

Mikaela Garcia - Film and Creative Media student

Mikaela graduated from Coronado High School (Scottsdale) in the spring of 2017 where she participated in student government, the Native American club, basketball, and the Morning Star Leadership Group. She is now attending Northern Arizona University (NAU) majoring in Creative Media and Film. Mikaela is Tuwangwa (sand clan) from the village of Hotevilla. And her parents, paternal grandparents and maternal grandfather all attended NAU.

Why did you decide to attend NAU?

It was mainly the environment. I like the feeling of the trees and the mountains, especially because that's where the sacred peaks for Hopi are. I just feel comfortable being here and being closer to Hopi too. [The peaks are] important to me because I know that you can come here to pray to it too, if you're feeling homesick or things are getting hard in class or struggles are happening. It's kind of like a sanctuary. That's why I like to be out here too because I was always in the city and being in the city can be kind of harsh because you're surrounded by so many different people and different personalities and you can get challenged sometimes. For me, coming here to Flagstaff is something important to me because I can always have my sanctuary right here. And if I need to pray, I can do it here.

What are some things you like on Hopi?

Just being out there, it's a real 'home' feeling, like a safe place, in a way. I like how it's quiet out there and I like to just hang out with my grandparents, mainly my grandpa, Vernon, because he tells me a lot of stories. He tells me a lot of lessons and he teaches me a lot of Hopi stuff and so I learn a lot from him. Being able to be out there too while ceremonies are going on because I like to participate in that and be there and to help out family.

What's something you hope to do with your education?

I want to give the students out there more opportunities and more skill sets, so that they won't be nervous or afraid when they go into the city and they start getting jobs or even going to school. So they won't be challenged as much. I want to create those opportunities or create jobs too. For the high school students out there, to get them more into the work-field and getting them more into learning how to get those working skills and experiences. Because I always think about having my own productions company. I could create jobs by doing that too.



Mikaela with her brother, Nashoba

How much of a factor do you think having college-educated parents is on their children going to college?

I think it's a good [re-enforcement] showing that, "We went to college and we made it. We know there's all these different struggles, but we made it and now we're here. We have good jobs, money, family and we can provide for them." I think that's something really good to show to your kids. To show that if you go to college, this is what you could end up with. But also to show that education can really help you in the long-run in life. So my mom always tells me that, "You graduate college, you have that degree, and you use that degree to do whatever it is you need to do." For my dad, it's also important to have an education to show that Native Americans can do it because there's not many of us that have an education.

What's something you would change about the world?

I think it would be the attitudes towards people with disabilities. I have a little sister, Hiloha, and she has a disability where she can't talk, walk, or eat. I think that would be the main issue is to change the look of people with disability because they're just like us. They're people and they want to be treated like people. There's nothing wrong with them. They're just filled with love. That's what my grandpa always says; he calls my little sister "Angel". She changed our family a lot. She showed love to us and she showed us it's okay to give hugs. She taught us how to think about others and be respectful to others. Even though she couldn't say it to us or anything, it was just her presence, being there. That's my view is that, having more respect for kids with disabilities and understanding that they're all human. That's the main thing that my grandpa always talks about to us – and my grandmother – is to always treat people with respect. Never doubt them, be mean to them, or be hateful. That's a really big thing in our family too, to always give back to others. Something my grandpa and my grandma always say to us is, "When you see a child crying, you wipe away their tears. Or when you see someone hungry, feed them. When you see someone uncomfortable, you comfort them." The way my grandmother explains it to me is that everyone's a child of somebody and we all grow older and we don't have our parents anymore because they're gone. So in a way, we have to help take care of them too because they're someone's child.

In what light would you paint HEEF donors?

I think it's just a basic human knowledge for people to help others. I think what the donors are doing is a really good thing to do, especially giving money to Native American students because that's helping them get their education and to give back to their people. I think with them being here and giving this money to us is a really good thing because they're helping those in need and they're helping the community get higher education. In the end it all together it links back to giving back to the people and it just kind of goes into a cycle.



Message from HEEF Board Vice President, Trevor Reed

Greetings!

