

Tohono O'odham Kekel Ha-mascamakud

S-ke:g Ha'icu A:gidag—Good News

March 19, 2018



TOCC Celebrates Tohono O'odham Literature, Art, and Music at the Festival of Books

TOCC joined the Southern Arizona community at the Festival of Books, held on the University of Arizona Mall on March 10-11, 2018. The College and other organizations

from the Tohono O'odham Nation participated in the American Indian Pavilion, which featured rotating performances as well as displays of books, and demonstrations of traditional arts.

Highlights included a poetry reading by Dr. Ofelia Zepeda, a performance by the South Image Band, storytelling by Damien Carlos, and guitar music by Gabriel Ayala, a member of the Yaqui Tribe.



Top: Dr. Ofelia Zepeda, University of Arizona Regents Professor and TOCC Board of Trustees Chair, reads from one of her books of poetry. Photo Credit: Martha Lee



Right: Damien Carlos, TOCC Student shared stories for the audience. Photo Credit: Melanie Lenart.



We had numerous participants and volunteers from TOCC at the American Indian Pavilion. Thank you to all the Students, Alumni, Staff, and Faculty who participated in making this event a success. Also greater acknowledgement to Jane Latané, in organizing the College's participation in this event.

Morningstar Carroll, Education Division Administrative Assistant; Jerry Edwards, Student Intern/Basketball player and Eddie Miguel, Student Senate Member were many of the students/employees who volunteered at the Festival of Books. Photo Credit: Melanie Lenart

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TOCC students visit University of Arizona's BIO5 Genomics Facilities

Submitted by Adrian Quijada Ph.D., *Science & Natural Resources Faculty*

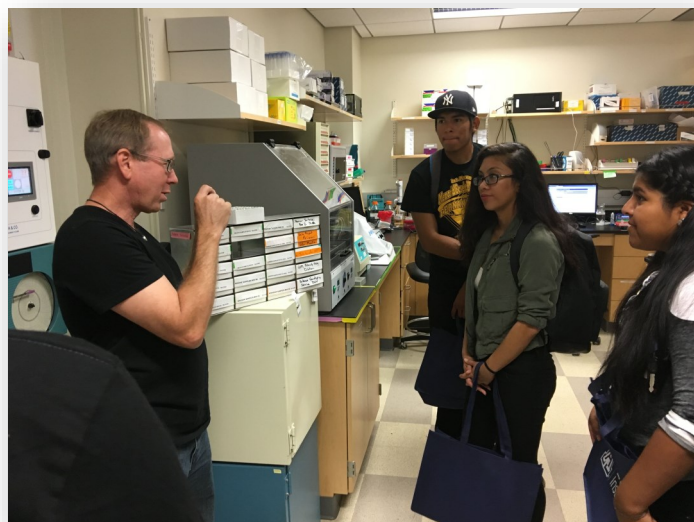


On November 25, 2017, students of the BIO181 "Unity of Life I: Life of the Cell" class visited the University of Arizona's BIO5 to learn about the latest developments in biotechnology and genomics. BIO5 is a cutting-edge research institution working to solve global biological problems including disease, hunger, and environmental issues.

Genomics is an area within genetics focus in the analysis of the entire DNA content within the cell of all living things. At the class, students were aware that the field of genomics strives to determine complete DNA information to understand diseases, improve agriculture, and support conservation of endangered species. The trip to UA allowed students to be introduced to the field of genomics real time.

They met Dr. Taylor Edwards, a genomics researcher at BIO5, who tour them throughout the latest developments in genomic sequencing and their applications in a wide range of research topics, from agriculture and wildlife to early detection and treatment of Parkinson's disease.

Students also met Dr. Uwe Hilgert, director of STEM training at BIO5, who informed the class about the growing interest of BIO5 to reach tribal colleges to offer their biotechnology facilities for training.



Students enjoyed and marveled from this experience, exploring at the same time another career option in the form of biotechnology. Nothing compares with the profound experience of watching researchers doing the kind of work that constitute the material studied in the class textbook.



Tohono O'odham Community College's Student Senate President Rodney Aguilla is a lifelong learner ...

No one is more surprised by his transformation than Rodney Aguilla himself. Once a shy person who thought of himself as "anti-social," Aguilla now talks comfortably about his love of learning and his dreams for the future. He attends Tohono O'odham Community College full time while working in the college's Success Center and serving as Student Senate President.

After attending Santa Rosa Day School for kindergarten through eighth grade, Rodney tried four different schools before dropping out of high school. Then he spent several years at home essentially hiding from the world. He and his brother Mario, met Annamarie Stevens, who worked in Student Services at TOCC and who encouraged him to pursue their GEDs and investigate attending college. Rodney and his brother Mario studied with GED Instructor Judith Daniels, and they both attended the TOCC Commencement in 2016 after earning their GEDs. Rodney remembers the positive environment at Commencement with so many faculty and staff members shaking his hand and urging Mario and him to enroll in college.

