

HEEF NEWSLETTER

Spring 2019



Daniell “Aagawsi (Sunflower)” Albert

is from the village of Old Oraivi and belongs to the Kachin/Kyash’wungwa (Kachina/Parrot) Clan. Her mother is Lanell Poseyesva and her father is Dexter Albert. She is a current student at Arizona State University (ASU) pursuing a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with a concentration in Special Events Management and Communications. She is scheduled to graduate this Spring. Some of her notable accomplishments at ASU

include outstanding graduate for the College of Integrative Sciences and Arts, earning the title of Miss Indian ASU 1st Attendant in 2017 – 2018 and again in 2018 – 2019 with her platform being promoting and encouraging higher education using cultural representation, integrating the two worlds. She graduated from Flagstaff High School in 2015 where she was also featured as a keynote speaker for the Flagstaff Unified School District Native American Honors Banquet in the Fall of 2017. She is preparing to study abroad in Beijing China for a Marketing and Coordinator Internship with Pingo Space Company.

What made you choose ASU and your current degree program?

“The distance of the university was far enough from home but close enough to visit family and participate in Hopi ceremonies. I was inspired by my paternal aunt who would coordinate events for our family. After she passed away from a car accident, the family never really came back together. I wanted to undertake the challenge of bringing my family back together by coordinating events in the manner that my late aunt did. This is what led me to Special Events Management. When I first began college, I originally pursued a degree in business communications and decided that it was not for me after taking a few classes. When I changed to my current program, I maintained the business communications component to keep the credits that I had.”

What are some challenges you faced attending college while maintaining participation in Hopi ceremonies back home in your village?

“The biggest challenge is accepting the idea that it is ok to miss some ceremonies. My family understands the importance of my education and that once I complete my educational program that our culture will be at home waiting for me to participate in once again. Learning how to complete course work while traveling to participate

in ceremonies was also a challenge. I had to hone in on my scheduling skills to make time to get assignments finished. For example I would have to pick up my sisters in Flagstaff from school on the way back to the reservation from Phoenix. I would try to use a hot spot to work on my assignments while traveling, but due to the reservation being rural, the hotspot did not always work well. I had to learn to be creative in searching areas where the signal for the hotspot would be stronger.”

How have scholarships aided you in your collegiate journey?

“Scholarships and grants have helped to lessen the burden on college costs thus allowing me to focus on my studies. I was also glad that there were times when I was able to assist my family financially by helping them to pay for things around the home or to help with ceremonies.”

What are some of your professional aspirations?

“At ASU, I enjoyed working with youth. My experience working with youth made me feel compelled to coordinate events for them, programs that would be beneficial for their growth. In the future, I would like to coordinate programs for the youth out in Hopi. Growing up off the reservation, I was exposed to many different programs that aided me in my own development, I would like to make those opportunities accessible for our people out home.”

Describe the importance of earning a degree from you and your family?

“Both of my parents went to school at universities. They had high expectations for me to complete my degree program. I also have younger siblings and cousins that look up to me. I feel like I serve as a role model for them. As a role model to younger family members, I want to help them to understand that as Hopi’s, it is ok to live off the reservation in order to gain exposure to more opportunities. My experience has allowed me to travel and experience more than I think I would have if I had lived on the reservation.”

Do you have any Hopi role models in the field of education? Who are they?

“My mother. She went to Northern Arizona University. She realized that she went to school just for the sake of going to school. Her biggest regret was pursuing a degree program that she was not passionate about. As a result of her own experience, she pushes me to ensure that what I chose to pursue, is something that I am passionate about. Her profession is in the field of Archaeology.”



Message From HEEF Executive Director



Dear Friends,

With the chill of winter giving way to spring we are feeling fresh and renewed at the Hopi Education Endowment Fund (HEEF). As many of you know we have undergone significant changes in the past few months. I'm glad to share some highlights.

First, after a long arduous search we have moved our offices to the campus of the former Hopi Mission School located in Kykotsmovi, AZ. As a fellow Education entity, we are pleased to work jointly with the Mennonite USA to secure office space that allows us to continue our important work on our homeland. All visitors are welcome!

In this issue we are proud to introduce new staff! Ms. Alex Hoyungowa and Deanna Machuca joined our team two weeks before our Silent Auction. Both jumped right in and helped to make the event a success. Now that the dust has settled, both are learning and getting used to their respective duties. What is most special about these two young Hopi women is that they made the conscious decision to leave their jobs in the urban areas to return home to use their skills to create opportunities for the Hopi people. We are fortunate to have them on our team and we hope other young people follow in their footsteps.

Now that we are fully staffed, we are catching up with our newsletters and refocusing our efforts in regards to our fundraising campaigns and special events. You can look forward to more student stories, increased outreach, the Fall Student Event and Alumni Challenge.

Looking ahead, 2020 is a very special year for HEEF as we will turn 20 years old. We are busy making plans for celebrating this landmark year round culminating on our birthday November 20, 2020. We have a lot to look forward to and hope that you will be there to celebrate with us.

