

Evelyn Pooyouma: Persevering Through a Pandemic



Evelyn is from the village of Hotevilla and belongs to the Piikyaswungwa (Corn) Clan. Evelyn is a Spring 2020 graduate of Northern Arizona University (NAU) earning two bachelor's degrees in Criminology and Criminal Justice, and Social Work.

She was in her senior year finishing out her last semester at NAU when the COVID-19 pandemic was just beginning.

In less than two months, she like thousands of college students across the country had to adjust to sudden changes. She adjusted and was successful in completing two degrees.

What changed for you due to the pandemic?

Pretty much everything changed. The biggest things that changed for me were my classes, jobs, and internship. Usually, my apartment is my safe haven to de-stress and relax, but with the shift to online classes, suddenly I was having to do my coursework at home. I was having the time of my life having classes in person and seeing my classmates, then the pandemic hit and we were no longer being able to do that. It was like overnight we suddenly were put into online courses. I was living in a small apartment with my sister who was also working from home. We would try to do our work in separate rooms, both of us trying not to overlap each other. At some point things became chaotic and I felt like I was running in circles. With all the changes I was trying to think of my next plan and I decided to just focus on how to get through things day by day. I did my best to stay positive and optimistic.

My graduation was a 15-minute ceremony and to be honest, it was heartbreaking. I imagined I was going to celebrate with my parents, sister, and so-oh (grandmother). There was hope that the university was going to go through as usual for graduation, but that changed within a matter of weeks. The hardest part was that I wasn't going to be able to share that moment with all the people who helped me along the way. Knowing I worked so hard and not having the closure that I wanted was difficult to accept. I still get emotional about it. My family and I made due with the situation. My dad bought a small grill and we had a cookout on the porch of my apartment. As we ate, we sat around the TV and watched my graduation on YouTube.

What made you pursue two degrees?

I decided to double major in my sophomore year. I didn't know double majoring was an option until I talked to my advisor about it and she let me know that it was possible. At a young age I really liked helping others and it made me feel happy. Little did I know I was already doing community service at age 5 by helping around in my village. Just knowing my help was making someone's life easier brought me joy. I figured criminal justice would allow me

to help others and found law interesting. Later, I took an introductory class into social work. After only two days into the course, I instantly decided to pursue social work along with my criminology degree. My kwa'a (grandfather) always told me there is no limit, if you want it, go for it. There was nothing to lose and I really wanted to do it even if it meant more work. I just needed to have the courage to pursue it. I always try to push my own standards and decided "you know what I can do this."

What do you hope to do in the future?

I want to work with a non-profit within a native community, with a focus on crises management and intervention. Through my internship I was able to work at a domestic violence shelter. While working there I worked with clients who experienced human trauma. It was hard to listen to some of their stories and to see them relive their trauma every day, but just knowing I was a source of stability for them was helpful. I learned that I can help people to start over after their experiences. I was able to provide hope, resources, and tools to begin their steps to building their lives again. Some topics can be culturally sensitive and can be taboo to speak about, especially in indigenous communities. Knowing I come from one of those communities, I want to be able to provide that comfort and trust with clients. Somewhere down the road I would like to continue working with the elderly too. My next step is to pursue my master's degree. For now, I am taking my time and seeing how things play out with the pandemic before applying for the program.



What are your hobbies?

I like to paint. During this time, I have done a lot of painting. It allows me to pause and reflect on things, and it slows things down for me. I had a busy lifestyle while in school and now that I am done, I am indulging in the free time that I have now and using it to do things I want to do. Even small things like sleeping in, talking with friends, and watching a movie here and there. I wasn't able to do that with school, my jobs, and internship. So, I would say that's my other hobby, just enjoying what every day has in store.

To the donors, anything you would like for them to know?

I have been fortunate enough to receive two bachelor's degrees and have never had to take out a student loan allowing me to graduate debt free. The scholarships I received helped a lot during my time going to school. It helped me to accomplish my goals and will help me get closer to my bigger goal of receiving my master's degree. Askwali (thank you), I don't know where I would be without the help that you provided.

In Remembrance, Shon Quannie, HEEF Board Member



Our HEEF family was saddened by the news of board member, Shon Quannie, who passed away on December 30, 2020. Shon joined the HEEF board in October of 2018 which marked the beginning of a friendship with the HEEF staff, board members, and colleagues. In his final months with the HEEF, he was elected by his peers to serve on the HEEF Executive Board.

Shon was a small business owner of 4X Studio LLC, a design and print communications company based in Phoenix, Arizona. His accomplishments included being a design faculty associate at Arizona State University (ASU) and serving on the board of directors for the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Arizona. Shon shared his experiences and expertise while serving on the HEEF board. During his time with the HEEF, he was assigned to assist the Marketing and Communications Committee, a space where his expertise was greatly valued and appreciated, as well as the Nominating Committee, where he used his extensive

network to bring new talent to the HEEF. Shon's eagerness to share what he knew reflected in the work that he did with the HEEF. His creativity and ability to share ideas, was an inspiration to all.

