

Tohono O'odham Kekel Ha-Maşcamakuđ

S-ke:g Ha'icu A:gidag—Good News

Ha:şañ Ba:k Maşad

June 6, 2018

Class of 2018



Photo by Cody Chavez

Associate of Liberal Arts – Open Pathway

Rodney T. Aguilla
Celena Jaynea Garcia
Precious Jesse-Emily Jose
Cissimarie Melanie Juan
Alanzo Andrew Pancho
Lance Hunter Sanchez

Associate of Arts in Social Services

Ashley Nicole Jose
Mary Alice Lopez
Dwight J. Manuel
Clovie D. Martin
Krishna L. Scott-Mattias
Stanella J. Stephens

Associate of Arts in Early Childhood Education

Diana Antone

Associate of Applied Science in Business Management

Morningstar Shannon Carroll
Brett Taylor Mecie

Associate of Science in Life Science

Duran Andrews – Tohono O'odham Agriculture
and Natural Resources
DeAnndra Rochelle Porter – Open Pathway
Jasmine Lorena Lopez – Open Pathway
Raeshaun R. Ramon – Open Pathway

Associate of Business in Business Administration

Fernanda Denise Antone
Wayne Michael Juan
Jason Two Two

Casino Gaming Certificate

Imre Istvan Koczka

Certificate of Completion of Apprenticeship

Avery Johnson – Electrical
Robert A. Manuel – Electrical
Lucinda Ann Moreno – Electrical
Michael J. Moreno – Carpentry
Cindy A. Santos – Electrical
Peter Jose Santos, Jr. – Plumbing

GED Certificate Program

Gary Brown, Jr.
Delia Francisco
Analyssa Jose
Monique Lopez
Nakio Lopez
Wesley A. Monte
Lana Noriega
Candace L. Pablo
Jesse Ramon
Heather Throssell
Wenona Angela Widener

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TOCC Farm Manager honored as Environmental Steward

Submitted by Melanie Lenart, Ph.D., Science & Natural Resources Faculty

Clifford Pablo was honored as Environmental Steward of the Year during an April 21 *Jewed Ka: Cim Tash* event held in Sells to celebrate Earth Day. The Tohono O'odham Nation's Environmental Protection Office presented the award to Mr. Pablo, who serves as TOCC's Agriculture Extension Agent and Student Learning Farm Manager.

The award followed a campaign launched by Paula Antone, a student in the spring course on Agroecology and Tohono O'odham Crop Production, and assisted by TOCC Agriculture Instructor Melanie Lenart. The Agroecology course features a series of labs facilitated by Mr. Pablo, who has decades of experience growing crops without commercial chemicals and from seed lines the O'odham have used for countless generations.

Mr. Pablo, from the San Xavier District, had decades of experience working on the TON's farms before he joined TOCC in 2008. His knowledge of modern and traditional agriculture and natural desert resources began when he was a child working with his grandfather. The cultural underpinnings of his understanding drew much praise from students.

"Clifford Pablo has made a big impression on me with all the knowledge he has as a Farmer," wrote Paula Antone in her nomination letter. "I'm very honored to be able to take and use his knowledge on my own. He knows so much about our land, water and farming." Another student, Esther Castillo wrote, "Mr. Pablo is very knowledgeable about growing gardens. He explains things very clearly and is patient with his students. What impressed me the most is that he explains things in O'odham, which helped me understand the class better."

"The depth of his knowledge about farming on the TON is beyond impressive," wrote colleague Melanie Lenart. "In talking to farmers around the Nation, I have learned that almost everyone's roots go back to Clifford ... I couldn't agree more that he deserves recognition from every corner for the important work he does with TOCC and the Tohono O'odham Nation in general." TOCC President Paul Robertson also highlighted Mr. Pablo's contribution in training student interns in farming, including the business of farming. "He works with student interns who learn a great deal from him – I know this because I visit with the interns and I have witnessed them in various meetings making presentations and contributing to discussions around land, climate, agricultural production, limiting factors, traditional knowledge, and what it takes to sustain healthy and productive gardens in the Sonoran Desert," Dr. Robertson wrote. "Some of those he has worked with have taken a step to develop their own small agricultural productions units in their own communities."

Mr. Pablo was one of the founders of the San Xavier Cooperative Farm, and he led that group toward sustainable agricultural practices from 1987 to 2002. After that, he served as farm supervisor for Papago and Schuk Toak Farms until 2008, when he joined TOCC. Soon after starting with TOCC, he worked with other to set up the Farm and Food Working Group. The FFWG is a collaboration of individuals and organizations committed to culturally relevant, sustainable agriculture, including promoting healthy living and eating.

