

**Ñia, Oya G T-Taccui Am Hab E-Ju:**



## ***Tohono O'odham Kekel Ha-mascamakud S-ke:g Ha'icu A:gidag—Good News***

***Uam Maşad—"The Yellow Month"***  
April 24, 2018

### **"Songs of Life" - Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of TOCC's Founding**

***By TOCC Himdag Committee***

The April 26, 2018 "Songs of Life" event will mark the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of TOCC's founding. A series of cultural and educational events that will be scheduled throughout the calendar year and open to the public.

The "Songs of Life," event will be a tribute to the elders, community members, families, young people, students and teachers who sustain the Tohono O'odham songs, language and traditions. Over the past 20 years, many of Nation's youth have embraced traditional singing and dancing thanks to the efforts of a host of elders and mentors. Songs of Life included a day-long recognition of spring, life, renewal and continuation through traditional O'odham songs, offered by the *Wecij Hemajkam* (new generation) of singers. The college motto: "***Nia, oya g ttaccui am hab e-ju***" will be the central and ongoing theme for all events. Having youth maintain, learn and teach singing, dancing, and stories is indeed an extension of the "Our Dream Fulfilled" motto envisioned by the founders of the college.

Tohono O'odham Community College was established by the Tohono O'odham Nation's Legislative Council through Resolution 98-006, approved on January 13, 1998. TOCC's Main Campus is located on Arizona Highway 86, Milepost 125.5. For more information on this event or any information in general, call 520-383-8401.

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***S-ke:g Ha'icu A:gidag***  
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# Students Take Action to Eradicate Invasive Buffelgrass from Main Campus

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

Buffelgrass removal was part of Earth Day week at TOCC. Buffelgrass is an invasive species introduced from Africa during the 1930s as livestock forage. Rapidly became an invasive threat for Sonoran desert native species due competition and causing wildfires. Among the species most threatened by buffelgrass is the Ha:sañ (saguaro cactus), the most important plant species for the Tohono O'odham culture.



*Dr. Jim Malussa gave an introduction about the threats of buffelgrass and its correct identification.*

Students used tools kindly provided by the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. Once plants were found, students started by digging up the plants from the root, which is the best way to eliminate them. The removal team unmercifully eliminated over two hundred plants from campus, and then placed them in trash bags to avoid the dispersal of seeds.



*Many bags were filled with the nasty invasive species.*



On April 24th, TOCC students from ANR190N Wildlife Conservation and HIST122 Tohono O'odham History and Culture I classes, participated in the learning-action event led by Dr. Jim Malussa from UA's School of Natural Resources and the Environment. After his talk on the environmental threats and identification of buffelgrass, students engaged in the removal of tagged plants distributed in almost every corner of Main Campus.



*Teamwork and music helped in the removal of buffelgrass even in the most difficult areas.*

The most difficult plants were the ones with roots in-crusting in rocks and hard ground, which made them quite difficult. Fortunately, students brought rhythm by playing music that helped with better stamina to finish the job. It was a challenging but rewarding experience.

This eradication campaign will continue in the Fall and we hope that the entire TOCC community will participate. We encourage TOCC administration to join our efforts and declare a buffelgrass ban in all our campuses. Students, staff and faculty can be organized to conduct eradication campaigns.

*“Among the species most threatened by buffelgrass is the Ha:sañ (saguaro cactus), the most important plant species for the Tohono O'odham culture.”*



*Submitted by Jasmine Lopez, TOCC AISES President*


In the bottle rocket workshop children and adults assembled and designed their own bottle rocket. Glow sticks were used to add ingenuity to the rockets. Launching the bottle rockets was the final show for the event. With every event, the launches aren't always a definite success. Sometimes there are failed launches and didn't go quite as planned. Nevertheless, it is always a great learning experience and an exciting sight to see the children who were able to launch their rockets successfully throughout the night!



*AISES President Jasmine Lopez helping the attendees construct their Bottle Rockets. Picture taken by Rodney Aguilla at the Star-gazing Event. Pictures taken below of rocket launches were taken by Robert Sparks.*

AISES is an acronym for American Indian Science and Engineering Society. "AISES is a national, non-profit Native American organization focused on substantially increasing representation of American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, First Nations and other indigenous peoples of North America in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) studies and careers."

