STORYTELLER

ALBUQUERQUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS Indian Education Newsletter March / April 2024

Cibola JAG attends the 17th Annual JAG-NM Career Development Conference - written by JAG Historian, Mateo Martinez; edited by Amber Reno

On March 5th, our program embarked on an exhilarating journey to the 17th Annual JAG-NM Career Development Conference, brimming with anticipation for the day ahead. As we immersed ourselves in the array of activities, the air buzzed with energy and determination. Each competition showcased the talents and skills of dedicated officers and members, igniting a sense of camaraderie and friendly rivalry among us and our JAG-NM peers. From team challenges to individual showcases, the conference provided a platform for us to learn, grow, and forge lasting memories together. In addition to competitive events, students attended a career fair and breakout sessions. One of the breakout sessions was led by Michael Sheyahshe, father of Cibola JAG member, Jack Sheyahshe. Mr. Sheyahshe is an author, visual artist, expert on Native American representation in comics, and media and graphic artist.

Cibola High School competed in seven events and placed in all of them. In Financial Literacy, Lia Garcia earned the 3rd place award, and Johanna Castillo earned 2nd place. David Vigil earned the 2nd place trophy for Employability Skills. Wes Cozad, Brennen Chee, and Kaiden Martinez took 1st place in the team event, Creative Decision Making. Deondre Simmons won 1st place for the presentation of the Outstanding Chapter Manual. Nevaeh Orr won 1st place for her Career Preparation presentation, and Jasmine Mitchell won 1st place in Prepared Speaking for the second year in a row. As we departed, hearts brimming with inspiration and minds filled with newfound knowledge, we knew that the experiences of the day would leave an indelible mark on our journey toward future success.

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.

CNM College Day

Cibola JAG joined a number of high school and middle schools for guided tours of the CNM campus on their annual College Day. Unlike a typical college tour, many programs offered interactive demonstrations and had current students and instructors available to answer questions. During lunch, students also learned about student unions, clubs, and dual credit opportunities. CNM offers over 80 degree and certification programs, including several in the skilled trades. Community colleges are one of several great opportunities for our JAG students to consider.

Atrisco Heritage Hosts First Annual Powwow

The Atrisco Heritage Academy High School held their first Annual Powwow on March 21, 2024. Students along with Ms. Chiquito, their Navajo Language teacher and Indian Education colleague put together a great event with a packed house of Atrisco students, staff, and Native community from far and wide.

The head staff included: MC: Mike Salabiye (Dine'), Arena Director: Terry Pecos (Jemez Pueblo), Headman: Quannah Henry (Dine'), Headwoman: Tyra American Horse (Oglala Lakota / Dine'), Southern Drum: Burque Boyz (Kevin Norton- Dine'), Northern Drum: Black Eagle (Malcom Yepa - Jemez Pueblo).

Specials included: Headman Special: All Men's Category Contest; JR's Boys Fancy (Sponsored by the Nez Family); AHA Native Club Sweetheart Special. All Drums, singers, royalty, dancers and the public were invited.

Feedback from Atrisco Student Powwow Organizers

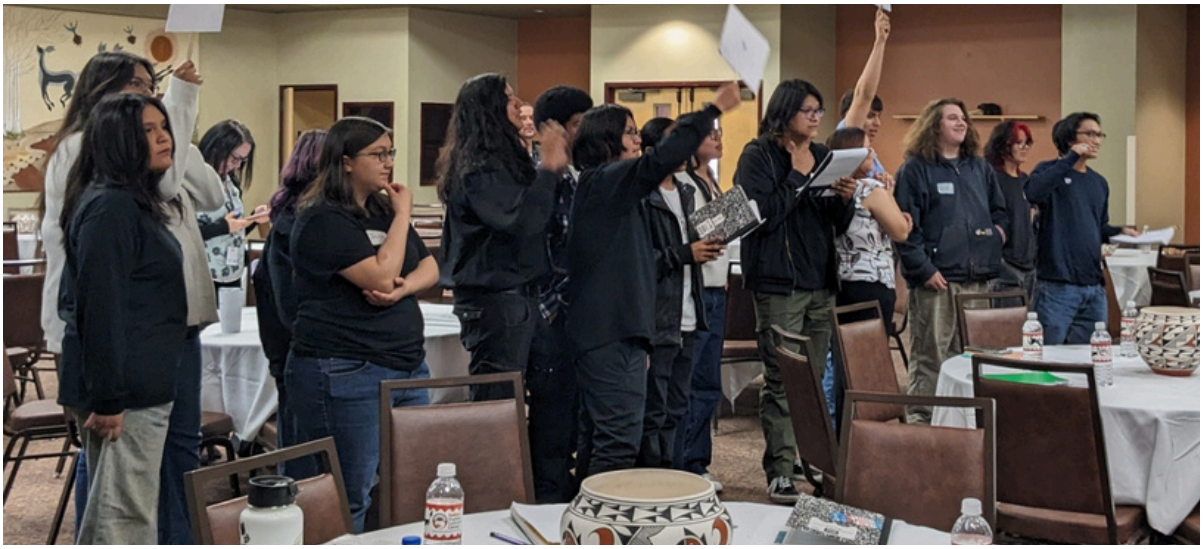
- Students' roles in the Powwow varied from cooking in the kitchen, running the concession stand, assisting vendors, and 'hyping up' the crowd
- For most of the students involved it was their first time helping to organize a Powwow
- This brought on a lot of challenges and learning experiences. Student were challenged by setting up Vendors and helping them take supplies up/down the stairs; taking two food orders at a time; not finding a janitor and fixing it themselves. all amidst the overall stress.
- Students felt they gained new skills over the process such as leadership, social, communication, patience, presentation skills, culinary skills and independence (one of our Indigenous Values)
- Overall it was a great experience for students and participants alike. Some of students' favorites were: the food, the dancing, the drummers, meeting others from distant Tribes and hearing their Native languages, and of course, the people!

