



## Mission

*By working together with schools, parents, and communities, APS Indian Education Department develops enhanced and supportive Indigenous educational opportunities for American Indian/ Alaska Native students by increasing knowledge of Native values through teaching language and cultural differences.*

## Students choose electives for next year!

Every spring, high school students chose their elective classes for the following year. At Cibola and Del Norte, students have the opportunity to participate in the JAG (Jobs for America's Graduates Program). Amber Reno, the JAG Specialist at Cibola, coordinated an information meeting on February 3, 2023 for all Native American students to hear about JAG and the wonderful opportunities that help students get experience for meaningful employment which include:

- Project based learning
- Field trips
- Internships (sometimes paid)
- Leadership conference
- Career Development Conferences
- Guest speakers from various professions and colleges.



Students from **all high schools** have the opportunity to go to the Career Enrichment Center and attend special classes for Native American students Those classes include:

- Native American Studies and Government / Economics
- Native American Leadership and Performing Arts
- Navajo History and Government
- Navajo Language Classes I & II
- Zuni Language Classes I & II

**For more details on CEC classes, please visit <https://cec.aps.edu/cec-native>**

# Jefferson Middle School is Going to the National American Indian Science & Engineering Fair (NAISEF)!

On Saturday, April 1, 2023, Jefferson MS's Robotics team, Robot Jets, will be entering in this competition for the first time. They do have prior experience in other competitions as Jay Penn (Jefferson MS Robotics teacher) explains, "The Robot Jets, Jefferson MS Robotics team won the Excellence Award in the VEX Robotics Competition Albuquerque League on Saturday, February 11, 2023 at Cibola High School. One of the team's main drivers is Harold Rogers. Harold participated in the Indian Education Summer Robotics program in 2021 [taught by Jay Penn, Jefferson Middle School Math Teacher/Robotics Coordinator/Chess Coach]. The Robot Jets team will be competing in the State Championship on March 11, 2023 at Cibola High School."



In addition, Layla Perry (7th grader) will be entering the science fair with her experiment on pollution. Her experiment is testing the air quality of the reservation and the city. Layla's tools to collect her samples include paper plates, petroleum jelly, ribbon and other materials. Can you guess which setting had more pollutants after a five-day period?

NAISEF will take place on the Oklahoma State University campus in Stillwater, Oklahoma. The American Indian Engineering and Science Society (AISES) will be sponsoring the students, their parents, the teacher and a sponsor to attend the competition. They were generous enough to pay for the hotel, airfare, and food costs for the attendees. *By Shannon Johnson and Jana Antonio Cheung*

## JAGSTAR

Lani Martinez was named Indian Junior Rodeo Association Queen! A 2022 graduate from Del Norte High School, she is part of the Water Flows Together Clan, Red Bottom Clan, Sleeping Rock Clan, and Water Edge Clan of the Navajo Nation. Lani says that leadership and communication have always been priorities for her throughout her athletics and academics- she's putting that same determination into her job as IJRA Queen. She wants to be a role model for Native youth, "Having goals and dedication helped me to stay focused in the JAG program. It helped me get prepared for what my career might need, such as job interviews, resumes, or even public speaking. My favorite part of JAG was when I got to have a job interview as an assignment; interviewers were impressed with how I did!"



## JAG Students Visit the Legislature



*Students from Del Norte High School*

Students from Cibola and Del Norte High School went to the New Mexico Round House on February 9, 2023 to learn about the Legislative Process. They were able to meet in small groups with senators and legislators. They were able to attend the session and learn about the process of passing bills. Also, a Memoriam was created and the JAG program was recognized during the opening session.



*Students from Cibola High School*



## Sewing Class for Leadership Students

“During the Spring Semester 2023, a sewing class was offered at the Career Enrichment Center and *Sponsored by the Native American Leadership Program*. It was interesting and worthwhile. I enjoyed learning how to make a ribbon skirt. Some students made bandanas and vests. It was great to be able to start working on a design right away. It was my first time using a sewing machine and though everyone was at different levels we were able to make something beautiful and professional. Sewing allowed me to enjoy the process of making a design and to have patience. I hope to continue sewing and trying different materials and patterns.”

*-Isabella Gonzales. 11th grade La Cueva High School*



*Beautiful things  
come together  
with one stitch  
at a time.*

**SAVE THE DATE!**

There will be a Native American Fashion Show on **April 6, 2023** from **6 to 8 PM**. It will be held at the Continuing Education Center located at 1634 University Blvd NE. Students (all ages), parents, and grandparents, modeling beautiful clothes from various designers.

