American Indian Center

September

E-Notifications

**Welcome New and Returning Students**

The staff at the American Indian Center would like to welcome all new and returning students to NNMC! It is an exciting time to know you are continuing your education to better yourselves and prepare for what the future has to offer. To some, it may be an intimidating and stressful time. Here are a few quotes from various people throughout the world to help inspire and commit yourselves to furthering your education. Good luck students and have a great fall semester. Stop by and visit the American Indian Center located in AD 255!!!

- Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail – Harold McAlinden
- Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined - Henry David Thoreau
- The person who succeeds never waits for the crowd. He strikes out for himself. It takes nerve, it takes grit, but the person that succeeds has both - C.V. White

**Northern’s American Indian Students Receive Foundation Scholarships**

We would like to recognize and congratulate all Native students who applied and were awarded various scholarships to continue their education. Great job and keep up the good work students! Be proud of what you are striving for because this is the beginning of the rest of your life. Make it count! Congratulations!

**Students**

- Shannon Dez
- Shoshanna Dez
- Michelle Olivas
- Bernard Mora
- Leann Martinez
- Veronica Teba
- Rebecca Sanchez
- Anna Sanchez
- Elijah Trujillo
- Toni Atencio

**Special Points of Interest:**

- NNMC Foundation Scholarship Awards
- Adults Head Back to the Books
- Students teach Tradition to Students
- New Employee
- Ancient Pathways
More than 100 members and supporters of Colorado’s Native American community gathered August 2 at the State Capitol for an education-themed reception hosted by Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia, who heads both the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs (CCIA) and the Colorado Department of Education.

The meeting underscored a need to support stronger Native American education because only about half of Native high school students in Colorado will graduate, Carol Harvey, CCIA executive secretary, said.

The message we’re trying to give is that education, tradition, history, culture are not mutually exclusive,” Harvey said. “You can keep your history, you can keep your culture, you can keep your tradition alive at the same time you’re receiving an education.”

Garcia announced a major campaign, “Celebrating American Indian Heritage,” to encourage American Indian education and graduation, employing meetings with education professionals, creating priorities within the school system, and using widespread posters and other graphics, including bookmarks and smaller versions of the posters showing students’ portraits and captions about staying in school, graduating and maintaining tradition.

Both Garcia and Harvey stressed the importance of tradition and Native roots. Garcia pointed to strong ties in Native New Mexico and Harvey said her Diné ancestors, who included medicine men, gave her access to traditional narratives that she sometimes tells young audiences.

Many kids come from homes where parents themselves dropped out of school,” said Harvey, who pointed out that although her mother left school after the third grade she encouraged Harvey to continue her education, leading to advanced degrees that include a doctorate from the University of Denver.

Harvey hopes more Native students will hear her story and similar family histories that encourage them to stay in school and to also celebrate their heritage.

Garcia told Native business leaders last spring that Colorado’s educational attainment gap between minority and white populations is wide when compared to other parts of the U.S. and that unless there is change the state’s economic growth could suffer.

**Ancient Pathways—Modern Leaders**

A film by Silver Bullet Productions has been created for our viewing pleasure entitled, “Ancient Pathways - Modern Leaders. Check it out or buy it. (2011, 45 min.) Produced by Pamela A Pierce, Nick Durrie & Conroy Chino, Director of Photography, Editor, David Aubre

Advisors Dr. Matthew Martinez, Beverly Morris, Joann Melchor & Alvin Warren

Along the Rio Grande Valley and in Western New Mexico, 19 Pueblo communities maintain a traditional way of life within the contemporary world. For over a thousand years, the Pueblo peoples have more than just survived, they have endured. Ancient Pathways - Modern Leaders was inspired by leaders of several of New Mexico’s Pueblos. The documentary explores the journey of a pueblo leader - the selection process identifies leaders for their character, knowledge, and passion for community survival. It depicts the model of leadership that has sustained a culture for more than a thousand years.

To purchase a DVD, or purchase a license for public use, please contact: Pam Pierce Tel: 505.820.0552

pampierce@silverbulletproductions.com

38 Calle Ventoso West  Cell: 505.231.0314
Santa Fe, NM, 87506  Price: $19.99

**Scholarship Information**

- Po’Pay Scholarship
- Taos Pueblo Scholarship
- Harwell Scholarship
- NM Gas Co. Scholarship
- NM Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution
- Adolph Van Pelt Scholarship
- Pueblo de San Ildefonso Scholarship
- Ohkay Owingeh Scholarship
- AISES Scholarship
- David Rising Emergency Aid Scholarship
- Talbots Scholarship
- Tohono O’odham Scholarship
- Intertribal Timber Council Scholarship
- Santa Clara Adult Education Assistance

Stop by for more information @ the American Indian Center located in AD 255!!
Students at Española Valley High School caught a glimpse of Native American culture after they were invited to a feast and dance presentation by the school’s Tewa Club.

