

THE INDIAN LEADER

Celebrating 120 years

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the oldest Native American student newspaper

Since 1897

Running Start: Elect Her By Amanda Smith



Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Chairwoman Liana Onnen and Sharice Davids, Ho-chunk, hold up the hashtag signs #ILookLikeAPolitician



Sharice Davids, is running for Congress in the state of Kansas and if elected would be the first Native American woman elected.

Indian people at the national level..”.

These young women who attended this event all represented the entire Haskell student body and their tribes. They heard motivating words from a Tribal Chairwoman and a Congressional Candidate for Kansas that Indigenous woman have every right to do the same job as a man, to stand up, get their voices heard and that they are capable of anything.

Photos By Michael Begay

Elect Her was hosted at its first tribal college, Haskell Indian Nations University, a one-day event for young woman who share an interest in running for any type of government. About 30 students attended; those who share an interest in running for office and wanting to know more about Elect Her came together to share knowledge about the concerns they have whether it's on campus or within their own tribe, they helped one another and encouraged each other. This event brought two Indigenous woman who are currently in or running for office, Liana Onnen and Sharice Davids, to share their experience and give advice on what it's like to be in office.

Sharice Davids, currently running for U.S. States Congress in Kansas, a member of the Ho-Chuck Nation shared her experience about what it's like running against other Non-Natives, her journey on how far she has come, and what she plans to accomplish. She states in her speech, “As the daughter of a single mother Army veteran, I know the importance of determination and service to country. As a woman and a Native American, I know how to stand up and fight for equity. As a lawyer, economic advisor, and advocate, I know how to build consensus and get things done”. Indigenous woman like Sharice Davids, who campaigns for women, people of color, and LGBTQ founders, and is a highly trained in martial arts and has competed as both an amateur and professional in Mixed Martial Arts (MMA), shows that a woman can do anything she wants to do.

Liana Onnen, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Tribal Chairperson, stated in her speech, “I do this not for the money, I certainly do not do it for the fame, I do it because it matters, I do it because its important to my community, I do it because it's what I believe my people deserve, its what I believe Indian people deserve, I don't just fight for my tribe, I fight for all

Haskell Bridge/ KU-Haskell Exchange Program

By Amanda Smith

Haskell Indian Nations University, has many opportunities for students, from athletic programs, fraternity/sorority, different clubs, and academic programs. Students join these activities, to keep themselves busy, to learn from it, share their knowledge with others, making friends, just getting the opportunity to be apart of a group here at Haskell. One of the academic programs here at Haskell is the Bridge/ KU Exchange program, that helps students experience taking a class at a big university, help with a research/working in labs, and just taking advantage of what benefits come out of this program.

Haskell Bridge/ KU Exchange program coordinator Becky Welton, has worked at Haskell for about 20 years, this includes working with the Bridge program for about 10 years and the KU-Haskell Exchange program for 3 years. Welton is a graduate from Northern Arizona University, with a degree in Applied Science and a minor in Business. She has held many jobs but her most rewarding is mentoring/advising students to reach their potential.

Coordinator Becky Welton, states, “The Bridge program is an undergraduate research program offered through a partnership with the University of Kansas and Haskell that is funded by the NIH. The program, started in the mid 90's, provides a mentored research experience for students interested in addressing health disparities in Indian Country. Students are required to have a minimum 2.5 GP, be in good social standing and have good time management skills. Each year recruitment begins in the fall/early spring and the program supports 9 students. Ideally, applicants will have a desire to transfer to another 4-year university for four-year programs that Haskell does not offer; examples include Chemistry, Botany, Engineering, Human Biology, Music Education and many others. While the focus is bio-medical research, for many students this is their first research experience thus having a great experience with a good mentor is most important. Students receive

research training, paid travel, and earn \$12 per hour for their contributions to their lab. Additionally, there are opportunities for networking, attending seminars, presenting their research at symposiums and travel to professional conferences”. Along with the KU-Haskell Exchange program, “provides students the opportunity to take one class a semester at the other institution. The requirements for Haskell students are a 2.5 GPA and be at least a second semester freshman. Students can take KU classes that Haskell doesn't offer; some choices include: foreign languages, marching band, political science, and for upper classmen, electives in their fields of study that enhance the curriculum Haskell offers. There is no additional tuition cost for the KU courses although students will purchase any textbooks required for the class. A shuttle service is provided at minimal cost and runs hourly from Haskell to KU.

