

# THE INDIAN LEADER

HASKELL INDIAN NATIONS UNIVERSITY

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VPUS Tonia Salvini addressing students. *Photo by Zachary Arquette*

## HINU Pandemic

### Response

### Summary

Jared Nally

March 12 — Haskell Indian Nations University students received their first of many directives from the university regarding their COVID-19 pandemic response. This email set into motion many questions and further university policies to act on the changing climate of the pandemic.

The email extended spring break an additional week providing the University time to create the infrastructure to continue courses through distance learning. This email originally intended to have student safety re-evaluated after several weeks, potentially resuming on-campus classes — this was later replaced with the message that distance learning would continue the remainder of the semester, that the summer semester would be online, and that fall semester

may potentially be held on campus.

Further information was given through the Vice President of Student Services who addressed students who were on campus for spring break directly. In her addresses, Salvini presented a message of student safety as a priority. Salvini wanted students to know that actions were informed through a continued partnership with the Douglas County Emergency Response Team. This information provided a safety-window for student travel that later public statements identified as of March 17, where until then, students could return to campus to get their belongings. This safety-window was coupled with a strong message that students who were home during spring break should remain at home, and that students should work with the university to create exit plans. These exit plans were created to make sure students had a safe environment to return to and to collect student's financial and personal needs for HINU to assist in the student's return. It is the

Indian Leader's current impression that HINU has been the only university to offer financial assistance in securing plane tickets, bus fares, lodging, and gas cards, among other travel aid for students. Salvini said, "The University is assisting financially with all the arrangements on all transpiration."

During this time, Danielle McKinney, who was coordinating transportation arrangements, had collected roughly 30 requests for aid at that time — 9 flights and 21 ground transportation. That number quickly rose after the 3 o'clock mandatory student meeting later that day. Additional funds were given by the Haskell Foundation and Student Government voted to donate their remaining \$20,000 in student funds to help. HINU has not made itself available to comment on how student money was used, and how many students received travel aid. Students were able to request travel aid up-until Monday, March 16th.

Student "housekeeping" questions

were addressed. Students' belongings left on campus would be packed and recorded. Any illegal items would be turned over to authorities, and there would be no student write-ups with the exception of possession of weapons. Packed belongings would only be shipped to students graduating this semester and not returning in the fall.

Students were also instructed to update addresses and file electronic fund transfer requests with the student bank to assist with financial aid and student work payments. Students were also directed to update forwarding addresses with the post office and direct any additional questions to HINU's new information line phone number, 785-830-2770, and email, [infoline@haskell.edu](mailto:infoline@haskell.edu)

*(Continued on page 2.)*

## Jude Thin Elk

Jamie Colvin

The news of our very own hits tremendously for Haskell Indian Nations University's community, but directions towards healing and rejoicing need to be lionized. On March 16th, 2020 the HINU campus experienced and received word of what no one wishes to hear, our beloved relative and Haskell student Jude Thin Elk suddenly passed away on campus.

The catastrophe created an uproar and sadness sweeping through the

HINU community with this devastating news. We can remember and never forget this time of sorrow but may bask in the wonderful memories of getting to know this young man.

As we know him, Jude was here at HINU to pursue his education. When being accepted into this university you are not only becoming a student, you are becoming part of the Haskell family. This cohort of a family will always have a place for every HINU student on their journey. Jude's determination towards self-growth and gaining knowledge as a student is not

now and never will be overlooked. The Haskell family is proud to say he was here to better himself while proceeding on his educational path.

Jude also made friendships along the way. Many saw him as a person always smiling and laughing. Current student Trey Jimboy says Jude was someone he could always talk to and about anything. They met when Jimboy's roommate brought Jude over, uniting them together.

Jimboy goes on to explain his memories and best moments with Jude; one

memory of Jimboy, his roommate and Jude just having good time together, enjoying each other's company while walking towards Curtis Hall. These memories that were shared with this beautiful soul will not be forgotten. Jimboy says "I just hope that other people got to see Jude for who he was before passing," and he wishes for everyone to remember, "that he was just a kind, relaxed person who always seemed to be laughing or smiling and not letting things get to him."