The feast and dance were held on campus and were the last of several activities held by the club to raise awareness about Native American culture during National Native American week. “We had a whole week of stuff planned,” Tewa Club secretary Marquetta Thomas said. “On Monday we recited the pledge (of allegiance) in Tewa, and on Tuesday we had an horno (a traditional oven) demonstration for some of the history classes.” Thomas also said the group showed a movie to students Nov. 18 about Native American dance, called “Dancing With the Heart.” For the final day of festivities the school’s students were served a feast Nov. 19 of traditional foods including green chili stew, posole, and fresh baked horno fruit pies for lunch in the school’s cafeteria.

“We wanted to give them a healthy, traditional meal with local ingredients,” Tewa club sponsor Norma Naranjo said. After the meal, the school’s history classes were invited to gather outside and watch students Mitchel Calabasas, Jamey Tacoma and Troy Tacoma perform a traditional Native American dance. “It’s called the Winter Buffalo Dance,” said Andy Garcia, an Ohkay Owingeh resident who said a short blessing before the dance began. “It’s basically a dance that shows honor, respect and appreciation for everything the buffalo give us. Food, clothing... all of those things.”

The club is an official student group at the high school, and was formed to help preserve and teach an appreciation for the Tewa language, which is spoken on several local pueblos including Nambe, Pojoaque, Ohkay Owingeh, Santa Clara and Tesuque. Thomas, who joined the Tewa Club to learn her native language, said she hoped events like the dance would educate non-Native American students about her culture and break down some of the barriers that keep many of the students from making friends outside their own cliques. “It’s high school, so everybody stays with their own little group,” Thomas said. “So maybe if we can tell them a little bit about who we are and what we do, they will be less scared to talk to different students.”

History teacher Sandra Rooney brought her class out to view the event. Rooney said the students should feel very lucky to see a traditional dance done by their own peers. “This is a great experience for (the students) because it gives them a real-life look at their own history that they can’t get from a book.” Rooney said. “The best part is that it’s the students educating other students. It’s really special.” Naranjo said the Tewa club’s membership consists of students from the nearby pueblos and Española who wanted to learn more about their history and heritage. Naranjo said the club is also a place for students to meet and talk about some of the unique challenges Native Americans face in high school. “It’s not always easy for Native students when they come to high school,” Naranjo said. “Some of them come from these very small communities and very small schools, so making the transition to a big high school with a lot of kids is tough.” Thomas’ fellow secretary Jasmine Abeyta said the club was also important to students with Native heritage who did not live on the pueblos, and wanted a deeper knowledge of their past. “The club is great because you get a chance to find out a lot about who you are,” Abeyta said.

Thomas said another function of the club was to preserve important knowledge and traditions from being lost to future generations. “These are dances that the elders have passed down to us,” Thomas said. “We want to learn as much as we can from them because they won’t always be there and we don’t want to lose that knowledge.” The high school’s Tewa instructor Faye Viarrial agreed.

“These kinds of traditions are passed down to each generation, and it’s that generation’s job to treasure these traditions and pass them on,” Viarrial said. “Otherwise this very important knowledge can vanish.” Garcia, who is not a member of the club, said he was excited to see young people trying to raise awareness and educate others about Native American culture. “It think it’s critical to have this kind of awareness and education, and I think it’s great to see young people doing it,” Garcia said. “They should be very proud about what they are doing and who they are, and I wish more young people would be out there doing the same thing.”

For more information on the Española Valley High School Tewa Club, contact Norma Naranjo at 505-753-7357.
It's been a heartbreaking summer for Walter Dasheno and the people of his pueblo.

When the Santa Clara Pueblo Governor drove the bumpy road leading into the ancestral sacred lands in a steep canyon this week, he kept repeating a simple refrain: “It never used to be like this.”

Santa Clara saw 17,000 acres of forest damaged when the Las Conchas Fire ripped through part of the pueblo’s land. Now, the pueblo faces threats from flooding.

Sixteen miles of Santa Clara Creek and four man-made ponds along the length of its canyon are choked with mud. Fast-moving runoff from rainstorms has eaten away at the creek bed, causing cliff-like edges that continue to fall in with each new storm.

This week, as he was looking over a spot where he liked to sit by the creek and fish for trout, Dasheno, 64, could see chocolate-colored, churning water and bare ground where grasses and wildflowers should be.

“This was not like this before.”

Craning his neck to see the ground high above the road, his view was of blackened sticks standing in the place of trees and boulders perched on smooth slopes, ready to tumble down with no warning.

“This was not like this at all.”

