



Student Highlight: Mariah Pahona-Charlie

Mariah Pahona-Charlie is from the Village of Tewa and is Qae'wungwa (Corn clan). She is a senior at Arizona State University (ASU), her Interdisciplinary program allows her to study American Indian Studies and Psychology while minoring in Organizational Leadership. Mariah grew up in Mesa Arizona, attended Westwood High School and Mesa Community College (MCC) before arriving to ASU. She established the program Westwood Native Warrior's mentorship program for American Indian students to learn about managing time, and money. This program has helped students to apply for jobs, build resumes and deal with issues of cultural identity and historical

trauma.

What made you choose ASU and your current degree?

At MCC, I would see posts on social media from native ASU students, some of which were my friends from MCC. The pictures and posts that they shared showed the native community that was at ASU, and the strong support system they have. I wanted to be a part of that community I wanted to be a Native Sun Devil. When I started college, I first pursued nursing. I had been through a lot in my life and wanted to help people. There is a great need for Native people in medicine. My first year at MCC, I began working for the American Indian Institute and that is where I found my passion. I realized that I wanted to help students navigate college by serving as a guide. I changed majors 5 or 6 times. My first semester at ASU, I enrolled into a Public Policy program. After taking a few classes, I realized that it was not for me. I spoke to my advisor and they discovered I had taken a lot of AIS and Psychology classes. They convinced me to do Interdisciplinary Studies program that would allow me to do both AIS and Psychology. I was afraid at first that I would be in college longer, but it turned out to be one of the best decisions that I have made.

Where do you see yourself in the future?

I feel that my professional, educational and personal future are intertwined. I would like to pursue graduate school, possibly education or organizational leadership. I have been looking at ASU, Northern Arizona University and the University of Hawaii. My goal is to create programs for students who need assistance, for I see their success as a huge pay off. At some point, I would like to move to the reservation, as I see a lot of positive things happening with organizations out on Hopi and I would like to be a part of that. My fiancé grew up on the reservation, and with our cultural obligations, it is pulling us home to Hopi. I would like to raise my future children on the reservation. I did not have the opportunity be raised on the reservation due to my parents having better work opportunities off the reservation.

How has scholarships aided your educational journey?

Scholarships are my life saver. I do not know how far I could have made it without scholarships. I am a first-generation student and the youngest in my family, I did not have someone who could show me how to finance college. My only options to finance school is scholarships, grants and sometimes student loans. My family did not have the financial means to save for my college education. Having financial aid was a relief but also stressful. I had to monitor my GPA to ensure that I did not fall below requirements. I did not want my grades to hinder my financial aid. I had to make sure that I did not drop any classes. I had to work full-time to support my living expenses and that became difficult as city living is expensive especially on minimum wage. Despite the difficulties of working hard to pay for school, I am grateful for how it has molded me. I feel like it has made me the type of student I've always wanted to be.

What message would you like to deliver to our HEEF donors?

I know that this educational system was not meant for me or my Native peers, but this is where we want to be. We are dismantling stereotypes about Native people while achieving in these institutions. Donors have helped to give students a seat in education. It means a lot to me and other students who don't have financial resources. Through will and power, Native people are now at the table to be able to serve their own people. For the longest time, we have not been able to help our own people, but now that is changing. HEEF and its partnerships with donors, is allowing me to be in college. It is comforting to know that people, organizations, and businesses want to give students an opportunity. I want to do the same and give back to students to help them in the way that I have been helped. Donating to the HEEF means a lot and shows that you care about providing opportunities.



New Mission and Vision for 2020



In November 2000 the Hopi Tribal Council created the Hopi Education Endowment Fund (HEEF). Since then the HEEF has been governed by a Board of dedicated, and highly qualified Hopi and non-Hopi individuals. An important responsibility of the HEEF Board is to provide guidance and to make decisions that not only affect the present day students but also for those students well into the future.

As we enter our 20th year in November, and after thoughtful discussion and numerous work sessions the HEEF Board is pleased to share their new Mission statement . . . “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).”

The other important guiding HEEF statement, the Vision reflects what the organization aspires to strive for. Recognizing that education is the key to self-sufficiency, the HEEF members envisioned that “Investment in education allows every Hopi the opportunity to live the Hopi way of life, in the way they choose, in strong, self-sufficient, culturally rich communities.”

The updated Mission and Vision statements are major statements and are what we turn to as we work to manage and grow the fund. Donors appreciate the fact that we are pro-actively working to ensure that the fund remains healthy so that we can ensure that the future of the Hopi is bright. Our Executive Summary provides more details such as the three main goals for 2020-2022 as well as the values that the organization feels are important to the HEEF.

The values are designed to reflect how the HEEF will operate as we conduct business on behalf of the Hopi people. Goalbusters, LLC a non profit consulting organization out of Flagstaff, AZ helped to facilitate the process and final outcome.

As Executive Director, I’ve always been told that the mission and vision will guide me in the most challenging times and that it’s important to keep an eye on the future. For 18 years I have done so and am thankful for all of the work that has gone into the creation of these statements.