The brothers and their nephew Alanzo met with Naomi Tom, now Dean of Students, and Daniel Sestiaga, Jr., Pre-College Outreach Coordinator. Sestiaga and Tom talked with the three about their interests and gave them a personalized campus tour. The three also spoke with Gabriella Cazares-Kelly, Academic Advisor at the time, who shared information and "made it exciting." Rodney, Mario, and Alanzo started at TOCC in fall semester 2016. Rodney remembers his voice shaking as he introduced himself in his first class, Tohono O'odham History and Culture.

Flash forward a couple of years, and Rodney Aguilla has remade his life. He still considers himself an introvert, but he speaks confidently and focuses on learning, rather than on what people think of him. How did he do it? Rodney selects his courses carefully with a thought to what he will learn and how he can challenge himself. For example, he took Public Speaking, where he reduced his anxiety speech by speech. He also chooses his activities with a purpose. To improve his social skills, Rodney participated in the Student Senate Ka: g T-Ni'ok as a freshman. As a sophomore, Rodney decided to work at the college's Student Success Center to learn administrative practices and computer software. As a Success Center Intern, he performs office work, leads workshops on using the iPad and communication skills, and deejays for the TOCC radio show Em Ma:cidag Wui. Rodney also ran for and was elected Student Senate President. In this role, he leads by example, showing his fellow students how to actively participate in college and community life.

Rodney Aguilla hopes to become a lawyer working on American Indian law and policy. First, he will pursue a bachelor's degree in either history or American Indian Studies, or perhaps both. Rodney says that now he loves getting up in the morning because he has a purpose. He enjoys learning in a wide variety of fields, and he plans to be a lifelong learner.



Rodney Aguilla of Santa Rosa Community, Gu Achi District, is the son of Geraldine Aguilla and the late Roger Aguilla. He is grateful to his older sister Charlene Aguilla for her support and encouragement. Photo and Article by Martha Lee.

Timothy Foster, Information Technology (IT) Instructor



Photo Credit: Martha Lee

*M.A. in Applied Sociology, Northern Arizona University;
B.A. in Sociology, Arizona State University.
Based in Ha-Maşcamdam Ha-Ki: on Main Campus*

Tim Foster joined the faculty of TOCC in October 2017. He is developing an Information Technology (I.T.) curriculum that will focus on computer and I.T. courses that can lead directly to employment or transfer to a university program. Tim will teach CIS 100 Introduction to Computers during spring 2018 while continuing to develop the I.T. program of study. Tim comes to TOCC from UA Online, where he was an instructional designer.

Career Theme: Using technology to make experiences better for people.

Difference between I.T. and M.I.S.: I.T. refers to the equipment and technology for transmitting information; M.I.S. or Management Information Systems is broader and refers to the whole infrastructure of computer-based tools that managers use to organize, administer, and evaluate departments within an organization or the organization as a whole.

Geography: Tim is from Winona, Minnesota. He grew up moving a lot due to his father's Air Force postings all over the American West.

Favorite Book: *2001: A Space Odyssey* by Arthur C. Clarke.

Early Adopter: Tim's mother worked at Hewlett Packard when calculators and computers were being developed, so he had the chance to try different models before they were released to the public.

Favorite App: Google Sky, which maps the sky for at-home astronomy.

Family and Farm: Tim has two school-age daughters. He and his family own a micro-farm in Flagstaff where they raise chickens, ducks, and turkeys.

Sandra Sabori, Recruiter



Photo Credit: Martha Lee

*M.A. in Organizational Management
with a minor in Human Resources from Ashford University.*

Ms. Sandra Sabori hopes that something she experienced will never happen to anyone. This "something" happened one day in a job interview. Sandra had located a perfect position, she had the perfect experience for the job, and she could sense that the company's managers really liked her. Then the interviewer asked the final question: Do you have a degree? She did not. The manager said, "I'm sorry, but we have this policy..." You can guess the rest.

Flash forward, and Sandra Sabori now has both her bachelor's and master's degrees, and she is dedicating her career to helping develop the workforce of the Tohono O'odham Nation by recruiting students to the Nation's center of higher education. Since joining Tohono O'odham Community College as a full-time Recruiter in February 2018, Sandra laid the groundwork for developing a strategic plan for recruitment. She has been meeting with faculty, staff, and students to seek input on important questions: What does the College offer that is unique and attractive to our audience? What are the qualities of an ideal student for TOCC? How can recruiting methods build in success for students who enroll in TOCC? How can the College expand its recruiting efforts using more technological tools while maintaining a personal and individualized approach?

Like many students at TOCC, Sandra is a first-generation college-goer. She is the middle of five children, and she started working right after high school. Sandra understands what it is like to go to college while working and with children at home. She knows about sacrifices and choices—and about the difference that encouragement from one person can make.