Many thanks for your continued support!

Dr. LuAnn Leonard
Executive Director, Hopi Education Endowment Fund

HEEF Seats New Board Members

Each year during our HEEF Annual Meeting, we welcome HEEF Board Members, newly elected and re-elected board members to aid us in the planning for the upcoming year. Each board member is invested and committed to the HEEF mission.

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

The HEEF board is comprised of 23 members and are called upon to assist in each aspect of our mission ranging from volunteering, donating, and providing insight into how we can do our best in cultivating funds for the future of our Hopi people.

At our last Annual Meeting in October 2018, we welcomed the following new members: Dr. Carrie Joseph, Kevin Poleyumptewa, Shon Quannie, April Sewequaptewa-Tutt, Verrin Kewenvoyouma, and Terri Honani. We encourage you to visit our website to learn more about our new board members. In the following months we will be looking for nominations for potential new board members to add to our HEEF Board for 2019. Each board member provides expertise, extensive networks and support when it comes to the initiatives that we aim to achieve.

Thank you to current, past, and future board members for thinking of the well-being and future of our Hopi people in hopes of continuing their educational journey.

Kwa'kwah/Askwali (Thank You)!

On behalf of the IMAGINE Grantees and all current and future Hopi students,
the HEEF would like to express gratitude to the following donors for their generous support in 2018:

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Welcome New Staff!

This year we welcomed two new staff members to the HEEF Team. We are excited and thrilled to be able to say that we are now fully staffed! Both staff members began in their new positions in February and jumped right into planning for our 2019 Silent Auction.



Alexandra "Alex" Hoyungowa (Tsiwa) joins us as our new Marketing and Special Events Manager. Alex is Dawawungwa (Sun Clan) from the village of Hotevilla. "As an NAU Alumna and past recipient of HEEF funding, I wanted an opportunity to give back. I am excited to be a part of the HEEF team to assist in their fundraising efforts. If you are a student or past recipient of HEEF funding you may hear from me in hopes that we can share your story in newsletters like this! Overall, my goal is to keep our supporters like you informed via our website, newsletters, and through social media. Askwali (thank you) for supporting an organization like HEEF!"



Deanna Machuca joins us as our new Non-Profit Assistant. Deanna is Qualwungwa (Sun Forehead) from the village of Shongopavi. "It is always exciting to start a new chapter in life! Coming from the world of hospitality with the Phoenician Resort & Spa, I knew I enjoyed helping others. Now, I am able to continue by giving back to our community with the Hopi Education Endowment Fund. Being surrounded by the kind and driven individuals here at HEEF, I know I will learn many great things about this non-profit organization!"

Education Leads to Many Places

"The more that you read, the more things you will know, the more that you learn, the more places you'll go."
-Dr. Seuss

Here at the Hopi Education Endowment Fund we believe in the pursuit of education as it leads to endless possibilities. Through efforts like ours we hope to see our Hopi community, students, and families move forward in their educational goals. Our vision is to ensure financial security for students who are seeking to continue their education. Financial contributions go towards creating scholarships, community grants (IMAGINE), and supporting our Hopi Sinom (people).

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



Be sure to follow us on Social Media!

2019 Silent Auction and Arizona Gives Day!

We are happy to have concluded two of our special events, the HEEF Silent Auction and Arizona Gives Day. This past March, we hosted our silent auction and it was a success. We were able to exceed our fundraising through sponsorships, art sales, raffle sales and t-shirt sales from the year prior. We are thankful to our volunteers, art donors and sponsors with special thanks to Mr. Loren Detwiler. He and his late wife Helen were generous in donating their jewelry collection to our silent auction. We were honored to feature Helen's jewelry and to share her experience educating Hopi children during her extensive educational career. Auction participants had the opportunity to bid on a wide variety of exquisite artwork. In addition to the Helen Detwiler's collection, the auction featured paintings, traditional Hopi carvings, traditional Hopi basketry, and other contemporary art. We would like to give a special thank you to our generous sponsors: Patricia Ryan & Terri Hall, Salt River Project, Arizona Public Service, The University of Arizona, Freeport-McMoRan, Melvin Consulting PLLC, Walker & Armstrong LLP, Arizona State University - Office of American Indian Initiatives, and the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona. Support from sponsors, art buyers and HEEF donors made the event a huge success!

On April 2nd we celebrated Arizona Gives Day (AZGD). AZGD is a state-wide online giving campaign. AZGD allows for donors to learn about the various non-profit organizations that are making great change in the state of Arizona. Over 300 non-profit organizations across the state of Arizona participated in AZGD and we were excited to be among them. Leading up to AZGD, we highlighted student stories, and held an open-house to share more information on AZG! We were successful in raising \$7, 547.00 from over 50 individual donors. Since we began participation in AZGD, we have raised over \$50,000.00 through the campaign. AZGD has been a wonderful platform for us to expand our reach to generous donors who support non-profits in Arizona.

Askwali - Kwa'kwah for supporting us for these two events! Look out for information on future events in our newsletters,