cultivating and nurturing the future of our Hopi people through education by growing and safeguarding a perpetual source of funding.”



Be sure to follow us on Social Media!

SAVE THE DATE: November 20, 2020

We will be celebrating our “Golden” Birthday next year! More to come on how you can help us celebrate.

In the Community

Our summer season has come to a close and we welcome in the fall season. During the summer months we were able to participate in community outreach events, award our IMAGINE Grants, and successfully host our Annual Student and Donor Recognition Banquet.



Staff Member: Deanna Machuca
Board Member: Sherry Markel

Our staff and Board Members participated in several outreach events over the summer, including the Annual Hopi Festival at the Museum of Northern Arizona, Sharlot Hall Indian Art Market in Prescott, AZ, and the 2019 Youth Matter Event in Kykotsmovi, AZ. With our outreach efforts we were able to connect with donors, the local communities, and other organizations. It was also a great way for us to update and share the work and impact of the HEEF!

Each year we award our IMAGINE Grants, we give to community projects that benefit education in the Hopi Community. Over the summer, we were able to award a total of 4 grants to the following programs/projects: Hopitutuqaiki School, Kykotsmovi Youth Program, Conservation Legacy - Ancestral Lands, and Villages Against Meth. With our funding assistance, these projects were implemented in the Hopi community.



Kykotsmovi Youth Program Participants with staff member Justin Hongoeva.

Askwali - Kwa’Kwah to all those who applied this year!