Keylyn Turney, currently is a part of the KU Exchange and Bridge program here at Haskell, she's been in the program since August 21st, 2017. Turney commented, “I love getting the opportunity to take KU classes one to two at a time. It is a much easier transition into a bigger university. I do not enjoy driving there and trying to find a parking spot! That's obnoxious. KU classes are much larger in size. Other than that, I think they all vary upon the subject and requirements of the class. Currently I've only taken 2 but I am pre-enrolled for 4 more before I graduate Haskell in December 2018”.

Haskell students are given many opportunities to explore and get the chance to be apart of a program, club, and other activities that will benefit them. Its taking chances as a student, building a record that will show what accomplishments you have done, and just to be involve with other students who want to do and learn more.

Photos from Haskell Wetlands Clean Up



Escape Reality with Massage Therapy

Some of us wake up and dread having to exert extra energy throughout the day. The fatigue from stress can weigh heavy on our minds and bodies. If not properly managed health problems can occur such as high blood pressure, diabetes, depression, anxiety, mental health problems, along with other various illnesses. It is of utmost importance to not deprive ourselves of relaxation. Haskell's Indian Nations University undergraduate Donald J. Dewit is working on a career as a health practitioner. Dewit specializes in massage therapy and uses his training to relieve the community around him from day to day tension. There are many different techniques used with massage therapy such as trigger point, acupuncture, deep tissue, sports, prenatal, hot stone, plus many more. Dewitt says that his favorite method for massage therapy is using hot stones on his clients. "Massage treatment is an organic way to reduce back pain and arthritis, as well as help with the quality of sleep that you receive overnight" quotes Menshealth.com. Many people from the community have become Massage therapy clients due to the health benefits. "I work with all types, the elderly, adults, teens, and kids", quoted Dewit. Dewit is also a traveling massage therapist who has recently been to Cancun Mexico, Belize, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Kansas City. He has had the privilege to provide his services to a vast range of clients. When asked what Dewit's favorite part of his career was he responded, "The best part of my job is that I get to make somebody's day better whether they're

seeing me for body pain or stress. My clients will tell me that they feel more relaxed and calm after their treatment". Next time you feel overwhelmed from school, work, or running errands throughout the day consider massage therapy, treat yourself. Massage therapy

By Rashad Squalls

Why it is Time to let the Indian Go

By Joseph Singh

Calling Indigenous people "Indian" is like calling Europeans "Japanese". The label is erroneous and condescending. The origin of the slur comes from Christopher Columbus who mistook the American continent for India. He then labeled the inhabitants "Indians". Perhaps it was because of the pigmentation of the Natives. Indians, Indigenous, Latinos, and Africans are some of the groups of people who have an abundance of melanin making their skin pigment darker. What could have been a simple mistake has been exacerbated over time by the neglect to correct this error in classification. The Inhabitants of the America's were subject to genocide. Many traditions, cultures, and tribes were wiped from history. The descendants of the Indigenous suffer from an identity crisis. Assimilation reprogrammed the minds of Natives and conformed them to foreign ways and beliefs. Many Natives find it very difficult to uncover their true ancestry because of European occupation. Natives were taken further away from their culture, until eventually they started to believe they really were "Indians". We can take it back. Reclaiming the lost culture of the Native American starts with fixing the 500 year old typo that is the word "Indian". To be called Indigenous would give the original people of this land credit for being here. Using the correct classification would help educate the masses as to what the "Indians" of the Americas truly are. The sacrifices of our ancestors need to be respected and regaled. The survival of the North American Native is remarkable. Clarification is needed to heal the people. Documents will need to be revised. Government departments and school names will need to be changed. Considering all of the injustice, dishonesty, and pain the ancestors of the Indigenous suffered, I do not think rewriting some words would be too much to ask.

