

## Kenna Obtea - Class of 2021



Kenna is from the village of Shungopavi, Arizona and belongs to the Qalwungwa (Sunforehead) Clan. Kenna is a Spring 2021 graduate of Arizona State University (ASU) earning her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. She hopes to be able to continue her journey by working out in Hopi as a kindergarten teacher. We congratulate Kenna on her success and hope to see what her future holds after this achievement.

### **What activities or extracurriculars were you involved in during your time in school?**

I was working during school and it was tough balancing both work and my studies. Towards the end of my semester, I needed to focus more on my student teaching, because I wanted to have a good foundation to start my career. On a more personal note, I love sewing and really considering starting up my own business. I really enjoy fashion and the creation process that goes into sewing. I am very involved in softball too, my dad and I join leagues and teams to be able to stay involved with the sport. Because of COVID there hasn't been too many opportunities to play, so hopefully those will open back up soon.

### **What motivated you to go to college? Who supported you in college?**

Specifically, there was one teacher who always had big dreams for me and consistently encouraged me to think about colleges/universities. My parents were also a part of my motivation, they were always supportive of what I wanted to do in life. Whether that was going to school or working right away after high school. Not only did they encourage me, they also were there for me emotionally and financially. During my junior year I was on the verge of quitting and my mom was there to talk to me about the journey and to see the big picture when it came to my studies.

### **What made you choose to go to ASU?**

For me it was the location, my family is located in Phoenix, AZ and staying close to family was important for me when

choosing where to go to school. Another reason I chose ASU is because I noticed ASU was really diverse which was noticeable compared to other colleges, I was able to tour. I felt like I was able to connect with others during my time on campus.

### **Where do you hope to work/continue your career? Why?**

Well, I applied at second mesa day school recently and I noticed that their curriculum includes teaching about our Hopi culture. That is one of the biggest reasons I chose to move home (Hopi) and apply for a teaching job here. I believe education definitely needs to include our culture and student identity. Growing up in the city and going to school I wasn't able to get that kind of education. It felt like having to choose to learn about what my schools were teaching and my cultural teachings. With the schools out on Hopi, they merge the two together. Out here on Hopi, school, culture, and identity are all intertwined and I am noticing that the schools out here are making the effort to reflect that in their curriculum. I want to teach here so I am able to be a part of that effort.



### **How is being Hopi special for you?**

I come from two different backgrounds and both are dear to my heart. Growing up with others around me, I am thankful for what I am able to learn by being Hopi. I have a deeper understanding of life. Especially with COVID, a lot of our ceremonies were paused and missed by the community. I've come to realize who I am at my core is important and knowing who I am helps me to ground myself.

### **Anything you would like to share with our donors?**

First of all askwali (thank you) our generation wants to see a change. A part of that change is going to school and most of us don't have the funds to go off to school off the reservation. HEEF really helps with that and the funds are able to help us make our dreams come true. A lot of us have goals for our people and once we are able to graduate we are able to meet those goals to help our people. Really, you are not helping just one student, but helping us as people.

## Message from HEEF Executive Director

I have to say that finally coming out of nearly a year in lockdown has been refreshing and exciting for the HEEF staff. Throughout the past year we have worked hard to continue with our various campaigns and events as “normal” as we could. I’d like to thank all of you- our supporters, friends and Board members who have contributed in many ways to our sustained success during the pandemic.

First, I am to announce the 2021 IMAGINE grant recipients: Hopitutuqaiki-The Hopi School, Paaqavi Weaving Society and SKATE 264. Each of these local Hopi programs were selected based on their unique approaches to address local areas of importance within their communities. We will share their outcomes in future newsletters.

During our first summer outreach event at the Museum of Northern Arizona Heritage Festival. We were able to see our friends and share our work with people from across the United States. Additionally, we sold raffle tickets for some of the treasures from the Loren and Helen Detwiler collection.

Congratulations to the lucky winners of the raffle and many thanks to the Detwiler’s for making this possible.



