

Hopi Tribal Priority Scholarship Recipient: Michael “Kotutwa” Johnson

“My interest will always be for the betterment of the tribe because I am a member and do live on Hopi,” said Michael “Kotutwa” Johnson who is a current doctoral student and Hopi Tribal Priority Scholarship (TPS) recipient attending the University of Arizona.

With Natural Resource Policy and Law as his emphasis and area of concentration, Michael’s studies align with the TPS guidelines which were developed to fund students pursuing degrees in areas that are critical to the manpower and future needs to support the growth of the Hopi Tribe. Michael shared, “ By allowing people such as myself to the negotiating table in any field concerning natural resources such as water, minerals, etc., my interest would always be for the betterment of the tribe. I feel the more I speak in public or academic settings the greater attention I can draw to some of the problems we face in trying to manage our own natural resources and some of obstacles that create those problems.” Adding, that through attaining his degree he would be able to apply the knowledge he has gained to benefit the Hopi Tribe, stating, “I would like to be at the negotiating table when discussions take place between the Hopi Tribe and big energy companies like Peabody Coal Company. If I was able to do this and had my way the Hopi Tribe would be co-owners of their own coal company along with the Navajo Tribe to first of all get rid of taxes imposed by the state and second reap the entire benefits of the operation.”



In addition to pursuing his degree, Michael also applies Hopi knowledge related to conservation and natural resources through projects at home and through his continued practice of farming. He said, “I thought about starting a Hopi can drive so Hopi farmers could increase the survival rate of crops such as beans, melons and squash. I was able through a friend in Tucson to gather about 700 big cans like the kind you see in school cafeterias. As a result, I am having one of my best crops of beans, melons and squash I have had in a long time. I have also recently been asked to speak at a global conservation conference in Washington D.C. in December. It is there I want to introduce a new term called Culturally Designed Conservation. This is achieved by what we do and how we have managed to raise a variety of crops without hurting the environment.”

In pursuit of his degree, Michael continues to carry family values on the importance of education with advice such as, “My father once told me that people may throw stones and take things from you but they will never be able to take away your education. My parents have always encouraged me to obtain a quality education so that I may someday be of benefit not only to my own people but others who may need my help.” He encouraged Hopi students to take advantage of educational opportunities and that if they continue forward with their education, one day they will hopefully have the opportunity to make a positive impact for their people.

Michael is aware that he is not alone in the journey to attain his degree and is grateful for the financial support he has received from the HEEF and the Hopi Tribe. “The funding I receive from HEEF allows me to not take out student loans to increase my debt. It also demonstrates to those who know I am receiving a Tribal Priority Scholarship that the tribe is invested in who I am, what I have accomplished and what I may bring back to the tribe upon completion of my PhD.” Adding, “I would like to tell the donors that their donations mean a lot to students such as me for without their help I would not be in the position I am. I would also hope they look at their donations as an investment into the future of Hopi. It’s kind of like planting seeds as I do in my cornfield. I am not really looking to raise much by planting but I am looking forward to raising enough crops to have seeds to plant for the future.”

Michael, from the Village of Old Oraibi and is a member of the Coyote Clan.

Lance Tubinaghtewa: Freshman, University of Arizona

Personal:

18 years old, from the village of Sitsomovi, member of the Alwungwa/Lenwungwa (Horn/Flute Clan). Mother is Valerie (Sitsomovi) father is Buddy (Sipaulovi).

School & Major: University of Arizona, Environmental Science

Importance of Education and FAMILY support: In my family education is seen as opportunity. Not only an opportunity to have a better life but to help others that do not possess the same opportunities. My family was the backbone to my support. I would definitely not be at this point without them. Thanks mom and dad! You've been the biggest help and I couldn't wish for better parents. Love you both.

Thing that inspired Lance to: **Has funding from the HEEF Go to college:** I'd have to say that the thing that inspired me the most to go to college is how most educated people are very successful and that's what motivated me; their SUCCESS.

and the Hopi Tribe helped in the pursuit of your education?

No doubt, they've been such a huge help. I will not let you down!

Message to HEEF donors:

Thank you so much, everything you do is greatly appreciated. Keep up the good work!



Why I chose my Major: I think that my degree could greatly improve my tribe's environment. Being that we're the caretakers of this land. **We only have one home' better take care of it.**

In one word, describe yourself: AWESOME!!

Get Ready for the 2013 HEEF Alumni Challenge!

Launching in 2005, through the collective effort of **105 alumni, \$28,000** has been contributed to the HEEF. "One of the intended goals of the Challenge was to create an avenue for Hopi alumni to give back and help the next student. Along the way, they have been joined by others and is a great example of community giving and the value of reciprocity," said HEEF Executive Director LuAnn Leonard.

So, what is the Challenge?

The Alumni Challenge is a 4-week fundraising and pits alumni of the three Arizona public universities and a combined group of "other" colleges/universities in a competition to see which group can raise the most funds. The goal of this year's Alumni Challenge is to raise at least \$6,000 which will added to the endowed fund. Last years winners were the University of California - Irvine Anteaters with \$1,500 donated.