"My favorite part was me getting $40 from grandmas because they encourage/liked that I spoke Navajo when I presented myself, and when I gave out flowers to elderly's flowers into the different crowds. They said I could be the next Miss Navajo or Miss Indian New Mexico but I doubt that thought because my Navajo still needs a lot more learning but I'm glad kids and other club members talked to me about the good we're doing in a club and looked up to me as a role model."

Nadine Day, Pow Wow Student Coordinator, Main Floor

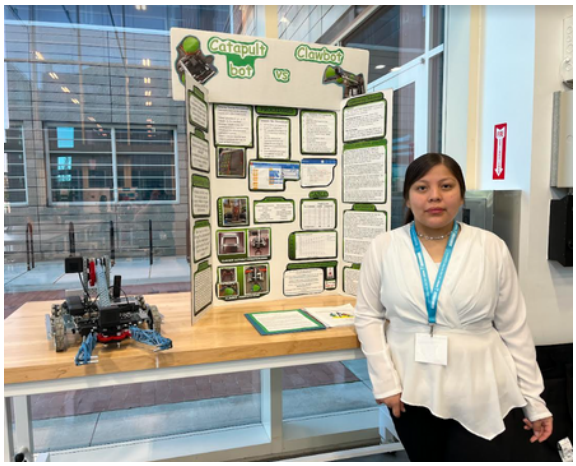
JAG Job Shadowing at Indian Pueblo Cultural Center

Career Exploration is one of the most valuable aspects of the Jobs for America's Graduates program, and we are lucky to partner with many career and community organizations to ensure that these goals are met. We owe a huge thanks to Junior Achievement of New Mexico for coordinating an amazing event this year! On March 20, Cibola High School's JAG chapter was hosted by the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, where students not only learned about the history of the nineteen Pueblos in New Mexico but four of the career fields that support the work occurring on the ever expanding Indian Pueblo Cultural Center campus. Based on students' interests, groups spent the day learning about security, information technology, arts and museum studies, and marketing. Students also participated in whole-group sessions about professionalism and ethics. Our hosts provided a wonderful lunch, and we ended the day with a competition where students shared the knowledge they'd gained throughout the day. We are so grateful for this experience.



IPCC Museum and Art Curation Shadowing

NAISEF - Winners
National American Indian Science and Engineering Fair 2024



I am happy to announce that both my sponsored students for NAISEF (National American Indian Science and Engineering Fair) won awards in their respective projects. The NAISEF was held at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma on April 5 - 6, 2024.

Here are the students with awards:

1) Layla Perry (8th Grade at Jefferson Middle School)
Junior Division
Project: Clawbot vs. Catapult Bot
Awards:
-First Place in Engineering Project: Robotics/Intelligent Machine
- Broadcom Coding With Commitment Award

2) Jessica Castro (11th Grade at St. Pius X High School)
Senior Division
Project: Renewable Energy Using Peltier Tiles

Awards:
- NAISEF Grand Prize 2024 1st Place Award
- All expenses paid trip to ISEF in Los Angeles (May 11 - 17)
- Certificate of Award for Indigenous Minds and 1 week trip to Colorado Springs, Colorado involving STEAMS and Aerospace Research
- Certificate of Achievement through Oklahoma Renewable Energy Education Program
- Certificate of Recognition for Sierra Club: promoting the environment, conservation, and outdoors

The team would like to acknowledge the support of NAISEF, APS Grant Management, Jefferson Middle School, Perkins, and the assistance of Ms. Shannon Johnson (Indian Ed Representative), Lucas Hatch, and Robot Jets.

Jessica and I will be heading to Los Angeles, California on May 11-17, 2024 to compete in ISEF (International Science and Engineering Fair).