Picture taken at the University of Arizona AISES Region 3 Conference 04/14/18. From left to right AISES Vice President-Rodney Aguilla, Advisor-Kristin Eberhardt, Secretary-Alita Smith and President-Jasmine Lopez



# Attention All Students!

## Interested in joining A.I.S.E.S. T.O.C.C. Chapter?

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Travel to A.I.S.E.S. national, regional, and leadership conferences!
- Professional networking with other A.I.S.E.S. members in S.T.E.M. fields!  
(Raytheon, Google, IBM, and many more)

## Want to know more about A.I.S.E.S.?

Join us at our next meeting


Time: Tuesdays from 4 - 5 PM

Where: In Student Success Center

OR

For more information please contact:

AISES President • Jasmine Lopez [jil1@tocc.edu](mailto:jil1@tocc.edu)  
 Vice President • Rodney Aguilla [rta1@tocc.edu](mailto:rta1@tocc.edu)



This spring semester the TOCC AISES proudly represented the Tohono O'odham Community College at this year's AISES regional conference which took place at the University of Arizona. Every spring AISES chapters across different regions host a Regional Conference for those chapters in their region. The conference includes informative sessions and activities for high school and college students who are AISES members. It also gives AISES members a chance to form partnerships and network with presenters and partners who attend the conference. The conference also includes poster presentations, engineering activities and mini career fairs.

We would like to encourage all students at TOCC who are interested in joining this semester or during the Fall semester to contact one of the officers with the email provided on the flyer or join us at our next meeting for information!



# Students are Introduced to Field Desert Ecology and Their Cultural Past at The Ironwood Forest National Monument.

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

TOCC is becoming the perfect institution to offer hands on experiences and outdoor educational activities to Tohono O'odham students. During the week-end of April 20th and 21st, TOCC students participated in a field trip to the area of the Ironwood Forest National Monument (IFNM). The IFNM was proclaimed in 2000 by President Bill Clinton and its one of the best representations of Sonoran desert ecosystems and ancestral legacy of the Hohokam and Tohono O'odham cultures. Field demonstrations were sponsored by board members of Friends of Ironwood Forest (FIF), an organization dedicated to provide resources such as volunteers, expertise, public outreach, education, and advocacy on behalf of the IFNM.

On April 20th, Dr. Kelsey Yule from UA introduced students to the latest research on mistletoe ecology. She studied mistletoe evolutionary ecology as part of her Ph.D. dissertation. Later that day, Mr. William Thornton gave a talk about the ecology of Nichol's Turks Head cactus, an endangered species living close to IFNM restoration area. As part of the hands on activities, students carried out a search of wild Nichol's Turks Head cactus in the area. After this activity, geologist William Peachey introduced students to the science and natural history of Ha:sañ (Saguaro cactus) covering all the imaginable aspects of this plant, from adaptive anatomy and population dynamics to its pollination and fruit dispersal by bats.

On April 21st, Mr. Dave Barker guided students to the Cocoraque Butte Archeological District. The area contains innumerable evidence of past human presence, which is related to Hohokam and ancient Tohono O'odham settlements. The most impacting experience was the petroglyphs and the presence of bell rocks that produce a range of tones and could have been used to create music.

The two days experience for TOCC students reinforced the powerful significance of field trips, outdoor and hands on activities as part of their education. This field trip was part of the goals expressed in the MOU signed last February by Paul Robertson and Tom Hannagan, FIF board president, to provide students the opportunity to visit the area and perform educative and research activities at the Ironwood Forest.

Don't miss the opportunity and enroll in our Life Science program to enjoy this kind of experiences that will enrich your knowledge, skills, and spirit. For more information, contact Dr. Adrian Quijada ([aqujada@tocc.edu](mailto:aqujada@tocc.edu)), Dr. Teresa Newberry ([tnewberry@tocc.edu](mailto:tnewberry@tocc.edu)), and Dr. Melanie Lenart ([mlenart@tocc.edu](mailto:mlenart@tocc.edu)).



*Ragged Top, the crown jewel in the Ironwood Forest National Monument.*



*Geologist and researcher William Peachey offering his vast knowledge on the ecology of Ha:sañ.*



*Dr. Kelsey Yule introducing students to the biology of desert mistletoe, a parasitic plant of legume trees that plays a very important ecological role in the Sonoran desert.*



*Joyce Miguel and Spencer Rhodes finding Nichol's Turks Head cactus, which its an endangered and protected species in the U.S.*



*Derek Nez at the top. He believes that some of his relatives are depicted in the petroglyphs.*



*Shane Lewis reading a message from his ancestors*



## Free Tuition for the Tohono O'odham Language Course

The Tohono O'odham Community College Board of Trustees recently approved for FREE tuition for the O'odham Language Course. Beginning in the 2018 Summer and Fall sessions and thereafter, O'odham members from Tohono O'odham Nation can now enroll in the Tohono O'odham Language Course with free tuition. This offer is also extended to the Ak-Chin Indian Community, Gila River, and Salt River members.