May Jude forever be rejoiced.

## When Home Isn't "Home"

Jared Nally

Haskell Indian Nations University recently came under fire after releasing a statement documenting an on-campus student's self-reported positive test result for COVID-19. The public wanted to know why these students weren't "home" when weeks earlier HINU provided both financial and personal support to get students back to their families. This also comes during Kansas' mandated stay-at-home orders. So what does "home" mean for these students, and why aren't they with their families?

First, to contextualize HINU's mes-

sage, during the travel safety window students were required to create travel safety plans. Tonia Salvini, Vice President of University Services, told students that if going home wasn't an option that they should write that on their travel plans. HINU administration did not make themselves available to comment on how many students remained on campus, but the Indian Leader estimates that number to be less than 10% of enrolled students.

HINU's pandemic policies humanized its students in creating a process that was meaningful to the safety of each student, and for some, it wasn't being sent away. One student, 69 years old and in the vulnerable category for COVID-19 said, "Haskell is a good place to be right

now." HINU is also home for others during this time for various reasons.

Though each of these students has their own personal reasons for remaining on campus, the public should understand that many break the mold of teenage college students who have families to return to. For some students, being evicted would mean being homeless, the Haskell community is the only family for some. And in others, their families may be toxic, containing abusive relationships and dangerous situations involving drugs and other safety risks. Student safety considerations don't just surround COVID-19.

For others, there were health concerns, either being immune-compro-

mised or having a family member who is and travel exacerbating the potential of infection or return to hotspots. Health safety is also a concern for those coming from non-reservation communities. Without access to Indian Health Services, they would not have access to healthcare for existing health conditions or assistance in the event of a COVID-19 infection.

The COVID-19 pandemic is exposing all types of privilege. While students remaining on campus have great gratitude to HINU and it's faculty for allowing them to stay when many universities evicted all of their students, community members should realize there is a privilege in having a safe alternative to return to other than HINU.

*(Continued from cover page.)*

However, students were not evicted from the campus as many institutions had done. HINU noted that there would be a population of students on campus who had to make an informed decision on their safety and situation. Exit plans were a strategy to prioritize student safety, reduce the on-campus population, and reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19.

Additional isolation policies were put into place for students remain-

ing on campus. Campus facilities adapted to the challenge of self-isolation. Students were moved to single occupancy rooms in two dorms, Winona and Blalock, and a one-in-one-out rule went into effect for picking up to-go meals from Curtis. Students were also required to sign an updated housing contract and sign medical releases in the event students are tested for COVID-19.

Throughout these policies, HINU has been criticized for its ability to communicate. Instructor Freda

Gipp addressed her concerns to the administration, "We have students out in Indian Country hearing from their friends when they should be hearing from you all". Faculty was blindsided by questions from students and parents after students on campus shared information from a dorm hall meeting over social media. This information was not shared with the faculty and did not go out through public statements. Off-campus students shared their own frustrations. One student commented on social media that the campus should

"communicate with all students rather than relying on word of mouth."

Acting university President Jim Rains, Ph.D. explained that the Bureau of Indian Education needed to approve of any documents before they are made public and said, "You can expect the information not to come out as quickly as you would like." Public documents HINU released are available following this article on [www.theindianleader.com](http://www.theindianleader.com).

## 2020 Census

Jared Nally

Many students have been displaced as a result of universities closing their campuses in efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19. This is all taking place right as the US Census Bureau is completing the 2020 census. It is important for students to know how they will be counted and what impact being counted has on their community.

The US Census Bureau wants Americans to know that though many lives have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important that everyone complete the census and understand their residence criteria. College students living off-campus should complete the census for their off-campus living arrangements. These students may fill out the census online at <https://2020census.gov>.

Students who live in student housing and living on campus on Census Day are counted with college/university student housing. However, due to the effects of COVID-19 shutting down campuses, the US Census Bureau has issued a statement that college students will still be counted as living on campus even if they were home on April 1st.

Parents of students filling out their own census should not include their children if they were living on a college campus. On-campus students do not need to complete a census; HINU will complete the census on the student's behalf as part of the Group Quarters Enumeration operation with the US Census Bureau.

