

## Hootsiwma Honyumtewa - A Student Journey

Hootsiwma (*movement of a sidwinding snake*) is *Patkiwungwa* (water clan) from Sitsmovi Village. He graduated from Hopi Jr/Sr High School in 2008, received an AA from Northland Pioneer College (NPC), and received a bachelor's degree in 2016 from Arizona State University (ASU) in *Tourism Development & Management*. He is currently employed at the Sheraton Grand in Phoenix and hopes to advance his career in Tourism.

### How did you end up at the secondary schools you?

I always envisioned it in my life plan to attend college but it didn't seem attainable to my family and me financially. I took baby steps at first by attending NPC, hoping I'd eventually get somewhere. I chose NPC primarily for the convenience and affordability. Once I saw my feet lift off the ground I began thinking, "What more can I do with my future?" In the end, it was definitely the feeling of wanting more, especially once my graduation from NPC was getting closer. I thought to myself, "Is this where I want it to end?" It was at that moment I decided I wanted to continue so I broadened my horizons and committed myself to attend ASU. As far as my decision to attend ASU, I always wanted to be a Sun Devil, and I made it happen.

### What drew you to your decided major?

When I was applying to ASU I went through all the majors offered, crossing off the ones that didn't appeal to me until I came across the Tourism Development & Management degree. I researched it a bit more and saw the vast possibilities that I could attain with that degree. I could do anything from casinos to hotels to airlines. Given the state that my tribe is currently facing, it was a no-brainer in that I knew I could possibly help my Hopi people develop different ventures and opportunities that will benefit all, especially through tourism development for future financial resources. I think something that also ties into me choosing this degree is I thought I wanted to be a roller coaster designer. And so I was going to be an engineer until I saw all the math involved. Then when I saw the Tourism Development & Management degree and it said, "You could work in theme parks, amusement parks..." I thought to myself, "If I can't build roller coasters, I could definitely get a degree in something that is associated with them."

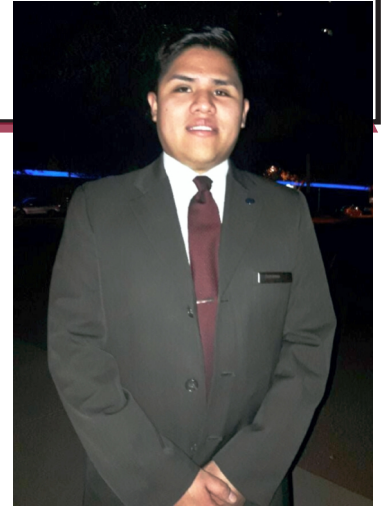
### Who encouraged your education?

I think my biggest push did come from my family just for the fact of me being the first to make it this far with my education. I think they were very proud. I'm the only one in my family with a college degree. They wanted me to complete it and they love telling people where I was at. I also got pushes from my educational advisors at NPC and ASU. They kept my mind on track and helped me keep focused on finishing my educational journey.

### What challenges did your educational journey present?

The biggest obstacle in my eyes was removing myself from the place I called home. I literally packed up and cleaned

out my entire bedroom the night before I was moving to Phoenix. It was like one day I was living at home and the next day I was hugging my parents wondering if I'll ever go back home to live with them again. To this day I still haven't moved back home and I know it was a hard challenge for my parents to not see me as much anymore.



### What advice would you give to Hopi students embarking on their educational journey?

Definitely utilize all your resources and make connections with others because you never know the many ways they may be able to assist you. No matter where you're going to school, pat yourself on the back after each day because you're definitely another day closer to finishing. One word that I've always had in the back of my mind is 'sacrifice'. If you truly want to chase your dreams, sacrificing anything and everything to get to where you want to be is key. Although it may be difficult, there are always the rewards to reap at the end.

