

HEEF NEWSLETTER

Winter 2019



Aeon Winter Albert is from the village of Shungopavi and belongs to the Nuvawungwa (Snow) Clan. Her mother is Dianne Lomahaftewa - Albert and her father is Newman Albert. Aeon is a graduate of Seattle University earning her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Marketng. Aeon enjoys hiking, photography, hanging out with her dog and singing. She admits she is not great at singing, however still loves to do it. While studying at

Seattle University she worked two jobs. During her time there she served as President of the Indigenous Student Association. Currently, she is employed with the Hopi Opportunity Youth Initiative located in Kykotsmovi, AZ which aims to bring together community members and organizations that will promote positive change and explore opportunities to help strengthen support for Hopi/Tewa youth. While working full time she is maintaining the titleship of Miss Hopi 2019-2020.

What influenced you to attend Seattle University?

I spent my summers in a program called MS² which focused on math and science in Andover, Massachusetts. My last summer there we did a college tour of UCONN, NYU, Dartmouth and other schools. Although I enjoyed my time there, I felt it was too far for me to be all the way on the eastern side of the country. So I began looking at schools in the West and Seattle University was chosen at random. My senior year everyone kept asking where I was going and it scared me one day I just blurted out a school name and it happened to be Seattle University. There is not a day that goes by where I do not regret that decision. I've spent my whole life in Arizona which gets a lot of sunshine; in order to help myself grow I wanted to go Washington where it rains a majority of the year.

Explain the work that you do for HOYI and what you enjoy most about your role/job.

I am the program associate for HOYI and I'm basically the manager's right hand woman. All of the proگرامing we do, I make sure it gets completed I usually help with everyone's day to day job whenever I can. I also do most of the marketing materials for our program too. I love this job because it's a mixture of office type work and youth work. We do a lot of team building and outreach!

Who were your biggest supporters/mentors in your academic journey?

My biggest support system during my academic journey was my family. Growing up, my so'oh always said the key to success was to "read, read, read." This same so'oh (grandmother) would print out practice tests and have us take them during the summers we spent with her. My mother was also a big support she never got frustrated with me or my brother and worked hard to make sure we had all of our needs taken care of. I never realized how having the basic necessities of food, shelter and water played on academic success. My kya'ahs (aunties) would also always buy us back to school supplies and I remember being so excited to start school with my new gear after every "Hotevilla summer."

I'd have to say my biggest force and mentor was my dad. When I was in 2nd grade I got in trouble for stealing another girls toy she had earned because she beat me in a math worksheet. My father asked me why I did it.. I told him it wasn't fair I didn't get the prize I wanted because I was slow at math. He told me that he couldn't make me better at math, that my mom couldn't and neither could my brother. If I wanted to be good at something I had to do it myself all my family could do was support me. He also said some days I wouldn't be the smartest in the room, or the funniest, and I had to learn to be okay with that. But from that day forward I always strived to be the best I could.

How has being Miss Hopi impacted your life so far?

Being Miss Hopi has been the most amazing experience! The reason I took on this role was because I wanted to find a way to honor the amazing women in my life and all that they have taught me. My so'ohs (grandmothers) have played a big part in my life especially because I was not given the fortune of having a lot of time with my kwa'ahs (grandfathers). My kya'ahs (aunties) and mom's have always cared for me and made me who I am today. I want to be able to be a support for the community and help in any way I can. I ran for the title to honor the women in my life and the platform I chose was to honor the men in my life. My platform is creating self-value through artistic expression. Both of my kwa'ahs (grandfathers), dad's and brothers are all artists of different forms. Sometimes in life, especially living in western society, the value of art whether it's singing, dancing, painting, drawing, ceramics, jewelry making etc. get lost. But as Hopi people the artistic qualities are already embedded into our DNA I want to help make sure everyone knows that and values it.

Any advice for future Hopi students wanting to go to college?

Do not be afraid. Opportunities only come once and it's okay to take your time.

Message from Executive Director - LuAnn Leonard



Dear Friends,

2020 is now on the horizon and ready to make itself known. As we near the end of 2019 we will witness the predicted closure of the Navajo Generating Station on 12/31, and end to the resources that the mine generated for our people. We will remember the wisdom of then Chairman Wayne Taylor, Jr. who foresaw the closure and impact that it could have on the Scholarship funding for generations to come. Acting as a true leader should, he and his team created the Hopi Education Endowment Fund (HEEF), the first of its kind in Indian Country, to protect the funding for educational opportunities for our people.

Today, instead of cutting back resources to the Hopi Tribe Grants and Scholarship Program (HTGSP) we are once again increasing their appropriation of funding in 2020. It is with the help of generous donors such as yourselves, a committed Board and hardworking staff that the fund is healthy valued at \$26 million. But we know we must continue to develop fundraising opportunities to ensure that we will continue to fulfill our mission of providing educational opportunities far into the future.

During 2019 we took a good look at ourselves and worked to prepare for the next decade of service. In January 2020 we will start the new year by introducing our new Values, Mission, Vision and goals. Each of these important statements were thoughtfully crafted, and incorporate Hopi values. We are looking forward to strengthening and growing the fund in the next decade.

As we head into winter on Hopiland, families across the villages take a good look at themselves and reflect on the past year and think about what they want the future to bring. As Hopi's the staff and I will do the same. Be assured that our prayers of renewal and good things for all living creatures on this earth, will include each of you reading this message.