Members of the FFWG and other TOCC employees also contributed nominations. Martha Burgess, noted that she worked with Mr. Pablo in the 1970s on a collaborative effort involving the harvesting pods from native mesquite trees for grinding into a nutritious flour, something the O'odham have been doing for millennia. "He has been a strong, gentle and inspiring mentor for so many young people to learn traditional planting/harvesting of summer and winter crops, and traditional wild harvesting of food plants. Providing tools and guidance, he creatively models how they, the students, can grow their traditional cultural knowledge, coupled with the agricultural knowledge he has taught them, into appropriate, lucrative businesses for a sustainable future of sovereignty and food security."

In his nominating letter, Gilbert Two Two, a founding member of the FFWG and district conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, reminded TON Environmental Protection Office that the FFWG strives to assist people to enter into and advance in agricultural jobs and careers on the Nation. The EPO gives out one Stewardship Award every year for recipients who embody "the responsible use and protection of the natural environment through conservation and sustainable practices." Environmental stewardship involves a land ethic that takes into consideration the plants and animals on the land as well as human needs, something Mr. Two Two noted comes naturally to Mr. Pablo because of his cultural background. "Clifford is well versed in the guiding principles of a community-based organization and more importantly the O'odham Himdag which he has drawn upon to develop culturally appropriate solutions to challenges that confront our communities. By drawing upon his heritage and cultural traditions he has been able to create lasting working partnerships and actively supports conservation issues on the Nation."



Clifford Pablo accepts his award from Paul Andrews of the TON Environmental Protection Office during the April 21, 2018 Jewed Ka: Cim Tash event as Chairman Edward Manuel and others look on.



The award recognizes his "dedication and unwavering efforts to maintain the integrity of a clean environment on the Tohono O'odham Nation," as noted on the Arizona-shaped wooden plaque.

“Teamwork helps Tohono O’odham Students make College a Reality”

Published by the American Indian College Fund on May 15, 2018

A team of staff at Tohono O’odham Community College (TOCC) and local high schools, led by Daniel Sestiaga Jr. at TOCC, has helped nearly 100 students prepare for and college success thanks to a grant from the American Indian College Fund and AT&T.



Students and staff from the S.T.A.R.T. Program attending the 2017 ASU Cultural Professionalism Etiquette Dinner.

The program, geared for students who need the most support, allows students who don’t often have the opportunity to share concerns about themselves, family, friends, and future, and helps them to complete high school.

The program was created with five pillars that are steeped in the Tohono O’odham Himdag (culture, way of life, values and uniqueness of the Tohono O’odham) and includes personal growth, global and civic engagement, community-building and belonging, preparation for academic and life skills, and college and career awareness. Using those five pillars as the guide, Sestiaga says TOCC has developed programming to establish trust with the students and help them develop their skills and their identities to be future leaders in their tribal community. As part of that, high school students are

given the tools they need to go on to college as an important component of educating future leaders.

For example, the global and civic engagement pillar helps students get involved with issues that impact the Tohono O’odham Nation locally as well as students’ rights on a state and national level. This includes programs to discuss voting rights, police brutality, and social justice issues.

The Tohono O’odham nation straddles the U.S./Mexico border, and many students have relatives and participate in ceremonies and community events on both sides of the border. After the presidential election last year, many were feeling anxious about what would happen to their community if a border wall were to be constructed, Sestiaga says. The program brought students together to discuss this issue and others impacting them and their nation, and encouraged participants to explore ways to engage in events and make their voices heard in a constructive way.

Another pillar, the academic and life skills programming, provides students with the tools they need to succeed academically in high school and in college and teaches them how to use those skills in everyday life. It includes tutoring students with math and science workshops and classes that teach goal-setting using passion planners, vision boards, and art projects.

The program also has a dual-enrollment component to allow high school students to take coursework at TOCC. The benefits include allowing students to complete their introductory coursework while still in high school, keeping college costs down—75% of tribal college students are eligible for Pell Grants, so it also ensures that they will be less likely to exhaust their funding. Sestiaga says an added benefit of dual-enrollment programs is getting students introduced to college culture early to eliminate the anxieties experienced with enrollment and choosing coursework. It gives students more challenging coursework earlier, making the transition to full-time college more successful.



Tohono O’odham students posing for a photo at their campus in Sells, AZ.