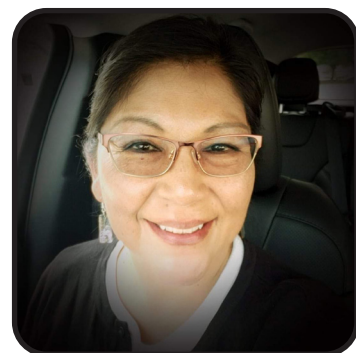
Paaqavi Weaving Society & Staff Justin Hongeva

In August/September, we will travel to New Port Beach, CA to accept a portion of the proceeds from the San Manuel Casino’s annual prestigious golf tournament on the beautiful grounds of the Pelican Hill Golf Club. We are honored to be nominated and selected to receive this generous donation from a sister tribe. We will also participate in the Hopi Tribe Economic Development Corporation’s “Hopi Art Festival” in Flagstaff, AZ on August 28 & 29th and the Sharlot Hall Show in Prescott, AZ on September 18-19. Later in October, we will welcome new Members to the Board and will prepare our fundraising schedule during the 2021 HEEF Annual meeting on October 1-2, 2021 in Camp Verde, AZ. Once the meeting is over staff will travel to Boston, MA during the Marathon weekend for an event hosted by HEEF Board Member Stephanie Parker and her husband Richard which will feature Hopi marathon runner Caroline Sekaquaptewa.

Each of these activities and events requires a great deal of work which speaks to the dedication and commitment of our Board and staff. I share this with you so that you will know we are back with renewed vigor and commitment to continue to achieve our mission of providing every Hopi the opportunity for fulfilling their educational dreams and goals.

In closing, I’d like to honor the memory of two wonderful members of the HEEF family who we lost within the last few months. HEEF Member Lois Quimyintewa, also known by her Hopi name Puhuvensi from the Water clan of Shungopavi village passed away early in the summer. A professional Accountant, she served two terms on the HEEF Board and provided her leadership and guidance as President. Her husband Andrew shared that Lois “Loved working with us as HEEF was a productive organization who made progress by using the talents of a diverse professional board.” He thanked us for allowing Lois the opportunity to grow with us during her time on the Board and further thanked the HEEF for the

outpouring of support during this time of loss. Lois is survived by her husband Andrew, four sons, one daughter and three grandchildren.



Lois Quimyintewa

HEEF Member Dr. Winifred Wong served on the Board for two terms. She was born in Hong Kong and resided in London, England. A professional Pharmacist, she loved fishing and was an accomplished baker. Early in her career she worked with rural communities in AZ and NM where she was able to experience firsthand the health needs of her patients. Her dear friend and current HEEF President Dr. Kim Kahe Corkin shared that Winifred enjoyed learning about different cultures, cared deeply about education, and wanted to help make a difference for the Hopi people. Personally, Winifred served as a source of support and inspiration to Dr. Kahe in completing her PhD.



Dr. Winifred Wong

Our HEEF family was saddened by the loss of these two former members but knows that their work, while on the Board, will live on through the students that we serve. We wish their families the best as they move on after their loss.

Let’s all be mindful that life is precious. We wish you all the best and look forward to sharing the “fruits of our labor”.

Sincerely,

Dr. LuAnn Leonard, Executive Director

## Runs in the Family: Running for Hopi Education



Caroline & Wayne

Last year, we were happy to share the story of Wayne Sekaquaptewa's running journey and his accomplishment of qualifying and running in the Boston Marathon. In the Sekaquaptewa family, Wayne is not the only Boston Marathon qualifier. His sister, Caroline "Kadoo" Sekaquaptewa is set to compete in her 8th Boston Marathon in October 2021. Just like her brother, Caroline has decided to fundraise to support education for the Hopi people.