It's important for census data to be reported accurately because census information affects community federal funding. It's vital that students are counted in the communities they are going to school in because they provide funding for roads, public transit, and health clinics according to the US Census Bureau. It is im-

portant then to make sure that HINU has updated contact information for students, so students may be contacted in case additional information is required to complete the census.

While HINU has not indicated their methodology for completing the census for students. There are two likely methods according to the US Census Bureau—a student housing representative will “complete one form listing all students, compiled using data from administrative records. The representative has the option to complete a version of this form online using a secure portal, or to have a census taker pick up a paper version” or the representative may “give each student a questionnaire and collect them after they are completed. Then, the census taker will return to pick them up from the representative.” HINU and off-campus students have until August 14th to complete the census.

## The Haskell Glow-Up Coalition

Marklin Morales

The Experience of attending Haskell Indian Nations University (HINU) is comparable to no other. There are many factors that go into this experience. The unique academic, and social atmosphere make up a good portion, but there is also a great deal to be said about the surroundings.

The HINU campus, established in 1884, is rich in culture containing architecture designated as U.S. Historic National Landmarks. The experience one gains from being amongst these 12 nationally recognized buildings as well as the approximately 640 acres of land they occupy — including the HINU wetlands recognized as a National Natural Landmark — play just as important a role than any other in the overall experience.

This overall HINU experience, however, can be downgraded when the campus starts to show signs of wear

and tear. Aging and maintenance are, of course, a factor for any campus and is managed wonderfully by HINU facilities. Unfortunately, there is only so much facilities can do amid their various duties to this magnificently active campus.

That is where the Haskell Glow-Up Coalition steps in. This organization, initiated by HINU instructor Tyler Kimbrell, aims to keep the overall HINU experience up to par by involving, who better than, HINU students and staff who utilize the campus day to day. The brilliance of this concept is the ability to respond to the observations of students and staff who might see the need for campus improvements that facilities might not due to their busy schedules.

The starting agenda for the Glow-Up Coalition has been based on staff and student run cleanup activities. One such recent cleanup activity has been in response to the naturally occurring fallen branches from the many robust trees throughout campus that signify HINU's extensive history. It was important that this clean up be done while the winter weather was still active so that the new foliage could properly grow. Other activity goals in response to HINU's prolific history have been to touch up, or glow up, the campus by maintaining building appearances, adding a community tree swing, and helping repaint structures in need.

Still in its infancy, the Haskell Glow-Up Coalition is a HINU community-based organization taking initiative to create and fulfill goals for the enrichment of campus life. The ideas being generated can only enhance our time together at HINU because this coalition is in essence by the students for the students. The possibilities are limitless when our knowledge is shared to build a better experience for the next generation to enjoy which is an integral part of Native tradition.



Glow-Up Coalition poses for picture. Photo by Marklin Morales

## Decolonizing Our Reaction to COVID-19

Kayla Bointy

This is a letter to my Haskell People and my people across Indian Country. Those who know the tight knit community Haskell Indian Nations University is made of, who have called 155 Indian Avenue home, we truly are a family. Some refer to Haskell as “The Rez” with affection, for others it is a safe haven.

Many of you feel we are in a current state of survival. Perhaps we are, perhaps we have always been. But perhaps this is a return to the Indigenous Community as it was intended to be, those pre-contact social structures that worked so well for Indigenous Peoples.

For example, in Plain’s Culture a tribe survived and flourished by all members taking care of one another; from taking care of the children to tending

to the elderly, making sure everyone was fed, and working together, the responsibility was shared by the collective. Each person or group had their task, yet it all went towards the benefit of the people. Each person had a purpose and value to the whole.

Applying that ideology into our situation now, the housing staff are doing more than their part in ensuring the safety of the students: those who are staying, those who are returning, and those who are moving. The elderly staff members are being protected. The HINU Administration is working to try and protect everyone.

Decolonizing our reaction to COVID-19 means we are choosing how to react to the present situation. HINU’s Administration recognized and took the danger seriously, then acted. As staff and students do the same, rather than spreading panic and fear, let’s educate ourselves and instill positivity.