Top 9 States and Counts (Spring 2018) for New Freshmen (First-Time First-Year)

#	State	New Student Count	New Student %	Cumulative %
1	Oklahoma	10	38.5%	38.5%
2	Kansas	8	30.8%	69.2%
3	New Mexico	2	7.7%	76.9%
4	Alaska	1	3.8%	80.8%
4	Arizona	1	3.8%	84.6%
4	Colorado	1	3.8%	88.5%
4	Nebraska	1	3.8%	92.3%
4	Nevada	1	3.8%	96.2%
4	Washington	1	3.8%	100.0%
Total number of states				9
Total freshmen (first-time first-year) for Spring 2018				26

The Spring 2018 Cohort of new freshmen (first-time first-year) came from nine (9) U.S. states. There was a total of 26 new freshmen students.

Enrollment by Class Level & Gender (Spring 2018) for All Students

Class Level	Count
Total	705
Freshman	268
Sophomore	195
Junior	113
Senior	129
Female	395
Male	310

Top 10 List of Tribal Affiliation & Count (Spring 2018) for All Students

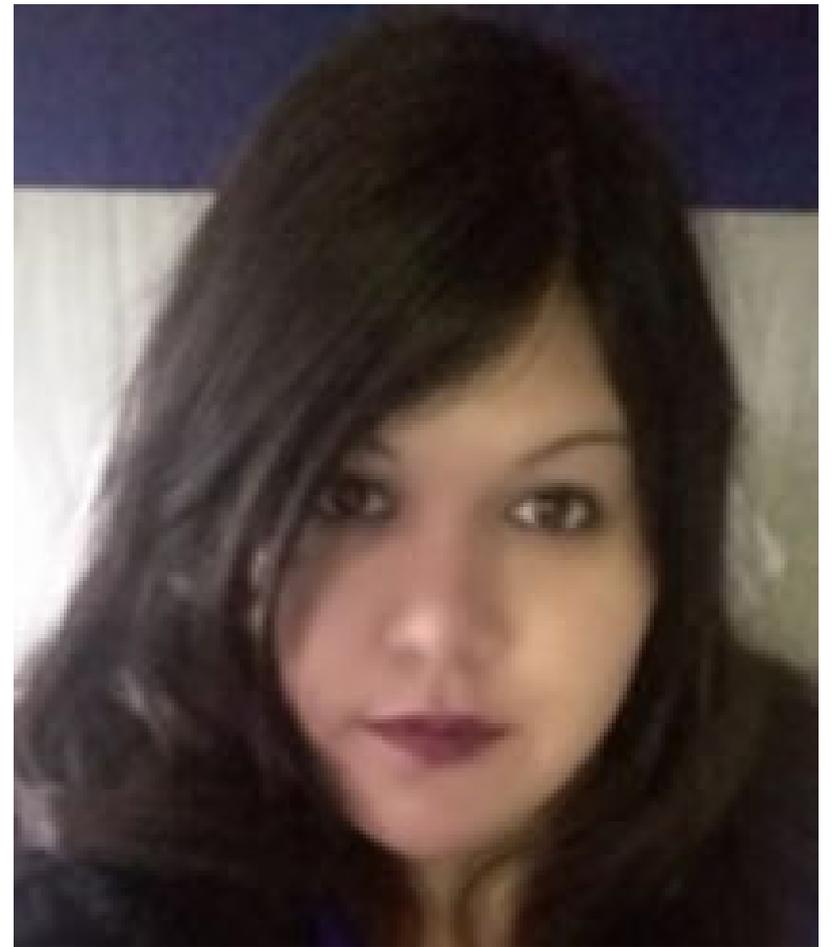
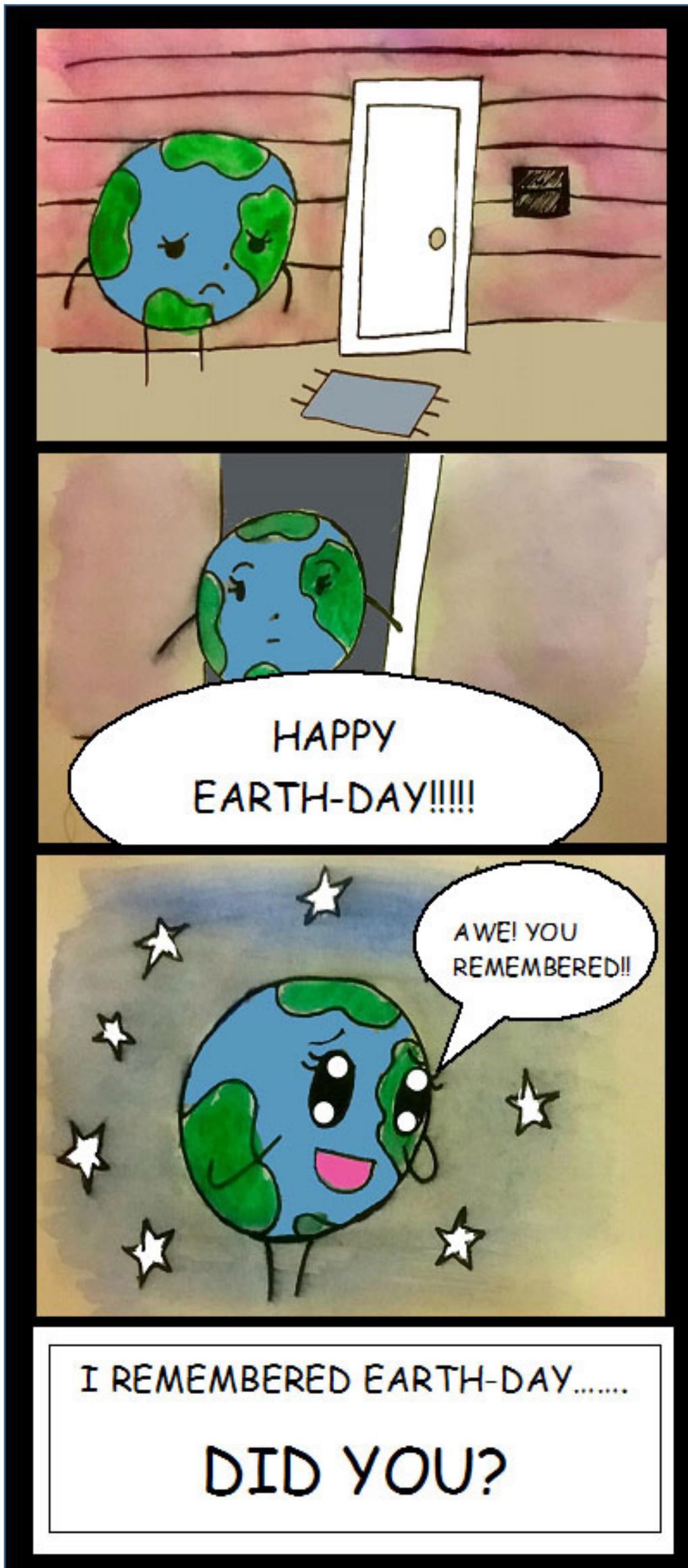
#	Tribal Affiliation	Count	%	Cumulative %
1	Navajo Nation, Arizona, New Mexico & Utah	95	11.8%	11.8%
2	Cherokee Nation	73	9.1%	20.8%
3	The Muscogee (Creek) Nation	33	4.1%	24.9%
4	Oglala Sioux Tribe	31	3.8%	28.8%
5	The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma	28	3.5%	32.3%
6	Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of the Cheyenne River Reservation	20	2.5%	34.7%
7	Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation	17	2.1%	36.8%
8	Comanche Nation	16	2.0%	38.8%
8	Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma	16	2.0%	40.8%
9	Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes	13	1.6%	42.4%
Approximate Number of Tribal Affiliations *		151		
Total Enrollment for Spring 2018		705		

The Spring 2018 student represented 151 Tribal Affiliations. The top 10 Tribal Affiliations accounted for 42.4% of the total student enrollment for Spring 2018.

