



The Navajo Nation Council - Office of the Speaker

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Speaker Morgan praises Native American alumni of Northern Arizona University for raising scholarship funds

Institute for Native Americans to host 8th Annual NAU Native American Programs Golf Tournament Sept. 20

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The Honorable Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan praised Native American alumni of Northern Arizona University today for helping to raise scholarship funds for their students.

The Institute for Native Americans of Northern Arizona University will host the 8th Annual NAU Native American Programs Golf Tournament scheduled for the early morning of Sept. 20 at the Continental Country Club in Flagstaff, Ariz. The event is organized by several NAU alumni and students to raise funds for scholarships.

The golf tournament has raised funds to help students pay for educational costs not readily apparent, such as day care costs, summer internship costs, conference-related costs, traditional ceremonies, transportation, and in-between semester costs for food and rent.

Speaker Morgan said the high cost of education continues to steadily rise each year and requests for scholarship funding increases as well, evident by the hundreds of applications for scholarships that flood the Navajo Nation Scholarship Office — which only a portion of applicants are awarded.

A few years ago, the Navajo Nation began to work collaboratively with the U.S. Department of the Interior, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to increase scholarships.

"These participating agencies should be commended as well for their interest in helping to provide educational opportunities for our Navajo students," Speaker Morgan said. "While we have received positive responses from these agencies, the demand for higher education, especially from graduating high school seniors continues to increase. This is a good sign and we as tribal leaders, must do what we can to push for increased funding for our Navajo students, while encouraging students to explore all their funding options."

Al Henderson, tribal liaison with the NAU Institute for Native Americans, explained that there have been scholarships awarded by corporations and businesses doing business on the Navajo Nation for field-specific and targeted professions.

"Scholarships from these entities are greatly appreciated," Speaker Morgan added. "These contributions help to lighten the load for many parents and the Navajo Nation government to a certain degree. It is exciting to know that NAU is leading the way by helping to meet the needs with emergency scholarships for their enrolled Native American students."

Speaker Morgan added, "If more institutions of higher learning could support our students in this fashion, we could see a future where more and more Native American students attend college and graduate with a degree. More colleges and universities should follow NAU's example to raise scholarships for their students."

Northern Arizona University has the highest number of Navajo students enrolled — nearly 70 percent of the total Native American enrollment of 1,300 students are Navajo — among four-year public universities and it is recognized as a leader in graduating Native Americans with master's degrees.

"We are all pleased to have the support of the Speaker and the Navajo Nation," said Henderson.

For information or to register, contact NAU's Institute for Native Americans at 928-523-9557.