Executive Director, Dr. LuAnn Leonard commented, "Shon was committed to the HEEF's mission and vision, and was a great advocate for the organization. He was well respected and made many friendships through his service to the HEEF." On a more personal note, Shon always greeted those with a smile which often followed by candid humor. Shon was lighthearted and his energy radiated with each person he interacted with. Current HEEF President, Dr. Kim Kahe Corkin expressed, "Shon's selfless acts of kindness, intelligence, humor, and charisma, will forever be cherished by the HEEF family."

Fellow Board Member Adrian Tanakeyouma, who was nominated to the HEEF board by Shon shared, "He was, kind, giving, a go getter and never gave up on anything. Shon was loved by everyone who he came in contact with. His goal was always to go to college and play football. But since football did not



work out he still went to college and worked for the ASU football team. A hard worker, he was committed to see that Native youth had a chance to go to college. He was dedicated to the HEEF mission and convinced me to be a part of the group. I surely will miss him, his big hugs, and smile."

The HEEF will miss his liveliness and enthusiasm. Fellow board members share in this loss and express their sincere condolences as many had the opportunity to get to know Shon during his time working with the HEEF. The news of Shon's passing was heartbreaking for us all and we are grateful that we had the opportunity interact with Shon, moments that will be lifelong memories for us.

Our condolences go out to his wife Danielle and his Hopi and Acoma relatives. At the request of Shon's family, they have asked that any contributions or donations be made to the Hopi Education Endowment Fund or the Fatty Liver Foundation. The HEEF is grateful for the generous support of Shon's family and friends.

Running for Hopi Education - Wayne Sekaquaptewa



Last year, we shared the story of Hopi member, Wayne Sekaquaptewa from Sipaulovi Village, and his desires to use his training for the Boston Marathon to help fundraise for the Hopi Education Endowment Fund (HEEF). The Boston Marathon is one of the oldest annually held marathons in the United States and to qualify is an achievement. Wayne had been working closely with the HEEF and had planned to host a meet and greet at HEEF Board Member Stephanie Parker's home in Boston Massachusetts to increase awareness of Hopi education in that area. The COVID 19 pandemic would test his planning, as the pandemic would first postpone the marathon, but ultimately forcing it to be a virtual event cancelling many in-person plans. Despite the changes, Wayne remained dedicated to his promise to help Hopi students while training. He continued with fundraising as best he and his family could, and with the help of friends at the HEEF he ultimately raised \$6, 100.

Wayne's preparation for the marathon had to change. He mentions that it was difficult to keep mentally engaged, because in normal circumstances, the excitement of traveling to Boston and the festivities associated with the marathon was enough to keep him mentally engaged with training. Another big change was knowing that he would be running alone for 26 miles. Anyone that runs races understands running along side others takes your mind off the physical and mental fatigue with running a marathon. The positive out of all of this was that Wayne could choose where he would run the 26 miles and he chose the Hopi reservation. Wayne's sister, Caroline Sekaquaptewa, helped with his training as she had also qualified for the Boston Marathon. The two ran together on Second Mesa, with some family and friend's presence, including their grandmother, who had never got to see them run the Boston Marathon, which made the moment ever more special. We thank Wayne and his family for dedicating much time and effort to raising money for our children's education.



Askwali/Kwak'kwa/Thank You.

Give Today and Support Hopi Students

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 other students.

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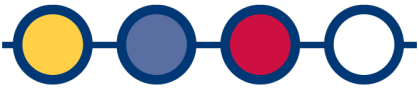
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2021 Q1



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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).”



Be sure to follow us on Social Media!

Arizona Gives Day - April 06, 2021

A year ago, we were just learning about the COVID-19 virus and prepared ourselves for the impact of the pandemic. We had no idea the effects the pandemic would have on our communities and our student’s abilities to continue their education. Arizona Gives Day 2020 approached, we were forced to cancel several in-person events and focus solely on online solicitations. Soon after we would learn that most university/colleges closed their campuses forcing many of our students to move back to the reservation and forcing them to take all of their classes online.

When the pandemic began to take its toll on our communities many Hopi non-profits stepped up to increase services for those effected by the pandemic including the HEEF. We surveyed our students asking them what their needs were. We found that many students did not own the technology needed to complete their courses that were now online. We created the Hopi Higher Education Emergency Fund (HHEEF) to raise money to

help bridge this technological gap. The campaign was successful raising over \$50,000 which we used to help students pay for laptops, printers, scanners, etc. This is just one example of how local non-profits rose to the occasion and made a huge impact.

Please join us on Arizona Gives Day, April 6th and show your support to the non-profits of Arizona. The HEEF has participated in Arizona Gives Day since 2014 and have benefited from the exposure to gain more supporters. We are proud that we stood with our sister organizations here on Hopi increasing our activity to aid our people during a difficult time. Of course, we understand that the pandemic has changed many individual’s ability to give, but if you can, join



Support Arizona Non-Profits



Kwa'kwah/Askwali (Thank You)!

On behalf all Hopi students, the HEEF would like to express gratitude to the following donors for their generous support in 2020:

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