*The number of tribal affiliations increased as we moved our Native Alaskan students into their respective native entities as listed in the Federal Register.

All numbers are based on HINU Spring 2018 Census Day data.

Spring 2018



“ The Power of Choice”

I was standing in line waiting to accept my scholarship check and discussing with my friend about the week I just had. In the last week I had received two accomplishments through my art, went on a trip to Chicago with the TRIO Student Support Services and had now received my recognition of being on the Presidents list for the previous semester. The particular point of discussion was that I wanted to post about my week on Facebook but felt that by doing so some people from back home would be angry at my success. My friend could understand, as she had faced similar situations back home. This got me thinking and wondering if many of the students that I encounter have the same kind of feed back from people they know or are their family. Personally I get a lot of “You think you’re better than us!” comments. And you know what I tell those that accuse me of that? I hold my chest up high, stand tall, and say “I am.” I say that because I chose to succeed. I chose to put work into my studies and get good grades. I chose to get out of the kind of environment that doesn’t support growth. We are placed on this earth in situations beyond our control. Sometimes those situations are terrible, destructive or dehumanizing. But at certain points in all of our lives we have to stand up and choose the path that we walk. We can choose to go forward, stay where we are, or go backward. All of us here at Haskell have made a choice to pursue education and to strive for success despite whatever background we may have come from. I want to reach out and encourage those students who may be facing condemnation for their success to continue to strive towards their goals and to help others realize that they too can pursue a betterment of their lives.

TRIO SSS Takes Goes to the National Student Leadership Diversity Convention (NSLDC)



By Tiffany Blevins

On Thursday April 5th 2018 a chosen 8 of the Haskell TRIO students (including the two student interns) and 2 Haskell TRIO staff, set off for Chicago Illinois to attend the National Student Leadership Diversity Convention (NSLDC). The conference was hosted by the Marriott Hotel of Chicago Illinois with the Key Presenter being Dr. Chris Irving. According to the NSLDC Website, Following the completion of his Master's Degree in Public Policy and International Affairs, Chris started a small consulting group called the Ceceilyn Miller Institute for Leadership and Diversity in America based out of Bloomfield, NJ. He is known for his dedication to social Justice and to leadership development. During this conference our students had the opportunity to develop their sense and understanding of leadership and diversity along with being able to educate others in the culture and diversity of Native Americans/Indigenous People. Much of the conference lacked inclusion of Indigenous Issues. Through the willingness to be speak from our students, and the willingness to listen from the presenters, Indigenous Issues/ statistics shall be included in future conferences. The students also had some cultural experiences of Chicago, having enjoyed some classic deep dish pizza at Giordano's Pizza, taking a trip to see the famous sculpture "The Bean", and taking a trip into Chicago's China Town. NSLDC lasted for 3 days, ending on Sunday April 8th 2018 as a success. Each student and TRIO staff member was able to walk away with something they felt they had learned or gained by attending the conference. Participants arrived safely back to campus on Monday April 9th 2018 at midnight.

<http://nslcd.org/christopher-c-irving-m-a/>



More Photos from Elect Her

By Michael Begay



Career Fair

By Chris Talkalai

We are you going to do after school?

Finishing up school can be a tough decision after completing your requirements. Figuring out what you want to be, and how to get there. And that's what career fair offered at Haskell.

Booths with career opportunities for students to visit and get acquainted with the program and or company. Many students came and visited the stands to get information, as well to get free stuff that they displayed on the tables. Students dressed up for the best dress competition.

Haskell senior, Phil Sutherlin commented, "combination of the stamp book, free stuff, and a lot of career opportunities. There's been a lot of awesome people that had cool experiences, and a lot of good connections, it's been a really rewarding experience."

Everyone enjoyed the career fair for job opportunities, internships, and general information that seem suitable for anyone's career.



More Photos from the Wetlands Clean up

By Michael Begay

