

The Indian Leader

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Community-led graduation celebration hosted by Sacred Ground Haskell. Photo by Jared Nally

Sacred Ground Haskell's community-led graduation celebration

JARED NALLY

Stepping up to a community need, Sacred Ground Haskell, an outreach of Lutheran Indian Ministries and local community center, organized a graduation celebration to recognize the accomplishments of graduates from both the 2020 and 2021 graduate classes. During the spring 2021 semester, Haskell Indian Nations University canceled graduation ceremonies in response to the

COVID-19 pandemic. The community-led graduation event May 7 filled the traditional university role in honoring graduates from the past year.

Deon Prue, ministry leader at Sacred Ground Haskell, organized the event. The ceremony featured a graduate walk-in with an honor song, an opening prayer, student and keynote speakers, a catered dinner, all followed by an open mic and powwow. Roughly 50 graduates and their families were in attendance of the in-person event, many more watching remotely through live streams.

While HINU did not host its own graduation ceremony, The Office of the President released a congratulatory message. Additionally, HINU faculty and staff have found their own ways to support graduates. HINU Housing Staff in combination with Student Life and Activity Specialist Manny King, Dean of Students Daniel Burland, as well as other faculty and staff helped to erect tipis in honor of the graduates at the stadium. Haskell Faculty Senate also paired with The Indian Leader Association and students in Rhonda LeValdo's Television News Production course to create a virtual graduate recognition video. **Photos Page 4.**



Former University President Ronald Graham

Graham removed from office, Tamarah Pfeiffer new acting president

JARED NALLY

May 7 — Following an investigation prompted by Haskell Faculty Senate's vote of no-confidence last month in now-former University President Ronald Graham, Tamarah Pfeiffer (Diné) will immediately assume the role of acting president of Haskell Indian Nations University.

An announcement said, "Effective May 7, 2021, Dr. Tamarah Pfeiffer will be the Acting President of Haskell University. Dr. Pfeiffer is a member of the Senior Executive Service (SES) and the BIE Senior Leadership Team. She is the BIE Chief Academic Officer and has both secondary and post-secondary education experience. She is a proven leader with the ability to identify and maximize employee strengths, motivate departments, inspire teams, and implement a sound vision to achieve educational success."

Melanie Daniel subject of second Faculty Senate no-confidence vote

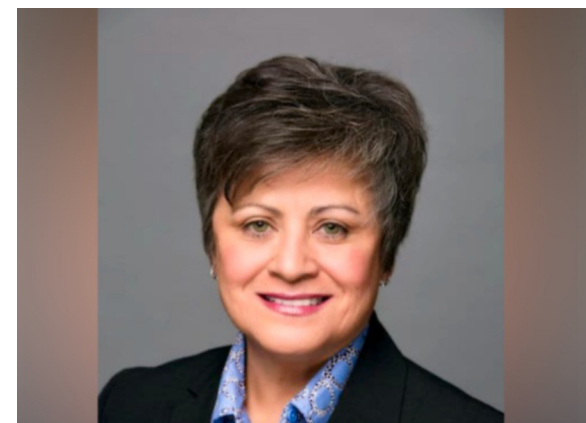
JARED NALLY

April 30 — The Haskell Faculty Senate passed a second unanimous "vote of no confidence" resolution, this time declaring no confidence in Vice President of Academic Affairs (VPAA) Melanie Daniel. The resolution (No. 2021-02) echoes many of the same concerns expressed in the previous no-confidence declaration in University President Ronald Graham.

Faculty showed concerns that Daniel has removed faculty from decision-making processes, failed to formally engage with faculty senate, failed to provide basic communication, and has limited academic freedom and free speech through a now rescinded mandate.

University accreditation is also a concern, the resolution stating, "The participation in the Higher Learning Commission's requirement of shared governance within colleges and universities is thereby compromised." A spokesperson from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) commented, "HLC is in regular communication with Haskell and continues to be updated on campus and governance issues."

The resolution has been sent to Tony Dearman, Director of the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE). Dearman had sent investigators to the university following the previous no-confidence vote. Results from the investigation have not yet been released. Daniel, as the VPAA, would be a candidate for interim president should any action be taken.



HINU receives third round of federal emergency funds, \$1.6M minimum to go to student aid

JARED NALLY

The American Rescue Plan was signed into law today authorizing the third round of emergency funds for higher education since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) allocates \$3.2 million dollars to be awarded to Haskell Indian Nations University (HINU) with at least half of that amount required to be used for student aid. Previously, the second round of HEERF student aid was split into three grants for students in the spring semester; no announcement has been made for the distribution of this third round of HEERF funds.