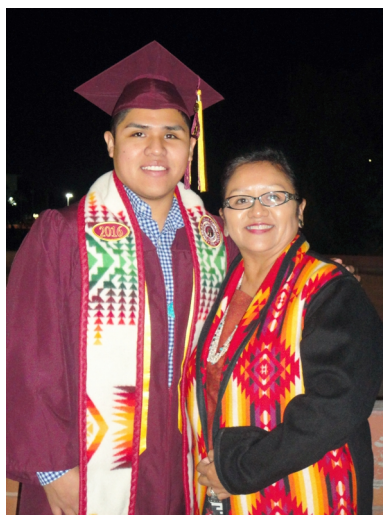
### Describe your relationship to Hopi culture.

I am completely tied to the Hopi culture. I grew up in a very traditional family who partook in and attended every ceremony, and through the guidance of my dad and my godfather I was very involved. Being Hopi is special for me because non-Hopi's view our culture as something very significant, and it really shows at my place of work. I encounter people from numerous backgrounds and once they see my nametag, they begin questioning where my name came from and what it means. I am very proud to tell them I am American Indian from the Hopi Tribe. It puts a sense of reality in to me that I, a Hopi youth from the rez, am interacting with people from all over the country and world, and it makes me very proud of the upbringing and cultural background that I've come to know.

### Has getting a secondary education changed your life?

My life has changed significantly since completing my education.

My quality of life has significantly improved and my education has allowed me to broaden my career prospects. My life has also changed in the fact that I see myself as a true adult. I take care of myself, pay my own bills, and put food in my fridge on a daily basis. None of what I've accomplished would've been possible without receiving assistance from HEEF. I don't think I would have opened my eyes to the world, nor would I have thought I could reach such a high caliber in the working environment. I don't know where my life would be right now if it wasn't for the (HEEF) donors. I definitely wouldn't have the knowledge of the things I learned and I wouldn't have been able to experience the experiences I've had while going to school. It's just something I can never repay back. It's something that I'm very thankful for and something that can't be taken away from me now. Thanks to the donors and HEEF for letting me go on this educational journey.



Hootsiwma and his mom



## Message from HEEF Executive Director, LuAnn Leonard

Greetings to all!

It's hard to imagine that 17 years ago the Hopi Education Endowment Fund (HEEF) was created to protect the higher education funding for the Hopi people. Fast-forward 17 years and the Hopi Tribe is dealing with the reality of the impending Peabody mine closure and a significant loss of revenue drastically affecting tribal services for the people. Thank goodness for the leadership, foresight and wise decision-making of the Hopi Tribal Council lead by then Chairman Wayne Taylor, Jr., as 17 years ago the Tribal Council acted as Hopi leaders should - they looked into the future and did what was best for the people they served and the generations to come.

With the support of our generous donors, sponsors, friends, and Board members, we have appropriated **over \$9.8 million in scholarships and grants for Hopi students** attending accredited colleges and universities across the US - **resulting in 389 degrees** ranging from PhD to associate's granted. Additionally, over **\$80,000 in IMAGINE community grant funding** has provided services to hundreds of Hopi people ranging from four years old to the elderly. Today, the initial \$10 million dollar gift from the Tribal Council - through wise investments, prudent spending and fundraising - has grown to be currently valued at \$23 million dollars.

But our work is far from done for this fund to last into perpetuity.

On November 30th I became a *Su'su* (grandmother) for the first time. As I held my newborn granddaughter, Amelia, in my arms I was in awe of this new life and I pledged to do whatever I can to make the future bright for her. I was amazed that within the next week, two more *Alwungwa* (Deer Clan) babies were born into our clan. I accepted that we have a lot of work ahead as 17 years from now, these and other newborns will be ready to go on to pursue their dreams of post-secondary education.

The HEEF Board and Staff look forward to what lies ahead as we create and implement new and enhanced fundraising strategies in 2018. We wish our new Hopi Tribal leaders, Chairman Tim Nuvangyouma and Vice Chairman Clark Tenakhongva the very best as they *too* work to secure a bright future for our people.

On behalf of the HEEF Board and staff, we send you the following New Year Greetings,

*"Lolmat Qatsit Ye'esiwni!"* - Live a Good Life!

