

BriAnn Laban “Tulustung-Tewa (Spider receiving its red spots)”



BriAnn enjoying the Hopi summer.

BriAnn (age 25) is from the village of Tewa and member of the *Tuwawungwa* (Sand Clan). She graduated from Hopi Jr./Sr. High School in 2008 and completed her Bachelors of Science in 2012 from Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire. BriAnn is currently pursuing her Doctorate of Architecture at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where she plans to graduate in 2017. Her proud parents are Neomi Nahee and Brian Laban.

Which people in your life encouraged education?

“It all started with my entire family. They would always say do well in school. So I did, such an obedient child I was... followed by all my teachers I ever had... always encouraging and challenging me. I appreciate every single one of them. However, out of all of them there are two individuals who encouraged me more with their simple words of wisdom. My fourth and fifth grade teacher Mrs. D encouraged me to “never stop asking questions.” So I never stopped.”

“The next individual is my sister Hollie. Being her younger sister it was natural for me to want to do everything she did. She was in Upward Bound and I wanted to do the same but she told me not to. She encouraged me to do a 3-year math and science summer program called (MS)² Program in Andover Massachusetts. That push she gave me changed my life forever, I’m a nerd for life now.”

Provide an example of an obstacle or challenge you overcame to continue your education journey?

“There were and still are many times when I just want to give up because I miss home so much. I miss my family, friends, the food, the openness, the dances and everything else I’ve come to appreciate about Hopi. I am sacrificing all of that to further my education and sometimes I wonder, “Is it worth it?” I know I have acquired enough skills to obtain a good job back home, however, I don’t want to do just any thing. I want to help progress not only my tribe but many others as well with my knowledge in Architecture and Community Planning. That’s what keeps me going. How will I contribute to develop my tribe if I give up now?”

How is being a part of Hopi/Tewa special for you?

“Being Hopi/Tewa gives me a unique perspective on life. I use that perspective in the classroom and always try to tie in my culture with my work. I align myself to Hopi ideals of living



An architecture project on community development infrastructure.

simple, caring for the land, working hard and holding water as sacred. On the island, we are surrounded by water which is a complete opposite to where I grew up.”

What advice would you share with other Hopi students about college?

“My advice would be to try new things. Your mind may be set on a major, but branch out during your first and second year. Don’t think of it as wasting time because even a bad experience is just as insightful as a good one. Test the waters and who knows you might find much more happiness in a different major. When we pursue higher education we have the goal of improving our life and lives around us. This is great, but remember your happiness should be a goal too. So relax, drink some hot cocoa, play a board game, fix a puzzle, exercise, sing Disney songs, do whatever makes you happy. Just don’t let these simple joys turn into procrastination tools.”

Thank you for supporting not only me but many other Hopi scholars! *Kuuna’a* (Thank You, Tewa Language)

“Hawaii is fun but I like the hot dry heat better over the hot humid heat. At first, I was a little claustrophobic. Being surrounded by water got to me. However, now I love the beach and going hiking. I will miss these two activities the most. I have to make time to hang out because school can get pretty busy.”



BriAnn and her little brother at the beach.

Recap- Arizona Gives Day 2015 - Giving Today Helps Tomorrow



Mike, LuAnn, Oneita, and Vernon provide free coffee at the Hopi Tribe for outreach.

On April 7th, the HEEF participated in Arizona Gives Day 2015 for a second year. The event is a powerful 24 hour online giving experience that unites donors around causes they believe in. As a rural nonprofit, engaging new and current donors with an online giving

radio, 2,000 restaurant placemats for local advertising and two newspaper ads in the Nava/Hopi Observer and Gallup Independent. Executive Director, LuAnn Leonard shared, "We wanted to get our local community involved in giving on Arizona Gives Day and the mini grant allowed us to produce greater outreach among the rural communities." Our efforts increased awareness of our cause to local community members and had people excited to donate.



