



## Xia Quamahongnewa - Veterinary Science Graduate

Xia *Piva'inmana* (Girl holding a basket of tobacco) is from the village of Hotevilla and belongs to the *Kookyanwungwa* (Spider) Clan. Her mother is Dorcas Kayquaptewa and her father is Blair Quamahongnewa. Xia graduated from Holbrook High School in 2014 and this spring she graduated from the University of Arizona (UA) with a bachelor's degree in Veterinary Science. She is

the first graduate to be a recipient of the Hopi Academic Achievement Award - a merit-based scholarship - throughout her full undergraduate studies.

### When did you become interested in Veterinary Science?

It started when I was younger. My mom used to tell me that whenever I was around animals, it was easy for them to come to me. Plus, I'm an only child and I have a shy personality so it was easier for me to get along with animals than it was to interact with new people. That's where I got my first interest; it was to help animals, essentially. Around the villages, you see sick dogs or malnourished dogs or cats and it made me want to help them. That's where I got the interest of wanting to become an animal doctor. That's where I found I could become a veterinarian. **That was the only thing I really wanted to be. I never really thought about anything else.**

### Did you already plan to go to college right out of high school?

**I always knew if I wanted to become a vet, I needed to go to school.** It was never really a question not to go. My mom would always encourage me to go to college. During the summers when I was in middle school, she was still getting her master's degree. I observed her going to school and working hard and getting her master's degree and that made me want to do it too.

### How did you decide to go to the University of Arizona?

Because U of A is heavily based on science and math and I knew the medical school here is a prestigious program. I thought, going into a veterinary program, you have to have a good education in science. That's why I decided to come here. Plus, it was closer to home and that made it easier for my family and for me to go out and still help during ceremonies and stuff like that.

### How are Hopi culture and traditions important to you?

It's part of who I am. I grew up in the village on Hopi 'til I moved away for high school. But my family is traditional so I grew up with that and it's the only thing I know and it's part of who I am so I can't really separate myself from my culture. I still keep ties to my culture and my traditions. Whenever there's a ceremony out home or if my family needs baskets or things like that, I'm always

willing to do that. I learned things when I was younger and I didn't see the meaning or the significance back then but now I see that it holds more purpose than I thought it did. Since it holds more meaning, then it needs to be more respected. As I grew and matured I knew that I can't let it die - my culture. I guess it's just part of who I am so I don't really think of it as something else. It's basically what you know, what you grew up with.

### Were there any obstacles or challenges you faced?

In college, it's even harder (than high school) because you meet new people from various backgrounds and they have different experiences from what I do and they're exposed to more, they know more, they have more knowledge than I do. It made me feel inferior because I didn't know as much as they did. Or during certain classes I'd meet people and they had more knowledge than me or they comprehended easily and it's hard for me to do that so then I had to work more. I had to work harder, longer. **The main obstacle that I faced was trying to match my knowledge with other people.**

### What would you like to say to the donors who helped fund your scholarship?

If I were to meet them, I would say that there aren't enough words to explain how thankful I am to them. I'm thankful because they were willing to lend their hand out to me and let me take hold and that encouraged me to further my education. Their support really changed my life because I wouldn't have wanted to pursue and further my education if I didn't have this scholarship or if they didn't donate and fund. With that opportunity to do more, I can still go back home and share my knowledge there and encourage people to do more. And I would think that when/if people see me with an educational degree that they would want to pursue that as well. So it really is life-changing for me, because without it I don't know what I would've done if I didn't go to college or hadn't had the money to go to college.



Xia in her graduation regalia

*Xia next plans to get more experience at a veterinary clinic before working towards her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine. After that, she plans to return to Hopi to practice as a veterinarian.*

## Message from HEEF President, Dr. Angela Gonzales

Dear Friends,

For many of us, the month of May marks a time of celebration and new beginnings. In May we celebrate Mother's Day and Memorial Day, holidays where we honor and give thanks to those who gave us life and those who gave their lives. May also marks the unofficial transition from spring to summer when the days turn warm and Hopi farmers begin preparing their fields for planting. For many, May is also the month of commencement when degrees and diplomas are conferred and parents, family and faculty gather to celebrate the educational success and accomplishments of students. HEEF joins families, friends, students and donors in celebration and remembrance of all who have given so generously and unconditionally in making the good things of life possible.