## Lifting Spirits through Virtual Powwows

Jamie Colvin

Even though we may be miles apart, we are closer than ever. With the touch of our fingertips, people from around the world have access to interact and lately have been doing so even more. With the newest pandemic, COVID-19, stay-at-home orders and social distancing have been recommended from our cities, states, and countries to take action.

However, this has not stopped Indigenous peoples from Turtle Island from coming together. With the wonders of the 21st century, technology and social media, we have been doing that and more.

Indian country is filled with the love of tradition, customs, art, song, and dance. These things and much more are being showcased on the world wide web through the new Facebook group the Social Distance Powwow. This group was established on March 17, 2020 and is currently overflowing with more than 140,000 members and counting. Vogue says “...this healing act is more important than ever...” this group is celebrating and spreading positivity. The people are not falling into a path of sadness or worry but the opposite, being strong and resilient through these distant times.

This group is intended as an online powwow for dancers to share their footwork, artists to show their skills, singers to bust out their best leads and most of all healing for the people. The interactive Social Distance Powwow has accomplished much

Look out for one another: if you see someone without then share. The recent panic buying of supplies exemplifies the selfishness of the modern population. We do not behave in such a way traditionally; reciprocity, generosity and humility are statutes of Native societies. Act with the community in mind. Try not exposing yourself to potential danger thus endangering others.

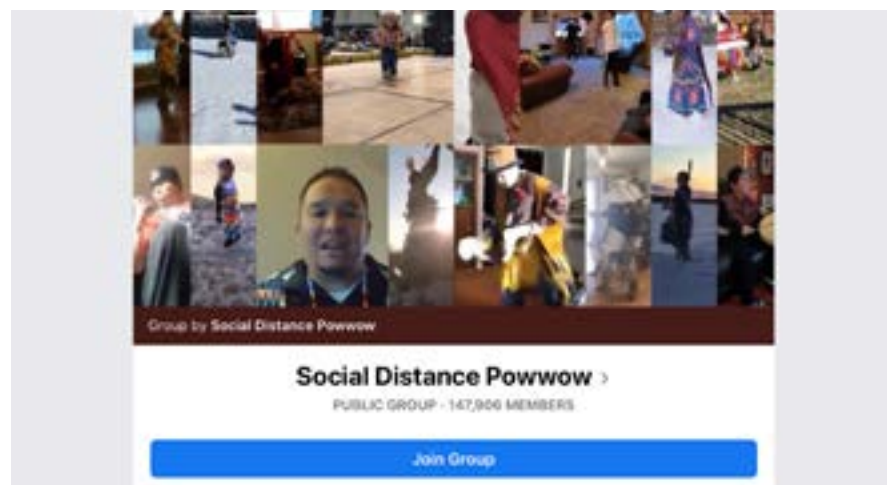
Remaining respectful: despite heightened tensions, there is no reason to treat each other less than you would normally. In times such as this we should treat each other with more compassion. We are still human beings, do not allow fear to control your behavior.

Stay connected: despite social distancing, we can still build and strengthen our community. The live singing and dancing videos being shared on social media are making us all feel connected to one another which boosts morale. Check in on one another. Talk — if someone is scared try to reassure them.

Let’s take this time to exercise and learn from our cultures, like taking time to craft. Teach or learn to bead or sew, celebrating our traditional ecological knowledge (TEK).

Make use of traditional medicines like, cedar teas & elder berries as well as the different uses for bear root, or liquorice root. Perhaps just drinking Navajo tea or ceyaka brings you comfort. Learning the how to, yet also knowing the cultural significance as well as how these affect your health are all important.

Despite Social Distancing we are still standing strong together. At a personal level, keeping yourself centered is important; if smudging is your go to, do that. Whatever it is to keep your peace and remain calm. Doing so will help keep others calm. Remember, we are the descendants of ancestors who survived generations of genocide and disease. We are strong. We are Haskell Strong.



in less than a month — dancing and singing specials being sponsored to t-shirts being made in commemoration of this joyous unity.

Navajo Times mentioned “its growth has been exponential, in a good way!” and the group mentions that this is a space for all to showcase

themselves and their talents gifted to each other. May this be an inspiration to keep our heads high and stay Indigenous strong for this distance physically keeping us apart from each other; it will never keep our spirits apart.