As the summer months come to a close and the corn plants are growing taller, I want to thank each of you—donors, members, fellow students, and friends—for your support of the Hopi Education Endowment Fund this year. Your contributions make it possible for hundreds of Hopi students like me to pursue education both on and off Hopi lands. I especially want to thank the staff of the Hopi Education Endowment Fund for their tireless work to make possible our Endowment's mission to cultivate and nurture the intellectual growth of our Hopi people. Thanks to you our endowment fund is strong—and growing!

The case for higher education has never been stronger. Jobs that once seemed to be stable sources of income for many of our people—energy, government, health care support services—are becoming less common and are transforming as industries and funding sources change and evolve. Recent job statistics show the personal benefits of obtaining a higher education: those with a bachelor's degree are unemployed at a rate roughly half that of those with only a high school diploma; they earn twice as much, have good health at a rate 44% higher than those who have not graduated from college, use 39% less government services, and contribute 3 times as much to charity.

But while our Hopi Education Endowment fund directly benefits individuals by helping them obtain higher education, I have seen how supporting higher education can also help sustain communities if those of us who are given the chance to learn are willing to humbly contribute back to our people.

I have been inspired by many Hopi students who have gone to college or learned a trade (often while maintaining ties to family, culture, language and community), and who are now making a difference by bringing their knowledge and skills home, sharing what they have acquired, and continuing to learn from our *Hopisinom*. Our people now benefit from Hopi-run enterprises, nonprofit organizations, and many other innovative and sustainable entities that are building capacity so that they can help support our community going forward in a way that is true to Hopi values. The Hopi Education Endowment Fund continues to support and mentor these endeavors through our IMAGINE Grant program, which provides a way for members of the Hopi community of all educational backgrounds to contribute to innovative and beneficial Hopi programs and enterprises in the spirit of *sumi'nanwa*.

As I conclude my terms as both a graduate student and a HEEF board member, I want to sincerely thank each of you for helping Hopi students, including myself, along our educational paths. We need your continued support as we work together to support a sustainable future for our Hopi people.

Trevor Reed (Hotevilla)
Vice President, HEEF Board
JD/PhD Candidate, Class of 2018
Columbia University
Hopi Education Endowment Fund



Trevor, with his wife and their children
(outside of HEEF office)

The HEEF Student Recognition Event

The night of August 2nd the Moencopi Legacy Inn was filled with words of wisdom, good food, beautiful art, and support for education as the HEEF and the Hopi Tribe Grants and Scholarships Program (HTGSP) joined to present the 2017 Student and Donor Recognition Event "*Returning Home. . . Itaa sinmuy amungem Mongvastoti*". Sponsored by Salt River Project (SRP) and Peabody Energy, the event attracted over 200 Hopi college students, parents, Hopi college alumni, and other supporters of the HEEF. The attendants were treated to a cultural Hopi performance featuring young Hopi maidens dancing to songs that included prayers for moisture, strength, life blessings and honoring of the educational journey of Hopi students. A Silent Auction was also held that included a variety of items donated from numerous Hopi artists. Additionally, custom centerpieces designed by JC Secakuku of Soongopavi were available for purchase. LuAnn Leonard, HEEF Executive Director explained that "Since the event would be held on Hopi this year that we wanted to present a theme that reflected our dream of producing Hopi students who would return home, strengthened through their education and ready to serve our people."

The keynote speaker, Sam Tenakhongva, a 4th grade teacher at First Mesa Elementary School, shared the importance of believing in oneself how he approaches teaching the Hopi youth by setting the bar high and providing them the tools, skills and motivation to achieve the goals that have been set. As a result, Tenakhongva continues to have one of the highest achieving classrooms in northern Arizona.

Also speaking at the event was Diane J. Humetewa, who was honored at the event for her distinguished career that includes being the first Native American female appointed as a Federal Judge. In her remarks, Judge Humetewa reflected on the support she received from her family and the Hopi people. She spoke about the importance of how culture helped to strengthen her throughout her educational and professional journey. To honor Judge Humetewa, the Diane J. Humetewa scholarship has been created in her honor to recognize and encourage Academic Excellence, Exemplary Public Service, Courage and Leadership.