Special thanks to founding HEEF member Patty Talahongva for her generous donation of \$1,000.

experience can be challenging. However, by participating in Arizona Gives Day we were able to bring attention to our small organization with the hopes of increased engagement.

In addition, the HEEF in partnership with other Hopi nonprofits including: The Hopi Foundation; The Nakwatsvewat Institute; and Moenkopi Senior Center secured a \$2,000 marketing mini grant for rural nonprofits through the Arizona Alliance of Arizona. We used this grant to obtain a total of 4 day sponsorships with KNAU and KUYI



We would like to thank everyone who donated on Arizona Gives Day. With your help we raised \$5,659.00. Arizona Gives Day was a great experience in mobilizing our HEEF supporters and our local community to practice philanthropy for one day. Overall Arizona Gives Day raised more than \$2 million dollars for Arizona nonprofits.

2015 IMAGINE Grantees Announced

Every year, the HEEF seeks out local community members and organizations to initiate projects that could serve as benefit to the Hopi people. The HEEF IMAGINE grant is a funding opportunity targeted at supporting community projects that primarily focus on Hopi cultural practices, values, education and sustainability. This year we are proud to announce our three IMAGINE Grant recipients.

Adventures for Hopi

Award amount \$4,960.00

Adventures for Hopi (A4H) is an emerging developmental adventure recreation program catering to Hopi and Tewa youth on Hopi. A4H utilizes outdoor education/recreation and service learning as a medium for cultural preservation, community based social change and environmental stewardship. The organization revolves around three major initiatives which make up their overall program structure. The initiatives include: Outdoor school, Service of Adventure and Training/Mentorship. All initiatives include five core components; health, development, opportunity, service and education. These areas are employed and practiced with their adventure pursuits that include climbing, hiking, backpacking, rafting and canyoneering. Service learning projects will be coordinated closely with the Hopi communities. [Contact Marshall Masayesva at mmasayesva@gmail.com for more information.](mailto:mmasayesva@gmail.com)

Sun Camping on the Mesa

Award amount \$2,873.00

The Sun Camping on the Mesas or energy camps will provide Hopi youth the opportunity to experiment with photovoltaics or solar energy. The objective is to offer practical Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math using basic electric circuitry and solar energy technology as a means to encourage the youth to pursue an electrical trade or engineering major in college. [Contact Deb Tewa at twa.tes@gmail.com for more information.](mailto:tewa.tes@gmail.com)

The Nakwatsvewat Institute- Hopi Mediation Training

Award Amount \$4,250.00

The Nakwatsvewat Institute Hopi Dispute Resolution Services will offer "Introduction to Basic Hopi Mediation" training, giving participants mediation skills. These skills can be used by participants should they desire to consider becoming a professional mediator for the Hopi community. [Contact Susan Secakuku at susan@nakwatsvewat.org or visit their website at \[www.nakwatsvewat.org\]\(http://www.nakwatsvewat.org\) for more information.](mailto:susan@nakwatsvewat.org)

Amber J. Poleviyuma - Arizona State University



Amber shares health education to kids.

Amber *Homöynom* (bamboo arrow laid out to dry) from the village of lower *Munqapi* represents the *Iswungwa* (Coyote Clan) and is

What tools have helped you most?

"One of the most helpful tools has been prayer. Prayer can be done anywhere and has gotten me through the most stressful times in my life."

How is being a part of Hopi special for you?

"My culture and traditions mean everything to me. This is because I have seen many people search their whole lives for a purpose and meaning, but for me being Hopi provides a foundation and guidance. The values of *sumi'nangwa* (coming together to do activities that benefit all) and *kyaptsi* (respect) have provided my family and I guidance through tough times. The best and happiest times of my life were also because of Hopi culture and traditions: practicing for social dances, dancing, seeing the *katsinas* (spirit being), preparing for weddings and baby namings. I am very thankful to our ancestor for all of their sacrifices to keep our culture and traditions intact, because not many people have these anymore."