### Painters Beautify Three Campuses

In February 2018, Painting Instructor Bernard Mandre and four painting apprentices varnished and painted picnic tables and benches at all three campuses. Now the outdoor furniture will last longer under the bright Sonoran Desert sun.



In these photos, Alex Eleando, a first-year apprentice, applies a polyurethane coating to picnic tables on Main Campus. Apprentices were invited to paint some benches their favorite colors. Nina Eleando (Alex's sister), a second-year apprentice, paints one bench bright yellow.

Aaron Coby (Schuk Toak District) and Stephanie Jose (Chukut Kuk District), both first-year apprentices, were also on the painting team.

Alex Eleando, pictured above is from South Komelik, Community in the Baboquivari District.  
Photo Credits: Martha Lee.

**Thank you, apprentices, for all your hard work!**



Nina Eleando is from Sells District.

### Sewing Course in Full Swing this Spring! Register Now for Fall 2018 Semester!

Art 230 Sewing I was offered for the first time this spring. The course will be offered again in the fall semester. Class will be held at Central Campus from 1:00-5:10 p.m. on Thursdays, taught by Elizabeth Heuisler from the University of Arizona Norton School of Family and Consumer Sciences. Look for more on the Sewing I class in a future TOCC publication!



## TOCC Early Childhood Education Community of Practice Program

A “Community of Practice” is a group of people with a shared interest or profession who interact regularly to learn from each other and from others to advance in their practice. The TOCC Early Childhood Education Community of Practice includes 52 members who reach 265 infants, toddlers, and pre-schoolers in eleven Head Start and Child Care Centers, as well as 25 children in family childcare at home.

**TOCC’s Early Childhood Education Community of Practice** has two main purposes: 1) to focus on improving the transition to kindergarten for children of the Nation and 2) to empower Early Childhood Educators (ECE) on the Nation, bringing visibility and value to the ECE profession.

Members of the ECE Community of Practice attend monthly professional development meetings, and they are invited to earn certificates or associate degrees, which will help them advance in their careers. Currently, twenty members are seeking degrees at TOCC.

**TOCC’s Early Childhood Education Community of Practice** is projected to continue through 2021. The program is funded by a “Great Expectations” grant from the United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona and First Things First. Ms. Elsa Bonilla, a professional with 17 years in Early Childhood Education, serves as Coordinator for the Community of Practice. Elsa said recently that she is delighted with how the College has accommodated the Early Childhood Educators who are pursuing their degrees.

## TOCC Students Plant Pomegranate Fruit Trees at Main Campus

*Submitted by Melanie Lenart, Ph.D.—Science & Agriculture Faculty*



*In the photo above, Jesus Garcia of the Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum demonstrates how to open a pomegranate fruit. Garcia cultivated the five heritage pomegranate trees donated to the college by the ASDM.*

The course is open to everyone, but this spring’s class benefits preschool teachers and childcare providers in particular by helping them gain the knowledge and skills to grow traditional foods. For their final project, they are developing children’s activities for featuring gardening or harvesting food.

In this case, the food will come from varieties of trees that have been growing on the Tohono O’odham Nation since at least the 1700s. The pomegranate seedlings were donated by the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, and heritage tree cultivator Jesus Garcia visited the students at TOCC’s West campus to provide some background and demonstrate how to eat a pomegranate.

Students in a TOCC agriculture course planted five heritage pomegranate trees during an activity on April 5 at the Ha-Maşcamdam Ha-Ki: on the main campus. These hardy fruit trees bear healthy, red-seeded fruit that can be eaten or juiced.

Nine of the 10 students were part of the TOCC Early Childhood Education Community of Practice. They took ANR 111N Agroecology and Tohono O’odham Crop Production together as a partial fulfillment of their general education requirements in science.

The Agroecology course is regularly taught at the college, with longtime O’odham farmer and Agriculture Extension Agent Clifford Pablo joining forces with Science and Agriculture Instructor Melanie Lenart to teach the course on both the farm and in the classroom, sometimes out on campus grounds.



*Students in the TOCC Agroecology and Tohono O’odham Crop Production course plant some pomegranate trees on the college’s main campus.*



The trees join some native mesquite trees and an ironwood in front of the Ha-Maşcamdam Ha-Ki: that were part of a course project for Water Resources (ANR 186N). The trees receive water from an irrigation system set up by the Building Construction Trades plumbing students and Clifford Pablo and his agriculture interns, and also from water draining from the roof as part of a water harvesting feature.