At the HEEF, we also acknowledge and celebrate the many people who have contributed to our ability to fulfill our mission of "cultivating and nurturing the future of our Hopi people through education by growing and safeguarding a perpetual source of funding." We began the year with a very successful Holiday Campaign that raised \$14,864 from new and current donors. This was followed by the relaunch of the HEEF Silent Auction, an event last held in 2010. The March 2, 2018 event was held in Phoenix at the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA). Sponsorship support for the event included the Salt River Project (SRP), Arizona Public Service (APS), Northern Arizona University, Arizona State University and the University of Arizona, to name just a few. The event raised close to \$30,000 through sales, cash donations, and in-kind support. In April, HEEF participated in Arizona Gives Day and raised over \$9,900 during this single-day online giving event.

In celebrating these accomplishments, I want to acknowledge and give thanks to the many Hopi artists who contributed artwork for the Silent Auction, the volunteers who gave generously of their time, energy and enthusiasm, and also to my colleagues on the HEEF Board who collectively contributed \$2,020 as a matching gift for Arizona Gives Day and continually give so generously of their time and talent in supporting the HEEF.

As the month of May draws to a close, the HEEF staff are busy planning for the Spring Appeal, and Student Recognition Event, all while preparing for a move to a new location. Our impending move while not unexpected, comes a bit earlier than planned. However, we embrace the move as an opportunity to begin a new chapter to the HEEF story, one that we know will build upon our past success as we continue our work supporting the educational goals and aspirations of Hopi students.

In closing, I want to extend my personal thanks of appreciation to all who have supported the HEEF. Our ability to fulfill our mission would not be possible without the collective support and contributions of donors, Hopi Tribal leadership, and the Hopi community.

Askwali!

Dr. Angela Gonzales

President, Hopi Education Endowment Fund



Dr. Gonzales is a *Justice & Social Inquiry* and *Women & Gender Studies* professor at ASU

## Spring is Planting Season!

*Spring is the time when Hopi farmers begin preparation for the planting of corn, beans, squash, melon, and other crops. They do this with prayer and positive thoughts for a bountiful harvest.*

*For Hopi farmers, the work is simple but physically demanding. From the moment seeds are placed in the ground, much care is taken to ensure the seedlings not only survive but thrive in the harsh desert climate. For Hopi farmers, the *uuyi* (corn plants) are their children and from an early age, young boys are taught by their fathers, uncles, and grandfathers to treat the corn plants as if they were their own real children.*

*Women and girls help to prepare the seeds to be planted. Women *humita* (shell corn), a practice that young girls learn from their mothers and grandmothers. Women care for all those who help with the planting by providing nourishment and water during and after the work is completed. Both women and men are preparing for the planting season and upcoming summer ceremonies which are meant to help with the moisture of land, growth of plants, bountiful harvest, and happiness.*

*The attention Hopi farmers give their crops is much like the care we at the Hopi Education Endowment Fund (HEEF), take to cultivate and grow a source of funding to support the education of Hopi students. We do this through sound investments in order to provide the resources necessary for our children to access educational opportunities that will provide the Hopi people an abundant harvest of future leaders and productive citizens that will sustain our way of life.*

*Please make your commitment to our Hopi people by making a contribution to the HEEF. Join us as we once again plant, nurture and cultivate our seeds so that we can all look toward a bountiful harvest. For more information on how you can contribute, please visit [hopieducationfund.org/donate](http://hopieducationfund.org/donate)*



# Congratulations to all of our Hopi 2017-2018 Higher Education Graduates!

On behalf of the Hopi community, the Hopi Tribe Grants & Scholarships Program, and the HEEF, we are proud to share our Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 list of college graduates. Since 2001, HEEF has helped fund over 420 degrees for Hopi students.