For Sandra, that person was her stepfather, who inspired her to take her first college courses towards a human resources certificate at a local community college. She ended up earning the certificate and an associate degree in H.R. and then falling in love with the work of recruiting. She rose from a recruiter to a branch manager and then a consultant with Manpower. Later she worked in various roles for the Tohono O'odham Nation's Human Resources Department, which she truly enjoyed.

However, she left to finish her master's degree, and then she worked for some time as a recruiter at a small college that specializes in career focus degree and diploma programs. Sandra was so excited when she heard about and was offered the full-time Recruiter position at TOCC.

If you have any thoughts about the questions listed in this article, Ms. Sandra Sabori would love to talk with you! Please contact her at 520-383-0072 or ssabori@tocc.edu.

Monte Lopez, Desktop Technician



Photo Credit: Martha Lee

*B.A. in Linguistics and American Indian Studies —
University of Arizona;*

*A.A. in Liberal Arts
— Tohono O'odham Community College*

TOCC Graduate Monte Lopez joined the staff of the College in September 2017. As a Desktop Technician, he helps faculty and staff keep their computers running smoothly. Monte graduated from TOCC with an A.A. in Liberal Arts in 2015, and he graduated from the University of Arizona with a B.A. in Linguistics and American Indian Studies in 2017.

Career Interest: The intersection of technology and language.

Geography: Monte is from Sikol Himatk Community ("Where the Water Whirls") in Gu Achi District. There's a place outside his village where the waters come together in a muddy swirl during the monsoon.

Favorite Movie: *Goodfellas* directed by Martin Scorsese.

Leisure: Basketball at the Rec Center.

Dogs or Cats? Monte's dog is named Falkor after the "luck dragon" in *The Neverending Story*.

Family: Monte married his high school sweetheart Emalene. They have a daughter who will turn one on Christmas Eve.

Invitation to attend a Commemoration for Holocaust Remembrance Day on April 15, 2018 with Congregation Anshei Israel

Wanda Wolosky, left, spoke at TOCC on March 6, 2018 about her experiences surviving the Holocaust in the Warsaw Ghetto. April Ignacio, a TOCC alumna, posed with Mrs. Wolosky after the talk. The event was organized by Dr. Sharon Parker as part of HIS 274, the history course she is teaching this semester on the Holocaust.



Photo Credit: Martha Lee

Mrs. Wolosky extended an invitation to all to attend a commemoration for Holocaust Remembrance Day on April 15, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. with Congregation Anshei Israel. The commemoration will include a procession and ceremony lasting for an hour or so. This day will be the 75th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising, which took place on April 15, 1943. The Anshei Israel synagogue is at 5550 East Fifth Street in Tucson. Arrive well before 2:00 p.m. to secure parking.

An article published in *The Runner* on March 16, 2018 shares local reactions to Mrs. Wolosky's talk.



Keyna Garcia serves lunch to student Diana Antone.
Photo Credit: Martha Lee

A Good Deal: Healthy Meals at Main Campus Submitted by Martha Lee

TOCC started the spring semester with new vendors for its meal program. Cousins Gracie Garcia and Keyna Garcia serve up breakfast and lunch Monday through Thursday in the student lounge at Main Campus.

Students and staff who have partaken of the meal program notice lots of fresh fruits and vegetables plus cooking from scratch. Lead Food Server Gracie Garcia has experience as a professional food preparer for the Hospital Kitchen at the Indian Health Services in Sells, now known as Tohono O'odham Health Care.

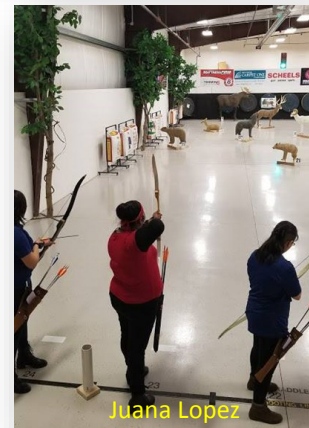
Meal tickets can be purchased from the receptionist at I-We:mta Ki:. Student meals cost \$2 for breakfast and \$3 for lunch, while employees pay \$4 for breakfast and \$5 for lunch.

Thank you to all of the students who participated in the 2018 AIHEC Conference and representing TOCC well. We are so proud of you! ♥

Knowledge Bowl Team Members: (L-R) Rodney Aguilla, Cissimarie Juan, Alita Smith and Nacho Flores.



TOCC Archery Team Competing in the 2018 AIHEC Conference.



Congratulations to Nacho Flores for placing second place in the art show!!



Coca Cola First Generation Scholar – Ashley Jose and TOCC Student of the Year – Diana Antone



Congratulations to Lance Sanchez who won second place for his Persuasive Speech!!! Photo Credit: Naomi Tom