Caroline says that she began running when she was an elementary student, simply because "everyone used to run, we used to run from the head start to the elementary school, it was a treat to run down". Caroline also competed for the local reservation school Hopi Jr./Sr. High School running cross country and track and field. She expressed that running brought her great opportunities such as competing at high levels at state meets and ran races outside of the country. She was able to run one year in junior college but stopped running due to the lack of focus. As an adult, she got back into running and used it to aid in dealing with difficult situations, stress relief, spiritual connection and to gather her thoughts.



Caroline

Caroline's impressive resume also includes completing the Iron Man triathlon. She was inspired by her Salt River sisters, stating that "they were inspiring and encouraged others to try". She had no experience biking or swimming, but thanks to a group of training partners, she began training. Now, she has completed 4 Iron Man triathlons, and encourages others to try. She says that she never thought she could complete a triathlon but thought if her Salt River sisters could do it, that she could to. While training for the Iron Man, she first became involved with fundraising, helping to raise money for the Smile Train organization. Caroline's third daughter was born with a cleft palate, and Smile Train provides funding to pay for cleft palate surgeries.



Caroline & Mootima/Colton

In college, Caroline recalls the difficulties that she had, trying to get her education as a single mother. She recalls applying for every scholarship that she learned about. She said students get discouraged knowing that there isn't enough funding for their education. For these reasons, is why she has decided to fundraise for Hopi Education Endowment Fund (HEEF). She exclaims It is important for the Hopi Tribe to have their own people educated, to have their own professionals who understand the land and problems faced by the tribe. She also appreciates that Hopi is very supportive of their own expressing that she and her brother always received support from their family and community members when fundraising for the HEEF and Smile Train.

Please consider making a donation to the HEEF in Caroline's honor.

## Donate Today!

Yes, I want to make an impact today!

Charge ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

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

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Vcode (3 digits): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Check & Money Orders can be made payable to:

Hopi Education Endowment Fund

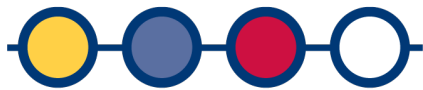
PO Box 605

Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_



Hopi Education Endowment Fund  
PO Box 605  
Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039

Ph: 928-734-2275

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

## SUMMER ART SALE

Begins AUGUST 09 & Ends AUGUST 27

[www.hopieducationfund.org/summer-art-sale-2021](http://www.hopieducationfund.org/summer-art-sale-2021)



## Join our SEEDS 4 HEEF - Monthly Giving Program



Jaxon w/Hopi Corn Field

In the Summer, it is farming season on the Hopi reservation. At this point, the seeds have been planted in the ground, and now Hopi farmers, are tending to their young corn plants, hoping for good rains this summer. Anytime a farmer puts seeds into the ground, it is with hope in their heart, that the seeds will grow and produce corn for the farmers family. We here at the HEEF like to use the same concept when thinking about our students. Our students that go off to college, it is our hope that they complete their studies to earn a degree. With a degree they will be helpful in developing our communities here on Hopi. As our seeds need nurturing through the help of farmers, clouds and rain, our students need assistance with their educational dreams in financial support.

The Seeds 4 HEEF monthly giving program has been one of our best sources of funding that students receive from our donors. Donors that give monthly, establish a consistent source of revenue by donating once a month throughout the year. Traditionally, Seed's donors have accounted for 10% of our total annual fundraising. That is tremendous! As our fundraising continues to grow, we would like to grow our Seeds 4 HEEF revenue. Donating once a month is affordable, and easy for the donor. One donation a month, adds up at the end of the year, allowing for a big impact. There are several ways to make monthly donations and it is easy to set up.

- A \$25 monthly gift would help a student pay for admissions fees or standardized testing fee's.
- 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 one school year.

You can either enroll online with our PayPal option or you can contact us at 928-734-2275 or email us at [heef@hopieducationfund.org](mailto:heef@hopieducationfund.org) for more enrollment options. We hope that you will consider becoming a Seeds monthly donor, and nurture our “seeds”, our students to help them grow and achieve their dreams of earning a college degree.