Few people have seen the damage in Santa Clara Canyon this summer. Pueblo officials closed the area to even tribal members weeks before the recent blaze because of fire danger. Now, driving the road is a risk because of mud and rock slides. The state’s congressional delegation visited within the last two weeks, and Joseph Baca, a tribal spokesman, intergovernmental liaison and potter, this week viewed the area for the first time since the floods.

“It can’t believe what I’m seeing. I know what it looked like before, but now the destruction from the water and the silt and the rearrangement of the bed of the creek and the land, it’s very devastating,” he said. “It’s hard to believe that in a short period of time and [with] as little rain as they’ve measured that there can be this much damage.”

Las Conchas was the fourth major fire in 13 years to scorch Santa Clara lands. On each canyon wall, Governor Dasheno can point to denuded areas that lost trees during the Cerro Grande Fire in 2000 or the Osha Complex Fire in 1998.

“I can’t believe that in a short period of time and [with] as little rain as they’ve measured that there can be this much damage.”

Even as the pueblo’s forestry division prepares for an anticipated $3 million over the next three years in federally funded mitigation work and efforts to prevent further damage to its natural resources, Dasheno is worried about long-term consequences of the blaze and whether the pueblo can find a way to pay for things such as tree planting for the next 100 years. Firefighting, food and other support during the fire cost about $192,000 in tribal funds.

After each rainfall — even those that measure less than one-fourth of an inch — heavy machinery is used to keep the road passable to vehicles with four-wheel drive. In some places, the roadbed is 10 feet higher than it was before the post-fire flooding. At other spots, the creek blasts over the road, and trees and rocks jet wildly from its edges.

Although there’s been no damage to residential, commercial and institutional buildings in the tribe’s village, officials expect the recreation area will be closed to tribal members and the general public for a “very long time” because of the damage and continued fire danger. The change happened quickly.

The Las Conchas Fire broke out high in the Jemez Mountains on Sunday, June 26, dozens of miles from the pueblo land. For four days, Dasheno and others regularly drove to the mesa at Puye Cliff Dwellings to watch the billowing smoke and take stock.

“This was not like this at all.”

They knew the fire was coming. For more information on the Santa Clara Pueblo Fund, contact Libby Madden, director of development for the Community Foundation, at emaden@nmcf.org or (505) 270-9624.

**NEW EMPLOYEE AT AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER**

**MESSAGE FROM CHRIS DOMINGUEZ**

Greetings everyone! My name is Chris Dominguez and I am from Tesuque Pueblo. I’m 43 years old and have worked in education for over 15 years. I have worked for Tesuque Pueblo's education department for twelve years and most recently worked for San Ildefonso Pueblo’s Youth Program for the last three years. It is a joy of mine to be able to help fellow natives strive to do the best they can when it comes to their educational endeavors.

I have worked with children, teens, and young adults from ages 3 - 21 and have had the pleasure of teaching, guiding, and earning the trust of all these native American students.

I am excited to meet new students and be able to assist them in their college experience, as well as the staff here at NNMC. I look forward to working with students and staff, thank you.

Go!! EAGLES!!!
COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Fascinating discussions about Pueblo Art, Culture, and History accompanied by a bottomless cup of coffee. At the Pueblo Cultural Center’s Avanyu Gallery - $5 General Admission - $3 for members - 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm - 2401 12th St NW Albuquerque, NM, 87104 - 1.505.843.7270 - IndianPueblo.org

September 14 - 100 Years of Federal and State Policy and Its Impact on Pueblo Nations

Regis Pecos (Cochiti Pueblo), Director of the New Mexico Leadership Institute will present the historic timeline of federal and state policy in New Mexico on Pueblo lands. Pueblo culture and Pueblo sovereignty. A can’t miss talk for students, historians, government officials, and tribes.

LANL NEWS RELEASE: August 22, 2011    Earl Salazar named new tribal liaison

Earl Salazar is the Laboratory’s new tribal liaison in the Government Affairs Office. Currently a budget analyst for the Chief Financial Officer Division, Salazar began working in his new capacity on Monday (August 22). He replaces Elmer Torres, who retired after 41 years of service, the last decade of which he was involved with LANL’s tribal affairs efforts.

“Earl brings to his new position broad and deep tribal government experience with the Native American community of New Mexico and significant business and finance expertise from more than two decades working in the office of the LANL Chief Financial Officer,” said Government Affairs Office Director Patrick Woehrle. Salazar was governor of Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo (formerly San Juan Pueblo) in 2007-2008.

Contact Information: Earl N. Salazar, Tribal Liaison, LANL Government Affairs Office, Email: ensalazar@lanl.gov, Phone: (505)667-3194

IMPORTANT DATES

September 2011

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<td>1 Last day to receive refunds for text books through the bookstore</td>
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