\$500 in grant aid being distributed to pell-eligible students

JARED NALLY

Today, Haskell Indian Nations University (HINU) announced the amount and disbursement of a Pell Eligible grant for spring pell-eligible students. The \$500 payments, which started as early as May 7, are the last of three student aid grants funded by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) distributed this spring. The CRRSA was the second legislative action to provide the school with aid during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to the CRRSA, a third bill, the American Rescue Plan, has now been passed into law as of May 11, allocating HINU a minimum of \$1.6 million for use in future student aid.

Spring 2021 2-Year Degree Candidates

Associate of Arts, Communication Studies
Daryn Berryhill
Cheyenne Rose Tomhave
Raeven Rae Wishteyah

Associate of Arts, Media Communication
Alexander Manygoats Jr.

Associate of Arts, Liberal Arts
Amanda Antone
Mary Sophia Bighorn
Kayla Marie Bointy
Namakesah Corn
Dominique Laurie Demmert
Marcus Dogskin
Kevin Rajon Edwards

Angelo Levin Fixico
Sabrina Marie Fourkiller
Shawn M. Harrah
Talan Skye Jack
Kalisha Kinsel
Juan Antonio Ochoa
Rudolph Kent Oheltoint III
Sarah Lyn Ortiz
Nakooma Pelt
Celene Preacher
Erin Helene Rave
Sarah Elizabeth Secondine
Isabella MaryFaye Swan
Colin J. Wauqua
Rylee Ann Young

Associate of Arts, Para-Professional Education
Jorden Rae Chavez
Tilda Leona Hubbell

Kylie J. Kookesh
Samyra Linae Logan
Robert R. Tourtillott

Associate of Arts, Social Work
Alyssa Shay Bell
Glennée Jo Gunville
Taelor Nae Sockey

Associate of Science, Community Health
Alexis Anne Hoskins-Yellowhair

Associate of Science, Health, Sports, & Exercise Science
Kamrynn T. Concho
Maxine Vera White Temple

Associate of Science, Natural Science
Jullian Erin Talk

Spring 2021 4-Year Degree Candidates

Bachelor of Arts, Indigenous and American Indian Studies
Kayla Marie Bointy
Rachel Jean Burton
Zachary D. Cling
Aiyana Jimeve Jack
Justice Nichols
Gabrielle Elizabeth Marie Norris
Samuel Riding In
Te’Anne Sandoval
Robin N. St. Clair
Starla Stephens
Jenny Toler

Bachelor of Science, Business Administration
Linford Bradford Brown
Michael Sloan Cloke
Shaed L. Cloke
Timothy Marc Denego
Jevin Dane Dirks

Sydney P. Dray
Michelle Dunn
Quanah Gardipee
Matteson Anne Gray
Dreamer Greene
Ibuki Red Leaf Hara
Marci Hensley
Derek Hunter Hill
Austin Iron Whiteman
Samantha Marie Hill
Chaislyn Knight Holloway
Jaydin D. Howe
Spencer Howe
Cody J. Keefer
Emalyne Darnelle King
Rudolph Kent Oheltoint III
Uriah Little Owl
Cailey Maya Lujan
Lena Isabel MacDonald
Kobey Marciano O’Rourke
Alliyah Plume Richards
Stacy Louise Santos
Brian James Sultana
Vance Milfred Tewawina

Cheyenne Rose Tomhave
Gino Stephen Torres
Autumn Lacey Wano
William Harry Otiyonyh Wilkinson
Chantel L. Yazzie

Bachelor of Science, Elementary Education
Andrea V. Medina
Michelle DeAnn Watson

Bachelor of Science, Environmental Science
Zachary Allen Arquette
Adler G. Aspaas-Montoya
Siam Suvit Boyd
Layne Thomas Braswell
Terra L. Galyon
Kayla Jackson
Serene L Mulhern
Josie Magdalena Muskrat
Jamie S. Pargeets-Gone
Autumn M. Powell
Amanda Faye Rouillard

Summer 2021 2-Year Degree Candidates

Associate of Arts, Liberal Arts
Nicole Shaye Ankney
Bailey Mackenzie Field
Tylen Alexandra Garcia
Kathryn Alexis Tso

Associate of Arts, Para-Professional Education
Justine Amber Butterfield

Summer 2021 4-Year Degree Candidates

Bachelor of Arts, Indigenous and American Indian Studies
Sherry Kathy Williams

Bachelor of Science, Environmental Science
Jamie Ursula Stallings

Haskell Sacred Ground Graduate Photos

JARED NALLY



Classes of 2020 and 2021 celebrates with Silly String. Pictured from left: Aiyana Jack and Miss Haskell Alexandra Holder



Procession of 2020 and 2021 graduates



Opening prayer by HINU Student Steve "Junior" Laravie



Graduate and Sacred Ground team member Sam Riding In



Student Speaker Jamie Colvin receives symbolic diploma