## Erdrich Visits Haskell

Hayley Wells

March 11 — There was a reason for Haskell Indian Nations University students to stay in Lawrence over spring break. Lawrence welcomed acclaimed Ojibwe author Louise Erdrich.

Erdrich graced HINU's Auditorium stage with a reading of her latest novel, *The Night Watchman*, which is based on her grandfather and his fight against Native dispossession. This incredible event was made possible through the collaboration of HINU, the Raven Bookstore, and Lawrence Public Library.

Erdrich has published over two dozen books, many of which are best-sellers and award winners. In 2015, Erdrich was awarded the Lifetime

Achievement Award for the Writing of Fiction by the Library of Congress to honor her work. In addition to writing, she promotes learning and tradition at her bookstore, Birchbark Books, in Minnesota.

Erdrich's work is particularly impactful for HINU students, as she often writes based on personal experiences. As an author of poetry, short stories, and novels, she has brought life and attention to Native American literature throughout her career. From poetry, children's stories, or complex novels, there is something for every reader in Erdrich's canon.

Elementary education majors may be interested in her Birchbark House books in particular. This series of children's chapter books focus on an Ojibwe family and their experiences during the chaos of the 1800s. Fans of dystopian fiction should try *Future*



Louise Erdrich reading to an audience of 450. Photo by Tyson Logg

*Home of the Living God*, the story of an Ojibwe woman amid the chaos of a destroyed Earth. Readers of Erdrich's adult work should be aware; she does

not shy away from difficult topics; Her 2012 National Book Award winner, *The Round House*, centers around the sexual assault of an Ojibwe woman.

## Shining Elk Productions Presents its Virtual talking Circle to Haskell Students Amid Isolation

Mark Morales

During these times amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the only certain thing we've had is uncertainty. Uncertainty of this virus and the endless influx of changing news reveals how much we rely on stability. From this uncertainty grows a need for something to remain constant and this need has been answered over the airwaves in the form of broadcasts through telecommunication platforms like Zoom or Skype.

Up until this pandemic, these platforms were mainly used for business meetings or webinars but during this

time of isolation and quarantine, these platforms are being used as the main delivery method of entertainment and virtual community gatherings.

One such virtual gathering occurs at Haskell every Thursday evening from 9 to 11pm in the form of a talking circle that is providing much-needed consistency to our campus and its surrounding community. The Shining Elk Productions Virtual Talking Circle is the brainchild of Haskell Alumni Patricia Pena. Patricia says, "I came up with this idea to collaborate with artists mostly from the entertainment industry".

The Virtual Talking Circle is a mixture of Native American artists stemming from coastal based entertainment industries made possible by Pena's connections made during her years as a press credential holder at the Sundance Film Festival. Pena, along with DeLanna Studi (niece of actor Wes Studi) and Michelle Shining Elk bring together native enter-

tainers such as Kalini Queypo, Princess Lucaj, and Sheri Foster Blake (who's extensive film credentials must be looked up due to the brevity of this article) for weekly conversations that are known to reach well beyond film industry discussions.

Pena notes that "When people have good intentions, others can feel and see it and that makes everything come together. Each week I ask an interesting person via Facebook Messenger and they are always up for the idea of people helping people".

Past guests have included Valente Rodriguez of the George Lopez show; Tiffany Smith, Anoa'I Executive Vice President of Global Inclusion at CBS; and many other contributors in Native film and entertainment. Another contributor is Theda Newbreast of the Blackfeet nation who leads the syndication in prayer before every discussion.

The final product is a collabora-

tion made available to Haskell students via staff Tonia Salvini and Lori Hasselman as well as students Joseph Sing and myself. However, this collaboration is not limited to people interested in the entertainment industry. As Pena puts it, "Thursday is a collaboration of Native people who make themselves available because we all care about our tribal communities". For Native people, community has been a constant throughout history, leaving the doors open to all like-minded supporters of community-based projects. Bringing our community together through projects such as the Shining Elk Productions Virtual Talking Circle shows that during these times of uncertainty, some things will remain certain and one of them is the Native ability to consistently create ways to keep each other strong through communication.