The evening ended with recognition of students representing a variety of local as well as out of state colleges and universities receiving various scholarships from HTGSP. Miss Amber Poleviyuma, a recent graduate of ASU, provided closing remarks on behalf of the students. Amber encouraged the students to take advantage of all of the opportunities that a college education brings and expressed words of thanks to donors such as Dr. Marvin and Jean Call, George and Susan Then, Peabody Energy and SRP for their generous contributions to the HEEF.

To see pictures from the event go to www.hopieducationfund.org



Meet the HEEF's new Resource Development Manager, Justin "Suda" Hongeva

Our newest staff member, Justin Hongeva, began work as the HEEF's Resource Development Manager on July 10th.

Nu' Muy'katsi yaan matsi'wa, nu piikyas'wungwa, nu Mun'ka'nga sino (My name is *Muy'katsi* [new moon], I am corn clan, and from the village of Moencopi). I have earned a bachelor's and master's degree, both in American Indian Studies at Arizona State University (ASU). HEEF was instrumental in my educational journey by providing me with funding to assist in paying for my tuition. It has been a full circle process for

me to be able to come home and work for the same organization that provided me and many others financial resources so we could pursue our educational dreams.

One of my first projects will be to coordinate the HEEF Alumni Challenge (Go Sun Devils!). I am excited to announce the 13th annual HEEF Alumni Challenge. I am new to the HEEF staff, but I did serve as a HEEF board member for two years. During my time on the board, this was one of my favorite fundraising events. School spirit is ingrained during our undergraduate years. That school spirit energy is usually released during sporting competitions. HEEF has found a fun way to encourage school spirit, friendly competition, and fundraising for future Hopi college alumni. Coincidentally, a majority of HEEF members have earned their degree's from NAU or non-Arizona state universities (AZ Crushers). Those teams have been exchanging victories year after year. As an ASU alumnus, I am eager to see team ASU strengthen their efforts to be victorious while keeping an eye on the pesky Wildcat team, who has a very strong network. I encourage you all to participate in our HEEF Alumni challenge and assist one of our four teams to be victorious. Thank you. The 2017 Alumni Challenge gets underway on **October 16th** and runs through **October 30th**, 2017. Donations can be made by phone, on the HEEF website, or at the HEEF office. All phone or in-person donations and pledges can be made until Friday, October 27th at 5:00pm. Online donations will be accepted until 5:00 pm on October 30st.

- ❖ Celebrate and recognize a relative's success, contribute on behalf of their alma mater.
- ❖ Challenge fellow alumni to match your gift.
- ❖ Share our social media Alumni Challenge posts



ASU supporters with Sparky the Sun Devil



U of A supporters



NAU supporters with Louie the LumberJack

Give the Gift of a Better Life

To many individuals, a college degree is a step on the career ladder. For Hopis, education is a vital resource that can be used to better the lives of their families and their people. The Hopi Education Endowment Fund exists because Hopi Tribal leaders had the foresight to recognize that education would be vital to their people's survival. Your gift to the HEEF enables us to provide higher education opportunities to more than 120 students each semester and also helps provide meaningful education programs to students as young as 4 years old through our IMAGINE Grants program.

Please send your check/money order payable to:

Hopi Education Endowment Fund

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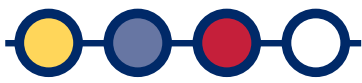
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Online donations: www.hopieducationfund.org/donate



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

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HEEF Alumni Challenge begins October 16!

The HEEF Silent Auction 2018

It's back! The HEEF Silent Auction is making a return in 2018. Our popular fundraising event will be held at the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona courtyard in Phoenix, AZ on the evening of Friday, March 2nd. The HEEF Silent Auction has been our most successful fundraiser. Featuring one-of-a-kind pieces from Hopi artists, this event allows them to showcase their unique talents, while also giving back to our Hopi students. Visitors of the event will have an opportunity to buy art pieces below market value, meet artists, all while enjoying an elegant evening in perfect springtime Phoenix weather

If you are an artist who would like to donate to this event, or if you or your organization would like more information on our sponsorship packages, please contact the HEEF at 928-734-2275 or visit hopieducationfund.org.