Askwali,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "LuAnn Leonard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

LuAnn Leonard, Executive Director
Hopi Education Endowment Fund

Leaving a Legacy - Dave Palermo

Throughout the years, the Hopi Education Endowment Fund (HEEF) has been honored to receive donations from the estate of friends and supporters throughout the country. One such generous donation was recently received from the estate of Mr. Dave Palermo. To honor him we'd like to share a glimpse of his life as shared by longtime friend Natalie Burt.

Dave Palermo, a longtime Las Vegas-based journalist whose past work included coverage of gaming and labor worked for 13 newspapers in 33 years. "Newspaper journalism is a unique profession," Palermo wrote to friends a decade ago. "With all its faults ... journalism remains the only profession in which the product is truth. I am proud to have engaged in such an honorable endeavor. All I ever wanted was the opportunity to deliver an ounce of message, told well."

Over his career, he won more than 30 writing and reporting awards. Later in his career, Palermo shifted his focus to advocacy for the tribes. That work took him to Sacramento, Calif., Flagstaff, Ariz. and Washington, D.C. The Hopi Indian Nation and its people were sacred in his life.

He worked with former Hopi Tribal Chairman Wayne Taylor, Jr., to craft messages sharing not only the challenges the Hopi tribe faced but the beauty of the culture and people. Chairman Taylor shared, "I'm not surprised that Dave thought about Hopi in his will. He was deeply touched by Hopi and as a journalist wrote flowingly about the rich Hopi culture; he also saw that we were at a crossroads trying to maintain the past while ensuring our prosperity in the future. He made many friends, many of them artisans, and long after he left Hopi he would often return to visit and buy more Hopi arts & crafts. We will all miss him dearly."

Palermo turned himself into an expert in Indian gaming but also in Native American sovereignty, history, social problems and programs aimed at rebuilding tribal communities. He could cite legal cases and Indian gaming regulations like a lawyer. His expertise grew as he worked for tribes to represent Native American interests to federal and state lawmakers and regulators.

Jake Coin, Hopi from Kykotsmovi was a colleague and friend of Dave. Jake shared, "Dave was moved by the strength and genuineness of Indian Country, and was the first non-Native news reporter to provide fair and honest coverage of Indian gaming. I had the privilege of working with him at the national, state and local levels on gaming issues. He was especially moved by his exposure to, and becoming acquainted with, the Hopi Tribe, its people and Hopi lifeways. Dave was honest; he was a friend whom I will miss tremendously.

Palermo was preceded in death by his parents, Pete and Margery, and brothers, Michael and Kevin, all of Illinois. The HEEF is thankful to be remembered by Dave.

Arizona Gives Day - April 07, 2020

On April 7th, 2020 the HEEF will be participating in Arizona Gives Day! Much like any state, Arizona is abundant with non-profits serving its states citizens with much needed programs. We are very proud to be a part of the Arizona non-profit community doing important work.



Hopi villages have deep roots in Arizona, majority of which are older than the state itself. The villages of Oraivi, Songopavi, Walpi, and Misongnavi are credited with being over 500 years old, with Oraivi being credited as the oldest continuous inhabited community in the United States.

Thanks to deep cultural roots, and a long history in the state boundaries of Arizona, many Hopi's live their lives with Hopi religion and culture intact. Children are raised with Hopi beliefs and practices, while striving for educational success. Our children learn the importance of giving back to their community. Traditionally, each member of the tribe had a responsibility for the overall well-being of the village.

In modern times, Hopi students take their traditional responsibility in the form of gaining an education to fulfill their village responsibilities to their people. We use campaigns such as Arizona Gives Day to aid our people in their pursuit to accomplish their responsibilities for their people.

We have been fortunate in our success during this state-wide campaign. Last year we raised \$7,315 and since participating we have raised over \$50,000 in total. This year, our goal is to raise \$15,000. Thanks to Arizona Gives Day, we have been able to strengthen our endowment, which helps us to continue to provide scholarships and educational programs on the Hopi reservation. We hope that you will join us on April 7th, to make our Arizona Gives Day another success!

For more information on Arizona Gives Day please visit www.azgives.org.

Support the HEEF

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 much like the student featured in this newsletter. Students like Aeon, benefit from your contributions. Please consider making a gift and help pave a pathway for other students.



Yes, I want to make an impact today!

Charge Visa Mastercard

Please accept my donation of \$10 \$25 \$50 Other _____

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Vcode (3 digits): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Check & Money Orders can be made payable to:

Hopi Education Endowment Fund

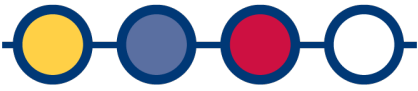
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“Cultivating and nurturing the future of our Hopi people through education by growing and safeguarding a perpetual source of funding.”



Be sure to follow us on Social Media!

Celebrating 2019

2019 was filled with exciting events and new beginnings for the HEEF. Enjoy these moments captured throughout 2019.



HEEF 2019 Strategic Planning Session



Loren Detwiler 2019 Silent Auction



“Imagine” Student & Donor Recognition Banquet



New 2019-2020 Board Members



Imagine Grantee: Villages Against Meth



Happy Holidays from the HEEF Staff!!