## Spring 2018 Hopi Graduates:

**April Ahownewa**, Soongopavi - Bachelor's in *Business Administration* from Arizona State University

**Carl Becker**, Hotevilla - Associate's in *Architectural Structural Design* from Chippewa Valley Technical College

**Alyssa Begay**, Soongopavi - Master's in *School Counseling* from the University of Arizona

**Adrianna Carillo**, Old Oraibi - Bachelor's in *Psychology* from Northern Arizona University

**Christina Chama**, Hotevilla - Bachelor's in *Exercise and Wellness* from Arizona State University

**Alyssa Charley**, Sichommovi - Associate's in *Business Leadership/Management* from Northland Pioneer College

**Danella Hall**, Moencopi - Bachelor's in *Psychology* from the University of Denver

**Nicole Honahnie**, Moencopi - Associate's in *Psychology* from the Coconino Community College

**Kimberly Honyouti**, Bacavi - Associate's in *Business Administration* from Pima Community College

**Carrie Joseph**, Moencopi - Doctorate in *Soil, Water, and Environmental Science* from the University of Arizona

**Darold Joseph**, Moencopi - Doctorate in *Disability and Psychoeducational Studies* from the University of Arizona

**Marice Lalo**, Moencopi - Associate's in *Administration of Justice* from Coconino Community College

**Kurt Lomawaima**, Mishongnovi - Associate's in *Studio Arts* from the Institute of American Indian Arts

**Christopher Martinez**, Moencopi - Bachelor's in *Quantitative Economics* from Weber State University

**Joyce Moore**, Kykotsmovi - Bachelor's in *Theology* from Grand Canyon University

**Nathaniel Moore**, Moencopi - Bachelor's in *Technical Theatre* from Western Washington University

**Darling Nelson**, Walpi - Bachelor's in *Business Management* from Grand Canyon University

**Dianne Numkena**, Soongopavi - Bachelor's in *Computer Systems* from Arizona State University

**Kendall Pavinyama**, Kykotsmovi - Associate's in *Studio Arts* from the Institute of American Indian Arts

**Spring 2018 Hopi Graduates (cont'd):**

**Xia Quamahongnewa**, Hotevilla - Bachelor's in *Veterinary Science* from the University of Arizona

**Dru Quochoytewa**, Kykotsmovi - Associate's in *Studio Arts* from the Institute of American Indian Arts

**Trevor Reed**, Hotevilla - Doctorate in *Music* and Juris Doctorate from Columbia University

**Ashley Rix**, Moencopi - Bachelor's in *Political Science* from Florida State University

**Ivy Sahneyah**, Tewa - Bachelor's in *Graphic Design* from Gallaudet University

**Melinda Secakuku**, Tewa - Master's in *Early Childhood Education* from Northern Arizona University

**Rachelle Selestewa**, Old Oraibi - Bachelor's in *Family Studies & Human Development* from the University of Arizona

**Alyssa Sumatzkuku**, Bacavi - Bachelor's in *Elementary Education* from Ottawa University

**Matthew Talas**, Sichomovi - Associate's in *Nursing* from Northern Oklahoma College

**Aurelia Taylor**, Old Oraibi - Master's in *Health Sciences-Nursing* from Northern Arizona University

**Mya Timms**, Sichomovi - Associate's in *Physical Therapy* from Phoenix College

**Fall 2017 Hopi Graduates:**

**Gabriella Honahnie**, Moencopi - Master's in *Business Administration* from New Mexico Highlands University

**Valaura Imus**, Soongopavi - Master's in *Criminal Justice/Legal Studies* from Grand Canyon University

**Grace Kewanimptewa**, Kykotsmovi - Associate's in *General Studies* from Gateway Community College

**Jessica Langley**, Kykotsmovi - Bachelor's in *Spanish* from the University of Arkansas-Little Rock

**Halli Lomayaktewa**, Walpi - Associate's in *General Studies* from Northland Pioneer College

**Angelica Lopez**, Kykotsmovi - Bachelor's in *Nursing* from Arizona State University

**Jesse Poneoma**, Kykotsmovi - Bachelor's in *Criminal Justice* from York College

**Summer 2017 Hopi Graduates:**

**Breanna Kaye**, Hotevilla - Bachelor's in *Nursing* from Grand Canyon University



Hopi Education Endowment Fund



Ms. Secakuku at her NAU graduation

# Master's Degree Recipient, Melinda Secakuku



Melinda 'Mindy' Dawayumpsi (First Rays of the Sun) is *Tuwawungwa* (Sand Clan) and is from the Village of Tewa. Her parents are Camelia Dewakuku and the late Scott Secakuku. Mindy graduated from Hopi Jr/Sr High School in 2005 and received her bachelor's in Elementary Education from Fort Lewis College in 2009. She has been working at Second Mesa Day School for eight years and teaching third grade for the last five years. This spring, Mindy received her master's in Early Childhood Education from Northern Arizona University.