## Indigenizing Face Masks

Jamie Colvin

When there is a will, there is a way. Multiple orders from across the U.S. have instructed individuals to wear face masks in conjunction with taking precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. In some cases, these orders will be followed through with penalties when not in compliance.

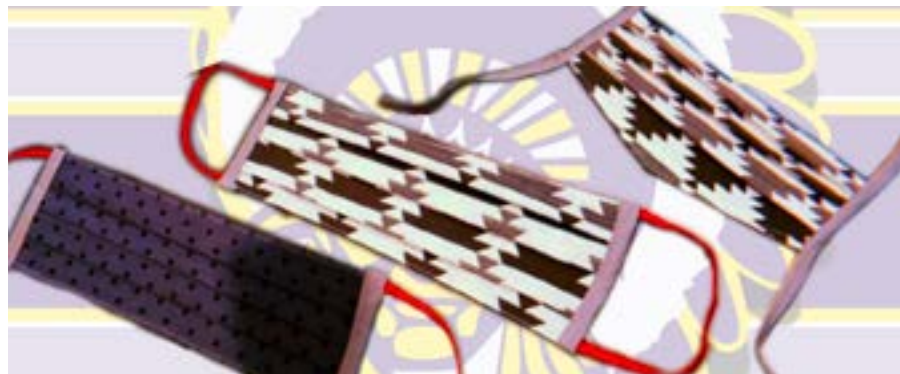
The city of Los Angeles has done just that with consideration of protecting its people. The Los Angeles Times mentions multiple scenarios when a fine or penalty would be engaged. For example, if a business will not provide or reimburse their employees for purchasing their own personal protective equipment, it would result in a fine or further, not complying with the order could result in a misdemeanor.

The city of Laredo is just a little over 150 miles south from San An-

tonio, Texas and sits on the Mexico border. Time says, “The penalty for violating the order is a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine up to \$1,000.” This fine is for residents of Laredo who do not wear a face mask when going out into public or public buildings including transportation and pumping gas.

This brings an opportunity for the Indigenous community to use their creativity and include their style. Many have been gathering materials to follow these orders around the U.S. even if they are non-medical masks. Haskell student Kayla Bointy mentioned how she would utilize her Kookum scarves for going out in public. They bring a symbolic indigenized look. Indigenous people are having to find their balance in this modern world — let alone during this time — we strive to keep these traditions and customs alive.

Indigenous artists' creativity may come from within and demonstrates



Face masks made by Kayla Bointy. Photo by Kayla Bointy.

a sense of identity as indigenous people, maintaining our cultural identity of who we are as indigenous people, especially through the current pandemic. Haskell student Jared Nally expresses his views on indigenous artists' take on the face masks pieces that he has seen. Nally says, “I feel like seeing beaded masks on social media for me shows that great events we experience together, like COVID-19 pandemic, does not mean Indigenous erasure. These are symbols for me of Native Identity being present, resilient,

and crafting our own experiences.”

Bointy comments on how there was a need to sew her own masks because of the necessity and gave her own preferred flair to her masks. She says, “Other native people who are beading and using Pendleton to make masks I think is awesome! It just shows the beauty and resilience of our people. It shows we can always adapt and make something ours.”

## April Horoscopes

Joe Singh

### Aquarius

(Jan 20 - Feb 18)

Make a homemade meal and take a bath. Doing the small and simple things will keep you grounded and content.

### Pisces

(Feb 19 - Mar 20)

Life is happening in waves. Balance and perseverance are key. Great tasks await with greater rewards to follow.

### Aries

(Mar 21 - Apr 19)

It is alright to let relationships go that don't serve you. This your life. Choose peace and happiness.

### Taurus

(Apr 20 - May 20)

It seems the work is never done, but one day it will be. Do not give up or let up. So many are cheering you from the sidelines.

### Gemini

(May 21 - June 20)

Adventure awaits! Go big or go home. Make your dreams come true and test yourself. You can do it!

### Cancer

(June 21 - July 22)

A relationship is blossoming. Use this experience to grow and learn more about yourself. You deserve it.