Homöynom actively enjoys participating in her culture.

What have you learned from your educational journey?

"I would like to say that there is no right way to get your education. Every person is different, so play to your strengths and do what is right for you. You know you the best and that is how you will succeed. For me, I started out at Coconino Community College and then transferred to Arizona State University. This was the best choice for me because I wasn't overloaded with course work or financial hardship. After receiving my AA degree, I transferred, realizing that I wanted to challenge myself more and be more independent. By participating in new opportunities, I have been able to be a better student and gain experience as a leader and future healthcare provider. Keep your head up! *Nahongvita!* (exert oneself, make your utmost effort)"

Support the HEEF Today - Matching Gifts

Did you know you could possibly double or triple your contribution to the HEEF? Many employers participate in matching gift programs that enable employees to leverage their gifts to make a greater impact, some companies match 1:1 or 2:1.

Visit www.matchinggifts.com to see if your employer participates in a matching-gift program or contact your Human Resources Representative or Charitable Giving/Grants Department. If eligible, request a matching gift form from your employer and send the completed form along with your gift to the HEEF and we will do the rest.

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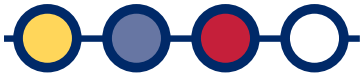
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*"Cultivating and nurturing
the future of our Hopi
people through education
by growing and
safeguarding a perpetual
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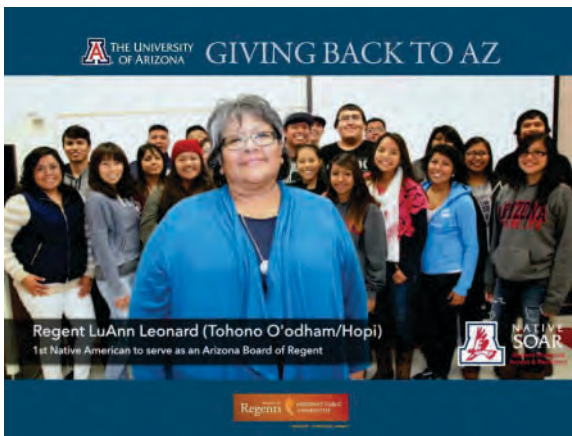


Message from HEEF Executive Director, LuAnn Leonard

Dear Friends,

The fruit trees are blooming signaling the start of a new planting season. Soon farmers will be separating their seeds and preparing their fields for the upcoming year. With the spring semester well underway, 104 students were funded and are attending 36 different institutions across the US. Throughout the year in my work with the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) I've had the pleasure of meeting many of our recipients and parents. The most common message heard is a resounding thank you for the supplementary dollars that HEEF provides. And that message is passed to you, our supporters. Askwalí.

Meanwhile, the HEEF awarded three outstanding programs through the IMAGINE Grants proposal process. The HEEF IMAGINE Grants provide funding to education-based programs and projects that are conceived and implemented within the communities by those who witness first-hand the power of education. This year we are funding an adventure education program founded by a recent Hopi graduate of Fort Lewis College; a project using solar technology coordinated by one of our own Hopi solar experts; and a mediation program based in Hopi cultural law founded by a Hopi lawyer who saw the need for such services.



Finally, we are proud to announce that we at the HEEF are planting our own seeds this spring. We are planting the seed of possibility by launching a new program called the APS Hopi Career Awareness Program generously funded by the APS Foundation. The program brings a cadre of Hopi and Native American professionals working in the STEM fields to Hopi classrooms in the hopes of inspiring young Hopis to pursue professions in the STEM fields as well. We launch our program with Chickasaw astronaut, Dr. John Herrington presenting to the Hopi Jr./Sr. High School in early May. We thank you for your support, and hope you continue to share our journey as we continue to witness the growth of the seeds you helped to plant. Askwalí

LuAnn recognized as 1st Native American Board of Regent.
Photo Courtesy of Native SOAR.