

The Indian Leader

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Haskell staff greets arriving students at check-in. Photo by Jared Nally

Haskell community welcomes back in-person students

JARED NALLY

Last week student orientation was held in person for the first time since Haskell Indian Nations University (HINU) closed its campus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Now that the university has selectively reopened student housing, it's welcoming qualifying first-semester freshman/transfer students, graduating seniors, and student-athletes back to campus.

“Welcome back, students. We are excited to have you back,” says Alexandra Holder, current Miss Haskell. “I know it’s been a long time since we’ve seen you face-to-face, so I’m excited to see all of you guys back on campus... I hope this year we are able to push through the struggles together with one another and do good academically, spiritually, mentally, and physically.”

Leading the “welcome” at check-in, Dorothy Stites, Director of Admissions, said, “This is my favoritest day in the whole world because the students are so excited—you know you can’t help but be excited for them. I’m so glad to see them; it makes me feel so

much better.”

Students started arriving Wednesday over a staggered orientation schedule with activities organized by Freda Gipp, University Services, which continued throughout the weekend. Students attending orientation were connected to campus services like housing, dining, safety, and academic services; created academic plans; registered for classes; and participated in many events led by the orientation team.

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Vaccination mandate for in-person students

JARED NALLY

Haskell Indian Nations University (HINU) will now require students accessing university facilities to be vaccinated.

In a letter by interim University President Tamarah Pfeiffer, she states, “all students accessing any Haskell facility in-person must receive either a single-dose Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccine... or both doses of a two-dose FDA- authorized or approved vaccine no later than December 1, 2021.” All new students “...enrolling for the first time after December 1, 2021, must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to accessing any Haskell facility in person.”

The letter added, “Haskell will consider accommodation requests of students who are unable to get vaccinated due to a documented medical condition that would prevent the administration of a COVID-19 vaccination or a sincerely held religious belief on an individualized basis.”

This student mandate comes a week after all faculty and staff were ordered by federal mandate to be vaccinated against COVID-19. Faculty and staff must be vaccinated by October 15.

HINU is working in cooperation with the Haskell Indian Health Center for making vaccination and testing available on campus.



IHS administering vaccine. Photo by Jared Nally



FNSA and Indigenous community rally at KU. Photo courtesy of Laura Beth Helen Kingston

RALLY on Jayhawk Boulevard

DELILA BEGAY

Sept. 13 — The First Nations Student Association (FNSA) rallied together in front of Wescoe Hall on Jayhawk Boulevard to bring awareness to the University of Kansas (KU) that Indigenous students are here on campus and they are hurt by what was done to the artwork displayed outside the Spencer Museum of Art.

The incident occurred on September 4 at 11:08 PM. Four out of five pieces of the 2021 Common Work of Art installation by Hock E Aye Vi Edgar *Heap of Birds* (Cheyenne and Arapaho) were vandalized. This act hurt many Indigenous and non-Indigenous students at KU and Haskell Indian Nations University (HINU). Currently, no arrests have been made. A statement by the KU Chancellor was made only after Indigenous students rallied. “Their silence shows that they weren’t there to support us, and that has hurt us as Jayhawks and as Indigenous people,” said Tweesna Rose Mills (Eastern Shoshone-Yakama-Umatilla Nations), KU student in the Film and Media Studies Masters program and the Co-chair of the First Nations Student Association.

The rally was a way for those who were hurt by the incident or wanted to support their fellow students to gather, sing songs, and pray together. Rose Mills said, “I find it disturbing that someone could do that to another alumni... and act like nothing

happened.” Many will view this gathering as a protest but that is not the case with what occurred today. Rose Mill said, “The difference between a protest and a rally is that when you protest, you fight against something. That’s not what we are doing. Yes, it is wrong, but that’s not what we are doing. With a rally, we are here for understanding. We want you to understand how we were hurt together as Indigenous and non-Indigenous alike.” Asking questions is just the beginning of a relationship between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous students at the University of Kansas.

Steven Laravie Jr. (Ponca Tribe of Nebraska), a Senior at HINU said, “I wanted to come and see how our people were going to react to it and see how we were going to show the beauty of who we are through relationships,” and added, “If we can speak out into the community about that beauty of us, we doing our part. Sit down and share a meal. Get to know each other.”

There were many who attended the rally, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, to show support for those who were hurt. “Yes what happened was bad but what comes from it is good. We gathered together and prayed with each other. Supported one another. That’s what this is for,” said Rose Mills.



Haskell student attempts bean bag toss at ICC booth.



Haskell underclassmen speak with a booth at Highlight Night.

Highlight Night through photos

ZACHARY ARQUETTE

Photo collage of Haskell Indian Nations University's Highlight Night which features campus services and organizations for Haskell students.



Student shows interest in Haskell Poetry Society.



Left: Tim Denego and Justin Tso from Phi Sigma Nu

Opinion: Reservation Dogs balances Native comedy with authentic representation

JULIANNE STANLEY

The new FX series on Hulu “Reservation Dogs” breaks away from long-standing stereotypes and clichés and presents a realistic portrayal of Native American culture — authentic writing and creators who know what they’re talking about. The series follows four teenagers living on a reservation in Oklahoma. They work together to save up money to escape the weighing issues within their community and move to California.