Thank you parents for letting me work with your amazing kids!
Way to go Jets!

- Jay C Penn
NAISEF Teacher Sponsor
Math Teacher/Robotics Coordinator/Chess Coach
Jefferson Middle School

Native American Fashion Show

On April 10th, 2024 The APS Native American Leadership Council presented the 16th Annual Native American Fashion Show at the UNM Continuing Education Auditorium. Talented designers included: Penny Singer, Ario Lomahaftewa Conners, and Sage Mountain Flower. Entertainment was provided by Tu Sicka The Zion Son and L.O.G. Rez. It was a great event! Let these beautiful photographs speak volumes!

Dine' Students Learn Life Lessons at Center for Intercultural Care

Students in Mr. Sandoval's Diné language class at McKinley Middle School and Cleveland Middle School went on a field trip to the Center for Intercultural Care in Tijeras, NM. At the center, students were welcomed by Mr. Lorenzo Jim and had the opportunity to see a male hoghan, which has a cone-like shape different from the six sided hoghan namazi or female hoghan. Mr. Jim discussed traditional teachings with the Diné language students alongside hands-on activities highlighting the role Diné have in being caretakers of their local environment from the small creatures to the land as a whole. They were able to help repair the hoghan with a mud mixture. Students learned about native plants that can be used in daily life on a nature walk.

Overall, Mr. Jim's lessons imparted knowledge of navigating the world and important traits to become role models, such as being hard working, caring, and a good listener.

Students visit the Gathering of Nations

In a vibrant display of culture and unity, the Native American Student Union (NASU) from Volcano Vista High School (VVHS) made a memorable appearance at the 2024 Gathering of Nations Powwow. The esteemed event, renowned as the largest Native American powwow globally, welcomed the spirited participation of NASU members, marking a significant milestone for the club and its commitment to indigenous heritage. The initiative to attend the Gathering of Nations Powwow came from the NASU students. With the backing of school administration, and Sara Money, the College and Career Counselor for APS Indian Education, the field trip on Friday, April 26th was a success.

Reflecting on the experience, Mrs. Summers shared, “Witnessing the diversity and vitality of indigenous cultures at such a grand scale was truly awe-inspiring for our students.” Mr. Torres echoed her sentiments, emphasizing the significance of such cultural immersion for the students. “Participating in events like the Gathering of Nations fosters a sense of belonging, empowering our youth to embrace their identities with confidence,” he remarked.

Special thanks to the Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) Indian Education Department for making our Gathering of Nations (GON) field trip a success for Cibola's JAG and Native American Club. Our groups were able to see the Grand Entry inside, watch various dance groups outside Tingley Coliseum, enjoy creations from food vendors, and view the craftsmanship of many talented artists. This was my first sponsored field trip in my 10 years of teaching. We appreciate the GON for continuing to set aside a special day for school groups, and APS Indian Ed. Department for making this possible for our staff and students.

- Craig Garcia, Native Club Sponser Cibola HS

Indigenous History from a Vantage Point: April

On April 29, 1868, the Treaty of Fort Laramie was signed between the U.S. Government and the Sioux Nation. This treaty designated the Black Hills of Dakota as the Great Sioux Reservation, reserved exclusively for the Sioux (Dakota, Lakota, and Nakota) and Arapaho peoples. However, following the discovery of gold in the Black Hills, a surge of miners and settlers encroached upon the land. Native resistance to this breach of the treaty led to the pivotal Battle of the Little Bighorn in 1876. In 1980, the Supreme Court ruled that the confiscation of the Black Hills was unlawful and awarded the Sioux over $100 million in reparations. Despite the ruling, Sioux leaders rejected the payment, asserting that the land was never intended to be sold.

From a Native American perspective, the Battle of Little Bighorn, also known as the ***Battle of the Greasy Grass, holds significant cultural and historical importance. It symbolizes a moment of resistance and unity among various tribes, primarily the Lakota Sioux, Northern Cheyenne, and Arapaho, who joined forces to defend their traditional lands and way of life against encroaching U.S. forces.***

For Native Americans, the battle represents a stand against broken treaties, encroachment on sacred lands, and attempts to forcibly assimilate indigenous peoples. It is viewed as a pivotal moment where different tribes came together in solidarity to protect their autonomy and sovereignty in the face of overwhelming military aggression.

The victory at the Battle of Little Bighorn, where the Native American forces led by leaders like Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse defeated General Custer and the U.S. 7th Cavalry, is seen as a testament to the resilience, courage, and unity of indigenous peoples in the fight against colonial expansion and cultural suppression.
While the battle ultimately led to retaliatory actions by the U.S. government and further displacement of Native American tribes, it remains a symbol of resistance and pride within Native American communities, highlighting the ongoing struggle for land rights, self-determination, and cultural preservation.