

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
BRENT TOADLENA



CERTIFICATE PROGRAM
2ND SEMESTER UPDATES



NCAP FIRST FRIDAYS
SEWING FOR BLESSINGS

NAVAJO CULTURAL ARTS PROGRAM



Hands on Study of Navajo Cultural Arts Business Systems

The NCAPers spent the first 8 weeks of the Spring Semester traveling throughout the Navajo Nation and beyond to gain first hand accounts of the distinct business systems that exist by way of and for the purpose of the cultural art. As part of their core course: NIS185 Navajo Cultural Arts Business Systems, their first stop was at the NCAP sponsored Shoe Game led by Kevin Belin in Tsaile where they learned about the Shoe Game as a metaphor for the various types of exchange that take place in life today, including ceremonial trade. Other topics of the class include Chaco Canyon (Precontact trade), Museum of Northern Arizona (European Exchange), Hubbell Trading Post (Trading Post Era), and the Heard Museum’s Indian Market (Capitalist Commerce).

While not all students wish to pursue the cultural arts as a means for economic self sufficiency, knowing how, where, and why to acquire, trade, or sell cultural arts is a useful tool. For the NCAP staff, the trip to the Heard Museum is significant because the Emerging Artisans witness not only how sale transactions, gallery purchasing, and juried competition take place off the reservation but they also have the chance to meet up with NCAP workshop leaders, instructors, and alumni who have booths at the market. All of a sudden, this overwhelming marketplace becomes a quaint arena filled with people from home. It is a realization that (1) they know some prolific artists; (2) they have worked side by side with Heard Museum Best of Show winners; and (3) if this is their goal, it is not impossible. They too can earn a spot in this prestigious Art Market.

NIS185 will be taught Summer Session II and will be open to all Diné College Students

Alumni Spotlight



Brent Toadlena, 2017-19 Alumni
 (Naashgalí Dine'é, Áshijíhí, Tó'aheedlínii, Dzilt'áád Dine'é)

Brent, a well-known regional moccasin maker, emphasized in basketry, silversmithing, and moccasin making during his NCAP studies from 2017-19. Both his Fine Arts and Cultural Arts pieces have received several accolades since his time at IALA. Most recently, Brent took home 2nd place in basketry for his water jug at the 2018 Navajo Nation Fair's Art Show. We asked Brent to fill

us in on his endeavors following his NCAP experience. For a full interview, visit our Radio Series page on the NCAP website.

What does being part of the NCAP family mean to you?

I am an artist so when the opportunity to join the NCAP was made available, I knew immediately that I wanted to be part of it. I even left my chosen profession as a Counselor to pursue studies with the NCAP. The program made it possible for me to collaborate with other emerging Navajo artists. I was able to interact with them by sharing ideas and cultural knowledge. The program has helped me explore and establish my identity as a Navajo artist. It has validated the prior knowledge I inherited from my elders and has allowed me to grow with those teachings.

Where have the cultural arts taken you since graduation?

Since graduation in 2018, NCAP has opened doors to new opportunities and resources. I was accepted into a program called Native American Business Incubator Network (NABIN). That has helped me launch my business, **Ashkii Bida' Moccasins and Art**, which I now run full time. And even though I am an alumni, the NCAP continues to provide venues for me to share my knowledge, sell my work and get my name out into the public.



What up and coming projects, events, or activities do you have scheduled?

I will continue to provide moccasins for people through my business. I am working on fostering it with a good reputation. In addition to selling, there are opportunities all around. I recently applied for an Artist Residency with the School of Advanced Research. I am hopeful that an acceptance notification is forthcoming. I also want to gain more experience in art shows and pursuing opportunities to sell my work in those arenas. In the meantime, I will continue to put myself out there to expand my audience and develop relationships with like-minded people. I have only just tapped the surface.

NCAP's First Fridays at DC Libraries



Crownpoint Library



Shiprock Library



Tsaile Library

Every first Friday of the month, the NCAP hosts a workshop at one of the DC's three libraries. There, Andrea Sekayumtewa and Debbie Teller-Tsosie have been sharing their knowledge of sewing to the community. Andrea explains: "Sewing brings you *yódí altaas' éi* (materialistic goods, blessings & becomes a teaching). Sewing brings forth *Nitsahakees* - thinking about what you about to create; *nahatá*- planning about what designs & colors to formulate together; *iiná* - doing work & being creative with your hands in a positive way; *siihasin* - reflecting back upon your creation gives you that good/ positive motivation to do & learn more." The next workshop is scheduled for the Crownpoint Library in April.

Updates to the NCAP Website

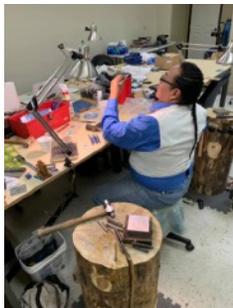
This Spring, the NCAP welcomed intern, Kimberly Jake, a junior in the Business Administration BA Program, to the team. Kim has been designing the **Video Resource** page for the NCAP website: www.navajoculturalartsprogram.org. The purpose of this page is to bring together other audio visual resources that compliment our NCAP mission of intergenerational transfer of cultural arts knowledge and skills. On this page, you will find older ethnographic clips as well as videos that present technical teachings coupled with Diné philosophical explanations. Overall, it's a great point of reference resource for our artisans, participants, and anyone who is interested in the Navajo cultural arts.