*Askwali,*

LuAnn Leonard, Executive Director  
Hopi Education Endowment Fund



LuAnn with her newborn granddaughter, Ameila



## Do you know about SEEDS 4 HEEF?

Like seeds, our students hold the potential to grow and thrive if nurtured. At the Hopi Education Endowment Fund (HEEF), we believe in nurturing our students with the tools and resources to learn and achieve. As a supporter of the HEEF, we know you also believe in the value of education and support the mission of the HEEF. As such, we ask that you demonstrate your commitment to the HEEF by joining SEEDS 4 HEEF, a monthly giving program that is convenient, budget-friendly and provides Hopi students a steady stream of income to help grow the Fund and meet our mission.

Since 2012, SEEDS 4 HEEF donors have accounted for almost 25% of the total donations raised through HEEF campaigns.



\$62,255

Total campaign income 2012-2017  
(\$267,853)

The impact your SEEDS donation can make:

- ☼ **A \$25 monthly gift would help a student pay for admissions fees or standardized testing fee.**
- ☼ **A \$50 monthly gift would help a student to buy their school books for one semester.**
- ☼ **A \$75 monthly gift provides a student with a full scholarship for one semester.**
- ☼ **A \$100 monthly gift provides a student with a full scholarship for a year.**

As a college education becomes essential in an ever-changing world, we hope you will consider assisting our *sinom* (people) in providing opportunities to succeed educationally and professionally. Askwali/Kwak'kwa! (Thank you)



# HEEF 2017 at a Glance



224 STUDENTS FUNDED AT 46 INSTITUTIONS

*\$30,000 in IMAGINE Grants awarded to 7 community programs*

8 SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED:

6 Jean Charley-Call Nursing Scholarships (\$500 each)

1 George Then Business Scholarship awarded (\$1,000)

1 Susan Then Science Scholarship awarded (\$1,000)

\$43,282 raised through campaigns:

**ARIZONA GIVES DAY - \$7,954**

*Summer Raffle - \$1,005*

**ALUMNI CHALLENGE - \$10,730**

*#GivingTuesday - \$2465*

*Holiday Appeal - \$3687*

*SEEDS 4 HEEF - \$10,045*

Miscellaneous Individual Donations (newsletters, brochures, t-shirts, etc.) -  
\$18,772

## *Give Today for Their Tomorrow!*



Each of our students has his or her own unique dream of what their life will be like when they are older. Some students dream of being an teacher, a nurse, or a coach because they want to help people. While others dream of being a musician, an artist, or a cook because they want to create . One common thing our students dream about is receiving a higher education and returning home to improve their community's situation. These dreams can all be realized, but not without education. Your gift today will become part of the larger endowed fund, allowing future students to realize their dreams. .

Please send your check/money order payable to:  
Hopi Education Endowment Fund  
PO Box 605  
Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039

Please charge \$\_\_\_\_\_ to my:  
☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

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Vcode (3 Digits): .....

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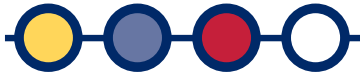
City: .....

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Online donations: [www.hopieducationfund.org/donate](http://www.hopieducationfund.org/donate)



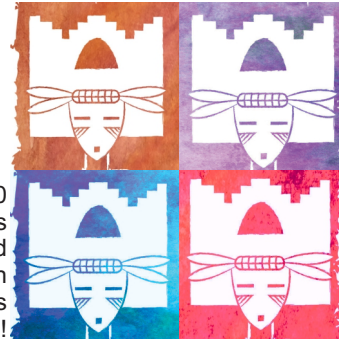


Hopi Education Endowment Fund  
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Kykotsmovi AZ 86039

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



Nearly 400  
degrees  
awarded  
through  
HEEF's  
assistance!



Follow us on social media to see  
our Hopi word of the day posts  
and help us share our mission!

*Art Benefitting Hopi Students!*

2018 Hopi Education Endowment Fund

# SILENT AUCTION



March 2<sup>ND</sup> • 2018 • 5:30-8:30 pm MST

[www.hopieducationfund.org](http://www.hopieducationfund.org)

2214 N. Central Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85004

**Contact us about sponsorship  
and art donation opportunities!**