*The pomegranate seedlings were planted along some native trees that were planted by TOCC Water Resources students as part of a water harvesting project. The landscape is designed to trap rain water to supplement the irrigation water the seedlings receive.*





## Iris Francisco, Academic Advisor



*Photo Credit: TOCC Facebook Page*

Meet Iris Francisco your new Academic Advisor, the newest member of the TOCC family, TOCC alumni and a member of the Tohono O'odham Nation.

Iris will help you develop skills that support your progress at TOCC by providing you with a central place to access information. She can help you create an education plan that will meet your degree requirements, assist you in maintaining your academic progress and assist you in successfully transferring your credits to other institutions. Iris can be reached at (520) 383-8401 or via email [ifrancisco@tocc.edu](mailto:ifrancisco@tocc.edu).



## Farewell Appreciation to Employees

It was with mixed feelings to say farewell to two employees recently. There were feelings of sadness to see them go, and yet happiness to see them extending their career boundaries. It has definitely been our loss and someone else's gain.



**Elaine Cubbins** was the "Founding Librarian", she had a very friendly personality. She was held in high regard by her colleagues. Her contributions have been a great benefit to the Tohono O'odham Community College and, undeniably, she is deeply missed here.



**Annabah Conn** was the Director of Institutional Effectiveness at TOCC. She now works with Diné College.

## Employment Opportunities April 16, 2018 – April 20, 2018

Tohono O'odham Community College is an accredited two-year tribal college and was established in 1998. Our job listing, job descriptions, and applications can be obtained at TOCC or by calling (520) 383-8401, they can also be found on our website: [www.tocc.edu](http://www.tocc.edu). Adjunct instructors are eligible for mileage reimbursement to/from Tucson and the College.

JOB TITLE	SALARY
Academic Dean	\$65,000 - \$74,000 annual (DOE)
Adjunct Instructor—Carpentry	\$710 per credit hour + Mileage
Adjunct Instructor - Plumbing	\$710 per credit hour + Mileage
Culinary Arts Instructor	\$51,000 (DOE)
Head Women's Coach	\$32,000 - \$42,000 annual (DOE)
Librarian	\$49,618 annual
Senior Systems Technician	\$39,834 annual

*"TOCC is an equal opportunity provider and employer."*





# ART SHOW

May 2, 2018  
2:00-4:00

Dylan Porter



Ju:ki Patricio

TOCC Main Campus  
Gewkdag Son Ki:  
Building

SNACKS!!!!!!



## Tohono O'odham Community College SUMMER SCHOOL

### HIS 125: Tohono O'odham History & Culture II

This course will be offered during  
Summer Session II: July 5-August 7  
Mon-Thur | 2:00-4:00pm | Main Campus

Instructor: Jacelle Ramon-Sauberan  
Email: jramon-sauberan@tocc.edu



This course is a survey of Tohono O'odham historical, culture, and contemporary issues after 1980. Includes how European contact forever changed the land, lives, and culture of the Tohono O'odham people. Sources of Tohono O'odham history will be analyzed in terms of social, political, and economic development of Northwestern Mexico and Southwestern United States.

## End of the Semester Shoot-Out

Open to the Public

When: April 30, 2018— May 3, 2018

Where: TOCC Main Campus Shooting Range

\$5 (6 arrows per target)

### CASH PRIZE

1st Prize: \$40

2nd Prize: \$30

3rd Prize: \$10



A sign up sheet will be in the front office for available times to shoot. For further questions please contact president, Shane Lewis (swl1@tocc.edu) or vice president, Jasmine Lopez (jll1@tocc.edu) or the treasurer, Juana Lopez (jvl1@tocc.edu)

## 2ND ANNUAL WAILA CELEBRATION

FRIDAY, MAY 18 | 5PM-10PM  
SATURDAY, MAY 19 | 4PM-10PM  
FREE ADMISSION

TOHONO O'ODHAM  
MUSIC, FOOD, ARTS & CRAFTS

Desert Diamond Casino Sahuarita Plaza  
1100 W. Pima Mine Road



## ECE Classes

If you enjoy working with young children (0-8 years) and would like to work in a learning environment such as Head Start or day care centers, the Early Childhood Education program could be a match for you. TOCC offers an Associate of Arts (AA), and an Associate of Applied Science (AAS). Choose the AA if you are interested in transferring to a university to complete a 4 year degree in Early Childhood Education. Choose the AAS in Early Childhood Education if you wish to go directly into the childhood education field, or work in the field while you are attending college.



### ECE Classes

Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education (AASEC) Associate of Arts in Early Childhood Education (AAECE)

### AASECE

TOCC's Associate of Applied Science ECE degree is designed for students who wish to go directly into the childhood education field, or work in the field while attending college.

### AAECE

TOCC's Associate of Arts ECE degree is designed for students who plan to transfer to a university to complete a 4-year degree program