The secret to the program’s success is the strong team of educators making it run. “There is no way I can do this without this team,” Sestiaga says. “There is a high school liaison, a parent liaison, college mentors, and program tutors. You need people who really care about students and doing whatever they need to help them succeed.”

Visiting Scientists Rescue Hawk — Submitted by: Juana C. Jose, Cultural Liaison

A few months ago I was driving to work and just before arriving at the college I heard and felt a huge thump somewhere on my vehicle. I looked in the rearview mirror and did not see anything. Forgot about it and went about my thoughts.

I drove into the college parking lot and parked. At about the same time another vehicle drove in and parked with three men whom I had not seen before. The three people got out of their car and were on their way into the building. They all stopped and were looking at the front right side of my old suburban. I was thinking, "Haven't you ever seen an old car that's falling apart?" Just then Adrian Quijada came walking up the sidewalk and greeted the visitors. By then I also got out to see why everyone was looking at my vehicle.

I saw this large size beautiful bird caught partially in my vehicle's front fender. I inquired if the bird was hurt, dead or was going to die. All four scientists stated that the bird was a Cooper's Hawk and was going to be just fine once they could loosen it from the fender. All worked hard to free the Cooper's Hawk. Once freed they took the Hawk to the desert area by Ha-Mascamadam Ha-Ki and set it free.

After all the excitement I did meet the scientists who were presenting in Dr. Quijada's class that day. Thank you Sergio Avila Jr. who is a conservation biologist that works for Sierra Club and came to TOCC to give a presentation on the conservation of trans-border jaguars and other big cats. His brother, Hector Avila gave a presentation on Mexican rattlesnakes. They were accompanied by their father Sergio Avila.



Sergio Avila Jr., a conservation biologist helped rescue the Copper's Hawk. He was visiting TOCC to give a presentation on the conservation of trans-border jaguars and other big cats.

More about Sewing

Submitted by Elizabeth Heuisler and Martha S. Lee

TOCC offered a sewing course for the first time in spring 2018. Elizabeth Heuisler, M.A.Ed., who lectures in Retailing and Consumer Sciences at the University of Arizona, taught the course. Ms. Heuisler shared with the class that one of her favorite professional sewing projects was creating a monk's robe for a national Renaissance clothing catalog.

The sewing course covers basic sewing skills including an introduction to sewing machines, contents of a basic sewing kit, different kinds of stitches and seam finishes. Also addressed in the class were types of materials and why it is important to coordinate fabric and the end use. Students sew both small and larger items. Some examples of finished projects from this spring include a sewing sample workbook, tote bag, beret, and pillow cover. Each student also completed a project of their choice.



Foreground: Kristin Molina works with a seam ripper while preparing to sew. Background: Art Instructor Elizabeth Heuisler, M.A.Ed., checks the stitch tension on a machine.



Foreground: Kristin Molina works with a seam ripper while preparing to sew. Background: Art Instructor Elizabeth Heuisler, M.A.Ed., checks the stitch tension on a machine.

In fall 2018, Ms. Heuisler will teach the Art 230 Sewing I class on Thursday afternoons from 1:00-5:10 p.m. at the sewing studio on Central Campus. Registration is open at Main Campus or online at www.tocc.edu. Call 520-383-8401 for more information.

Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of Tohono O'odham Community College

TOCC marked its twentieth anniversary with the "Songs of Life" event that took place on April 26, 2018 at the College's Main Campus in Schuk Toak District. Many groups from the community participated in the midday session of the event. These photos were shared by participants of the event.



Photo Credit: Martha Lee



Photo Credit: Ron Felix

The Santa Rosa Ranch School dance group performed.



Photo Credit: Martha Lee

The band, Mumsigo Family, featuring students from Baboquivari Middle and High Schools, played waila music.



Photo Submitted by Ron Geronimo

The Nolic Traditional Singer and Basket dancers closed the day's event with round dancing and a give-away dance.

There are a series of cultural and educational events that are being planned and will be open to the public for participation. The college motto: **"Nia, oya g t-taccui am hab e-ju - Our Dream Fulfilled"** will be the ongoing theme for all events.

Blessing of the New Oidag
at West Campus

Friday, June 1, 2018



Photo Credit: Ben Jose



Apprentice students hard at work constructing the steel building that will serve as the Agriculture equipment storage garage. Thank You for all that you do by showing TOCC is a great place to learn.



Photo by Cody Chavez



Photo by Cody Chavez



BCT Apprenticeship Graduates - Photo by Cody Chavez



Photo by Cody Chavez



Photo Submitted by Adrian Quijada