The depiction of Native Americans in the entertainment industry has been heavily stereotyped and uneducated throughout the years. We all know the cliché tropes of the

‘savage Indian’ or the ‘magical Indian’ who speaks to nature and practices spells with sage. Let’s not forget the horror movie trope of cursed houses built over Indian burial grounds. “Reservation Dogs” manages to separate itself from these caricature depictions of Native culture, finally delving into realistic, and in some ways, educational representation.

Both show creators Sterlin Harjo and Taika Waititi have Indigenous backgrounds, so the audience can experience an authentic portrayal of life on a reservation — where rez dogs run the streets, everyone’s down for a trip to “Sonics,” and has probably been visited by an ancestor. A spirit on a horse who speaks about bravery anyone...no? Although some jokes and references might go over the heads of those unfamiliar with Native slang and customs, it still manages to pull everyone in with its comedic approach,

particularly Native teens who will find the characters relatable. After all, haven’t we all wondered where we fit into life or sought an escape? The show does an exceptional job expressing real matters found in Native reservations while still being entertaining and comedic.

It’s astounding the number of Native problems that are not known or talked about in mass media outside Indian Country. “Reservation Dogs” introduces the issues of subpar healthcare, crime rates, and more on reservations. It is nice to see those problems brought to light along with a realistic representation of our culture. We are more than characters and mascots but real people who dream and experience love and loss and who like greasy, greasy fry bread!



Coach Adam Strom. Photo by Jared Nally

Spotlight on Head Women's Basketball Coach Adam Strom

JAMES CADOTTE AND JARED NALLY

Head Women's Basketball Coach Adam Strom (Yakama Nation and Quinault Indian Nation), brings over 20 years of coaching experience to Haskell Indian Nations University (HINU). Haskell Athletics is hopeful he will bring the university a championship in his upcoming seasons.

Strom was announced as the new Women's Head Basketball Coach on May 4, by the Haskell Athletics Department. The department acknowledges his loyalty to his previous programs that would bring stability to the recent turnover of coaches.

Strom has coached 15 years of high school basketball and has also coached 5 years at Yakima Valley College. He said with his past experience at the collegiate level he has the "... ability to recruit quality student-athletes with the emphasis on student."

Prior to the start of the season, Strom said he played an active part in recruiting students for the upcoming season. He looks forward to bringing success to the program with success not necessarily being measured with championships, but given his background, Haskell Athletics is confident in his ability to win.

"We anticipate he will make our department proud and bring a championship back to Coffin Sports Complex and the Fightin' Indians!" Haskell Athletics said in their May 4 announcement.

The Women's Basketball Program has its first match-up on October 28. This will be their first official game after sitting out the 2020-21 season.

Haskell Cross Country begins its 2021 season

Women's Cross Country

BRIANNA DAVIS

In a year that challenged many students, Haskell Indian Nations University (HINU) Cross Country runner Tavia Hart said staying connected with her teammates online has helped keep her motivated for the 2021 season.

"It was nice to see and talk to my teammates again...and just having that camaraderie with my teammates pushed me to continue working hard both on and off the course".

The team's goal for this season is to go to nationals after not having a season last year. Hart said that the team has been training hard, and with all the returning runners, it is really going to pay off this season.

Hart's advice for freshman runners is, "relax and have fun when you are running. We all want to do good, but if we take it all too seriously, by the time we are done, we are going to hate it. So just relax and enjoy the time you have with your teammates because it's going to go by so fast."

In their first meet of the season, at the Missouri Southern Stampede, the women placed 8th out of 8 teams. Sophomore Deanna Teller (Navajo Nation) placed 28th out of 62 runners in the 5k finishing with a time of 21:05. With her run, Teller was named the Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) Women's Cross Country Runner for the Week.

Men's Cross Country

SIDNEY DICK

On the Men's Cross Country side, returning runner Dion John spoke on his targets for the season. "My goals are to improve every day and PR (personal record) my times during the meet in cross country."

In speaking about being a student and athlete balancing out since returning back on campus, Dion stated, "I really have to manage time for practice and class every day of the week and show up to classes and practice on time. It feels kind of different

being back on campus again because of COVID and I always have to be precautious and keep social distancing. Along with getting tested for COVID every once or twice a week. I always have to wear a mask now when we have to go work out at the gym because of COVID. It's just a lot more different being back on campus before the pandemic."

In the men's first meet of the season at the Missouri Southern Stampede the team did not have enough runners to field a team score but their top runner Freshman, Chris Humetewa (Kewa Pueblo, San Felipe Pueblo, Santa Ana Pueblo, Acoma Pueblo, and Hopi tribe) from Rio Rancho, NM placed 25th out of 126 runners in the 8k finishing with a time of 27:32. Humetewa was awarded the CAC Men's Cross Country Runner of the Week.

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Daryn Berryhill, a student ambassador leading orientation, said, "I love it. I'm glad I'm able to connect to a lot of students now—I just like the community coming back."

Jaelyn Two Hearts, a first-semester transfer student, commented on her experience at her previous university last year, "Online was a little difficult, but I was able to adjust toward the end of the school year. I'm excited to be back on campus because I know I learn a lot better that way." Two Hearts is excited to have access to on-campus resources and looks forward to her upcoming season of Basketball.

The Haskell Indian Health Center also attended check-in, welcoming back students. "Number One, It's exciting to see all the movement and people back on campus again. It looked just so dead for over a year, and now it's got life again," said Cdmr Shannon Lowe, Administrative Officer. Lowe said the center is there—and has been there—for students and the community whether they are on or off-campus."

Online orientation called Go2Oreintation will take place this week for students who did not qualify for housing or are attending HINU online.