Apprenticeship Happenings



NCAP offers paid apprenticeships for individuals who successfully complete the Diné College's Navajo Cultural Arts Certificate (NCAC) Program. NCAC recipients are paired with a Master Artisan to improve their cultural arts knowledge and skills through a traditional apprenticeship. Past apprentices include Sam Slater, Jerome Nez, Delia Wauneka, Carlon Ami II, and Sue V. Begay. They have had the opportunity to work one on one with Master Artisans like Tahnibaa Naataanii, Teddy Draper Jr., Wilson Aronilth Jr., and the late Martha Jackson.

This year Ephraim Anderson (Silversmith) is working with Lyndon Tsosie (Silversmith) as part of his Spring 2019 Apprenticeship. Lyndon is the owner of the House of Stamps in Gallup, NM and the 2018 Best of Show Winner at the Heard Indian Market. Ephraim, also known as Zefren, is a 2017-18 NCAC Alumni, who emphasized in weaving and silversmithing. During the Fall, Zefren's weaving took home the Best of Show Ribbon at the Navajo Nation Fair. Did we mention that not only is Zefren freshly back from the Heard Museum's Indian Market, but he his also the 2019 Best of Show Winner!



The 2018 and 2019 Best of Show Winners are working together this Spring to tackle some of Zefren's silversmithing goals as he explains: "My goals are to work on my form and design with an emphasis on reposee and stamping techniques with casted silver ingots. So far, I have learned how to form organic designs, blending hollow form, tufa cast and hammer work. It's really easy to do the casting. What takes a long time is hammering smooth like it was filed. I have also learned about ways to prevent fire scale and how to use different torches and crucibles".

The next application period for the Apprenticeship Program opens March 25th!

Remembering Martha Jackson

1933-2019



This past January, the NCAP said goodbye to an amazing silversmith. The NCAP worked with Mrs. Jackson since the beginning of the program. She guided NCAP students through selling practices and business plan protocols. We were even fortunate to have her lead a silversmithing workshop on shadow box jewelry, a style she was world renowned for.

Ahe'hee, Martha!

NCAP Work - AIHEC Bound

This year's American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) meeting is being held in Billings, Montana. The NCAP Project Coordinator, Crystal Littleben, has taken on role of the AIHEC Art Exhibit Coordinator for Diné College. This year is the first year that NCAP Emerging Artisans are submitting art work to the student competition and we cannot wait to see the results. Best of luck, Brandon Dinae ('18-19), Debbie Teller-Tsosie ('18-19), Delia Wauneka ('15-16), Tamerra Martin ('18-19), and Bryan Roessel ('18-19)! Here is a preview of their work in progress:

Tamerra Martin



Bryan Roessel



Delia Wauneka



Brandon Dinae



Debbie Teller-Tsosie



NCAC 5th Cohort Recruitment

Are you interested in joining the NCAP family or do you know of someone who would like to learn more about the Navajo cultural arts through holistic programing? Visit our NCAP office, website, or recruitment booth! This 24 credit hour certificate program includes hands on and philosophical introductions to the Navajo cultural arts. We welcome all experience levels from Novice to Master Artisan. The majority of the classes are in the evening or on the weekends (S/U) so educators are also encouraged to apply. This is a unique grant funded program that will change how you look at the cultural arts. Applications will be available on the [NCAP website](#) starting March 25, 2019!

Fall 2019		Spring 2020	
Core Classes		Core Classes	
NIS129 NCA Selling Practices	U	NIS134 NCA Philosophy	U
NIS132 NCA Materials and Resources	U	NIS185 NCA Business Systems	U
NIS197 NCA Practicum I	M	NIS198 NCA Practicum II	M
Emphasis Classes (Select I)		Emphasis Classes (Select I)	
NIS103 Navajo Basketry I	S	NIS203 Navajo Basketry II	S
NIS105 Navajo Weaving I	W	NIS205 Navajo Weaving II	W
NIS107 Navajo Moccasin Making I	S	NIS207 Navajo Moccasin Making II	S
NIS108 Navajo Silversmithing I	M	NIS208 Navajo Silversmithing II	M

Upcoming Events

3/25	NCAC Application Period Opens	navajoculturalartsprogram.org
3/25	NCAP Apprenticeship Period Opens	navajoculturalartsprogram.org
4/5	NCAP First Fridays: Ribbon Pillow Cases	Diné College Crownpoint Library
4/15-19	Navajo Cultural Arts Week	NHC Museum
5/3	NCAP First Fridays: Blue Bird Aprons	Diné College Shiprock Library
5/10	NCAP 4th Cohort Graduation	Diné College Tsaile Campus