**What do you like most about teaching?** I think the most rewarding part about teaching, just in general, is seeing your kids' little light bulbs go off when they actually understand something. Because there are days when you have your kids, when you think that you've explained it well enough or that you've explained it in the simplest terms, you've gone over different examples and they're still having trouble understanding it. But there's times when they have that moment where their eyes just light up and they just look at you like, "Oh! I get it!" I think if anything, that's one of the most rewarding things is knowing that they were having difficulty with something and then in an instant they understand it. **And it's because you're the one who helped them get to that point. It's a good thing to see.**

**What's your favorite subject to teach?** I think my favorite subject to teach is math. Only because it's something that they're going to actually use for the rest of their lives whether they really like it or not. Once you actually do different projects and different assignments and show how you can actually tie it to real-world situations, then they can see the importance behind it. It's funny how you're walking down the hallway and you can tie different things into it and they're like, "Oh yeah, huh?" I think what it is too is I try to make it fun -because everybody probably thinks that math is boring- so tying it to those real-world situations and just making it fun. I think that's what makes it enjoyable for me too.



Mindy with her brother, mom, and sister

**What's unique about teaching out here?** I think one of the biggest things about coming back home and teaching out home is the fact that we're teaching our own kids. Having the experience in Durango and coming home and teaching our own children, it's a big difference. It's a good feeling to know that sometimes, yeah, you do have your own family members, your own clan members in your classroom but that doesn't necessarily change the way you teach them. It just makes you feel like you need to do an even better job because you know they're your very own children. **Like anybody else, we just want the best for them so it's a good feeling to know that you're having a direct impact on your own people, your own family, your own kids.** I think for all the teachers out here, it just makes us want to do better. It just makes us want to be better educators for them.

**What's the purpose of obtaining a master's degree?** The purpose of moving on to obtain my master's degree is because I just want to be a better teacher. Education's constantly changing. So I felt that by getting my degree, I can help my students in different ways, learn new tactics. There's always a time to learn, a time to grow, a time to share. My main driving force is always for my kids and also just to be that role model for my kids.

## Honor a Graduate!



Whether graduating from high school or post-secondary school, graduation is a time of accomplishment and new beginnings. During this time of year, Hopi students are ending one part of their lives and beginning another. They have spent the majority of their lives to get to this very moment and now are at a point that will impact the rest of their lives. Your investment in the Hopi Education Endowment Fund is an investment in the future of Hopi students and the Hopi Tribe.

Yes, I want to make a donation to honor

- ☐ (Hopi graduate) \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ a Hopi graduate in general
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

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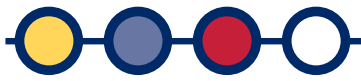
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Online donations: [www.hopieducationfund.org/donate](http://www.hopieducationfund.org/donate)





Hopi Education Endowment Fund  
PO Box 605  
Kykotsmovi AZ 86039

Ph. 928.734.2275

Email: [heef@hopieducationfund.org](mailto:heef@hopieducationfund.org)

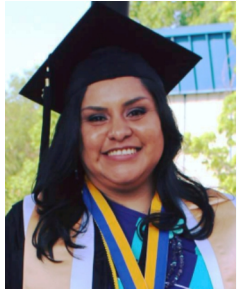
Save the Date -  
August 22, 2018 is our  
Student Recognition Event!

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



Please recycle this newsletter  
by taking it to your nearest  
friend's hands!

## Graduate Highlights



**Ivy Sahneyah** - (Village of Tewa. *Pipwungwa* [Tobacco Clan]) received her bachelor's in *Graphic Design* from Gallaudet University. She participated and served as team captain for the women's cross country and women's track & field teams. Ivy plans to take a year-long break from school while working a full-or part-time job. She then would like to attend graduate school. .

**Carrie Joseph** (Lower Moencopi, *Iswungwa* [Coyote Clan], received her Ph.D. in *Soil Water, and Environmental Science* from the University of Arizona. She hopes to find a post-doctoral position at an Ivy League institution where she can continue her research. She is "very passionate about promoting our younger generation of Hopi and other under-represented groups in higher education by facilitating outreach and extending opportunities" in the STEM fields.



**Trevor Reed** (Hotevilla, *Iswungwa* [Coyote Clan], received his Ph.D. in *Music* and J.D. from Columbia University. This fall, he will become a faculty member at Arizona State University's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law. He plans to "teach the next generation of lawyers and help advance laws protecting our Hopi cultural and intellectual properties."