View Executive Summary on our [website](#). Located under our “About Us & Our Story” section of our web page.

Message from the HEEF President



We are excited about the year 2020 for HEEF!! It has great significance; this year HEEF will celebrate its’ “Golden Birthday” on November 21, 2020. What is a “Golden Birthday”? The ‘Golden Birthday’ is the day where a person/organization turns the same age as the date to which they were born/established (created) (Example, turning Twelve on the 12th of October). More details about the birthday event will be forthcoming.

We are also excited to promote our new Mission Statement of HEEF. The collaboration of staff, board members and the consultants also resulted in the development of the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan. I would like to thank the HEEF staff, LuAnn, Justin, Onieta, Alex, and Deanna for their committed efforts in making this Strategic Plan a reality. Our strategic plan will guide us through the next 3-years; it will allow us to prioritize our goals and objectives to continue to meet our mission.

HEEF always strives to accomplish the set priorities of the five (5) respective standing committees. While working to accomplish these goals, HEEF ensures that they also align with the three goals identified in the Strategic Plan of creating an organizational structure for the future; shaping leadership; and supporting pathways for Hopi in higher education. As you move forward in 2020 with our resolutions and/or goals, I would encourage you to think about becoming a member of HEEF. As a Board Member, there are great relations built with both fellow board members and donors. The result is gratifying to know that your work helps fund several Hopi students to continue their education. If time is not on your side to volunteer, we always appreciate new and continued donors.

Askwali’
Kim Kahe Corkin
HEEF President

Running for Hopi Education



For Hopi, the term “running is religion” is not an exaggeration. Running is intertwined with Hopi culture and religion. Hopi runners are taught to think and pray for the arrival of clouds that bring moisture to Hopi lands and for strength for people all over the world while they run. Hopi has produced an Olympic medalist and national record-breaking High School Cross Country team. Continuing the tradition of Hopi running, Wayne Sekaquaptewa is training to compete in his 4th Boston Marathon. The Boston Marathon is the oldest annual marathon in the United States and is difficult to qualify for. Sekaquaptewa, a former recipient of Hopi Education Endowment Fund (HEEF) funding, is using the attention from running in the Boston Marathon to raise money for Hopi education. Sekaquaptewa is from Sipaulovi village, is Patki’wungwa (water clan) and a proud father of 2 and husband of 16 years to his wife Felicia.

He states, “our children’s educational dreams are an invaluable source”. He also goes on to say “I want to help raise money for our children’s educational endeavors. I want to help spread the word of the good and noble work that the HEEF does. I believe I can build a platform with the training and running and use it to raise money for the scholarships HEEF funds our Hopi people to pursue education beyond high school”.

Sekaquaptewa is proud of his Hopi traditions and admits that he did not begin running seriously until after high school. His sister, Caroline Sekaquaptewa, was a big influence on him and is also competing in this year’s Boston Marathon. Additional motivation for Sekaquaptewa, is his oldest daughter Seniesha, who is attending Eastern Nazarene College and is also being funded by the HEEF. He hopes his efforts will be motivation for other Hopi and American Indian people. “As I see it, our Native communities need as many of our own people to draw inspiration from.



We all know about the difficulties our people face, but to see and hear our own people, our own relatives, do extraordinary things to overcome all of that, I believe, will never get old”.

We are proud of Wayne’s past accomplishments and what he is doing now to raise awareness for Hopi education. We will be supporting his efforts by sharing information about the events he is coordinating to fundraise to support his training and funding for scholarships. We hope his story will encourage you, to make a donation in the name of his efforts. Askwali/Kwak’kwa!

Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, the Boston Marathon has been postponed to September 14, 2020. Wayne plans to compete, and we plan to support his efforts.



COVID - 19 - A message from our Executive Director

During these challenging times the Hopi Education Endowment Fund (HEEF) is committed to continuing to work to fulfill our mission of “growing and protecting financial resources” for the education of the Hopi people.

Currently, our office in Kykotsmovi, AZ is closed per Hopi Tribal Government Order. The HEEF leadership will continue to follow the guidance of the Hopi Tribal Government and will closely monitor the situation and adjust schedules and operations as needed. Please check our website at www.hopieducationfund.org or the Hopi Tribal website at www.hopi.nsn.us for updated information.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we all work to carry forward during these unprecedented times. Be safe and we wish you good health.



Hopi Education Endowment Fund
PO Box 605
Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039

Ph: 928-734-2275

Email: heef@hopieducationfund.org

“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!

Give Today!

The need for education will continue as years go on and our Hopi sinom (people) depend on donations made to the Hopi Education Endowment Fund for scholarships and community grants. Through our efforts we aim to provide assistance and support through your financial gifts made to the HEEF. With your gift our communities are able to move forward with their educational goals and aspirations.

We value you your continued support even with uncertainties occurring at this time due to the recent COVID -19.

Askwali - Kwa'kwah - Thank you.

Yes, I want to make an impact today!

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

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PO Box 605

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Kwa'kwah/Askwali (Thank You)!

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the HEEF would like to express gratitude to the following donors for their generous support in 2019:

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