### Leo

(July 23 - Aug 22)

Your intensity could be intimidating to some, don't let this stop you.

Blaze trails and lead the way, no matter what anyone says.

### Virgo

(Aug 23 - Sept 22)

We all know you don't believe in horoscopes, but the universe smiles upon you. Open your heart and be less critical of others. You are some of our greatest leaders if you don't get in your own way.

### Libra

(Sept 23 - Oct 22)

Life may seem difficult right now, and it is. Growth hurts, but it is necessary to become stronger. Don't be afraid to ask for help.

### Scorpio

(Oct 23 - Nov 21)

Enjoy the comfort of your life. The tests and trials to the next level are

on their way. Have no fear and look forward to new challenges and opportunities to grow.

### Sagittarius

(Nov 22 - Dec 21)

Someone close to you needs help. Give it, but do not enable someone to not change. Know the difference between true love and co-dependence.

### Capricorn

(Dec 22 - Jan 19)

When people are rude and negative, remember that that is only a reflection of them and nothing to do with you. Don't let someone hurt you because they are insecure and unhappy. Protect yourself. The ones who are worthy of your love are near.

## Follow @hinuarts

Jamie Colvin

The love for art is reaching new heights. Haskell Indian Nations University has a variety of art courses that are offered throughout the Fall and Spring semesters. Students are able and encouraged to participate based on the general education requirements in the Humanities and Arts section of a two-year degree checklist. Various courses go beyond this requirement — ceramics, drawing, and painting.

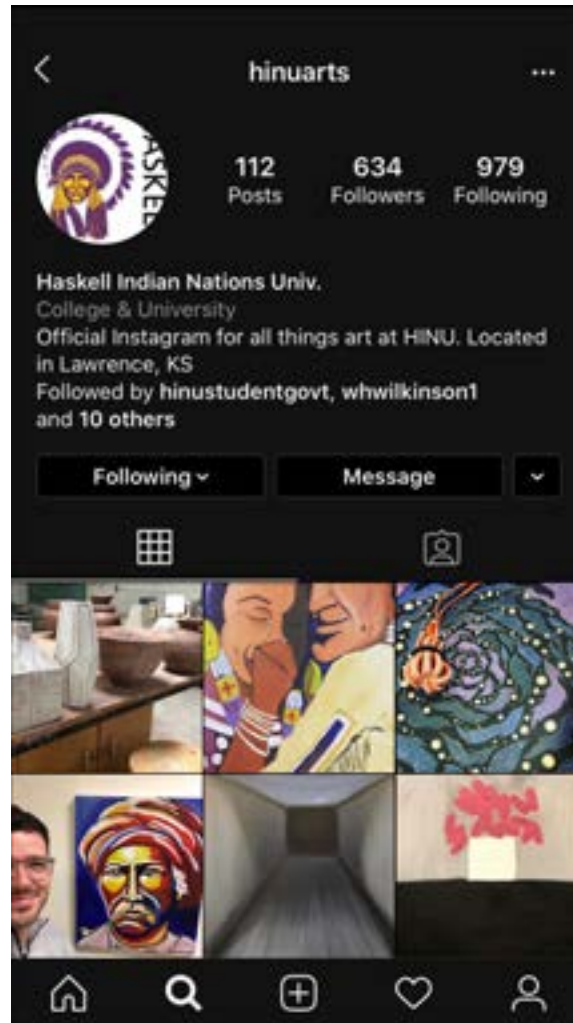
The finished products from all these art courses are displayed on HINU's campus, but a new platform has the potential to showcase these art pieces. HINU's Mr. David Titterington is the art instructor for these classes and decided these students' talents needed to be shared with more people.

An Instagram page was recently created called hinuarts, clearly indicating "all things art" for HINU and already has an astonishing 635 followers. This page displays student art pieces themselves, guest indigenous artists that visit campus and HINU alumni art as well. This allows the opportunity to be interactive with current HINU art projects, speakers and students as well as indigenous art throughout the country.

Having the scope focused in on the art can let Instagram views get an inside look of what indigenous art can fully encompass. Some interesting posts illuminate the artists in action working on their pieces. Allowing social media to embark on this realm of HINU's indigenous art can really demonstrate a better understanding of what indigenous art truly signifies and represents. Art Instructor Titterington says, "Our students are so amazing, and their visions and voices are inspirational and benefit everyone."

The most recent posts on the Instagram page have been the current Spring 2020 semester students' unfinished art pieces. Because the university decided to transition into online classes, students were not able to fully complete their artwork. There will be additional upcoming posts that will display students' artwork as they are sent into Titterington. Even though the separation keeps students away from the studio, the productivity of the art is being accomplished. The art and ceramics room are at a stand-still, but once the new Fall 2020 semester comes

around, they will be filled with our hard-working students and their professor once again.



@hinuarts Instagram



Artroom with unfinished paintings. Photo by Jared Nally

## Socks and Sandals

Joe Singh

A familiar place we have never been  
Classmates that become family and friends  
Squirrels that hop to and fro  
To classes and Curtis, we go  
Laughter in the night echoes across the  
grounds

In the witching hour there are only ghost  
sounds

Long braided hair and basketball  
We are trained and educated to stand tall  
Children of the Creator and great Mother  
If only we don't mess up at Brothers  
Hand games and singing everyday

I am sad I have to go away  
Make the grades and prove your worth  
Getting ready to inherit the Earth  
It can be easy to feel like lesser

We seek guidance from our ancestors  
Find peace in the wetlands  
Dance with a cute Lakota girl in the band-  
stand

Night conversations and the unknown  
Some of us do not have a home  
The magic of Haskell brings us together  
Making good memories that will last  
forever

This is just beginning  
Prepare to take life by the handles  
I will leave Haskell grinning  
As I remember all the socks and sandals

## Cancelation of Spring Sports

Jared Nally

March 16 — Due to precautions to avoid the spread of COVID-19, spring semester athletics were canceled by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). For Haskell Indian Nations Uni-

## Fastpitch Dreams Spring Classic and Season Wrap-up

Jared Nally

Before the cancelation of spring sports, Haskell Indian Nations University's softball team traveled to North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Four conferences attended the event — the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II, the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III, the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, and the National Junior Col-

## Recognizing Records

Jared Nally

Not only were sports seasons cut short, but banquets recognizing Haskell Indian Nation University's athletes were also canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Haskell Athletics has been using its social media platforms to show support for their athletes as well as shining a light on some of their achievements.

Janee Bates, senior, was recognized for two Coffin Sports Complex records, most points in a single game (39) and most assists in a single game (13). Her teammate Justine Butterfield joins her on the record board with most blocks in a single game (9). Haskell Athletics gave a shout out to Butterfield as "currently the only freshman to hold a statistic on [their] record board."

Men's basketball also had record-holders among their athletes. Senior Nakia Hendricks holds three records, most

rebounds in a single game (23), most blocks in a season (41), and most blocks in a career (112). Bryon Elledge also a senior holds records in most assists in a season (119), highest assist average in a season (4.1), most assists in a career (365), and highest assist average in a career (3.4). Tristan Keah Tigh, senior, holds the complex's record for the highest scoring average in a career (13.3).

lege Athletic Association — which pulled in 103 teams.

HINU paired up against 7 different teams at the Fastpitch Dreams Spring Classic averaging 2 points a game with opponents averaging a 10 point victory over them. Due to postponements earlier in the season and a cancelation due to the COVID-19, the Fightin' Indians' season only consisted of 17 games and they ended their season with a 3-14 win loss record. We hope these girls are safe during this time and look forward to a new season. Onward Haskell!

HINU volleyball saw record holders this year. Sophia Honahni, junior, now holds the record for highest digs per season (707) and highest digs per career (1681). Haskell Athletics notes that Honahni achieved this record over previous 4-year athletes and is still eligible for another season. Teammate Cailey Lujan, a senior, holds the record for the highest aces per career (117).

HINU remains proud of its athletes despite being unable to compete this season. We look forward to new seasons and new records. Onward Haskell!

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Please contact us with any concerns, issues, or suggestions for The Indian Leader by email or stop by our office on the main floor (gym level) of Tecumseh Hall.

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