Who can Give?

Everyone! You can donate on behalf of your alma mater or on behalf of a family member.

How long does the challenge last?

The Alumni Challenge starts October 4, 2013 and runs through November 1, 2013.

How can I Give?

The HEEF accepts cash, checks and credit cards (Visa/MasterCard) or you can donate online via the HEEF PayPal account. Visit hopieducationfund.org for donation forms or to access the online payment link!

No matter the amount of contribution you can make, a small contribution can go a long way. For instance, in 2009 the Alumni Challenge was won by .60! Since 2001, the HEEF has helped over 230 students earn their college degree. When you give to the HEEF Alumni Challenge you are helping not only the next 200+ students but are also supporting education programs for Hopi students.

Don't miss your chance to make an impact! Weekly pledge totals will be posted at www.hopieducationfund.org, twitter.com/HEEF and the HEEF Facebook page.

Sharing the Harvest: Message from HEEF Executive Director

Dear Friends,

It's once again harvest time on Hopi. A few days ago my uncle invited me to his fields around Hotevilla village to pick some corn, beans, squash and peaches for my family. After months of hard work and tending to the plants as though they were his children, the corn, beans and gourds were flourishing. He told me about the "battles" that he and all Hopi farmers face with the worms, rabbits, crows and coyotes. I took joy in going field to field with him, watching how proud he was to have enough crop to share with others. In some ways this simple experience reminded me of our work here at the HEEF.



Throughout the year HEEF members and staff work in various capacities to further the mission which is basically to grow and safeguard the fund. For example, the Finance and Investment Committee is wrapping up a busy year where they completed a nationwide Request For Proposal process for Investment Services all while tending to our "field" - our investments. Other HEEF committees such as Program, Administration & Personnel, Development and the Nomination committee all play key roles and add to the success of the HEEF and the students we serve.

The final and perhaps most important key player are those of you who provide your generous support to the HEEF. As a result we have funds to share with our family- our students. During **Fall 2013 alone \$260,000** was appropriated to the Hopi Tribe Grants and Scholarship Program for distribution to **103 eligible Hopi students** attending **42** colleges and universities across the nation.



Our Fall harvest has been distributed. In the Spring we will be proud to share the fruits of our labor -our graduates! As always, askwali (thank you) for your continued support.

LuAnn Leonard, Executive Director
Hopi Education Endowment Fund

P.S. Keep an eye out as we share information on our inaugural presentation of the HEEF Speaker Series. Scheduled for November 7th, the first speaker, Dr. Joe Graham will share his work entitled "A Bountiful Harvest" that explores challenges graduates face as they return home to serve their people.

Support the HEEF Today

- Pöshumi (Seeds you plant) \$1 - \$249
- Sikyaqa'ö (Yellow Corn) donor \$250 - \$449
- Sakwapqa'ö (Blue Corn) donor \$500 - \$999
- Palaqa'ö (Red Corn) donor \$1000 - \$2499
- Qötsaqa'ö (White Corn) donor \$2500 - \$4999
- Kukuma (Purple Corn) donor \$5000 - \$9999
- Tawaktsi (Sweet Corn) donor \$10,000+
- Please send me more information on the HEEF

Please charge my contribution to my:

- MasterCard
- VISA

Please send your check/money order payable to:
Hopi Education Endowment Fund
PO Box 605
Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039

Name:.....

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Email Address:.....

Kwakwhá/Askwali (Thank You) for your generous support.

You can now make your donation online.
Visit www.hopieducationfund.org

Amount \$.....

Account No.

Expiration Date:.....

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Sumi'ngwa...Your Compelling Desire

Referencing "A Hopi (Traditional Values and Visions of...)" by Qöyahongniwa, **Sumi'ngwa** is defined as, "People coming together to do activities for the benefit of all, out of a compelling desire and commitment to contribute or return something of value or benefit to the society." **Sumi'ngwa**, also tells us that support and contributions come in many different forms with each contribution ensuring the overall success, in this instance, the success of the HEEF.

As donors and supporters to the HEEF, individuals like you can support the HEEF through numerous avenues, both big and small. Each of the opportunities listed below help you to share your reasons for supporting the HEEF with friends, colleagues, family members and others. You'll know that through each simple action taken, you are helping to grow, sustain and strengthen the HEEF in order to benefit current and future generations of Hopi students, essentially practicing the value of **Sumi'ngwa**.

- Pass along the newsletter
- Follow the HEEF on social media sites like Twitter (twitter.com/heef) and Facebook
- Retweet HEEF's tweet
- Share or like a HEEF Facebook post
- Mention HEEF on your blog or website
- Visit the HEEF website
- Ask your employer about matching gifts
- Create a named scholarship to support your interests
- Learn about planned giving
- Join **SEEDS4HEEF** a monthly giving program
- Come to a HEEF event such as the Annual Silent Auction/Art Sale
- Tell a friend about HEEF
- Refer your contacts to the HEEF
- Buy a raffle ticket
- Send HEEF your email address
- Wear your HEEF t-shirt
- Purchase a day sponsorship on local radio on behalf of HEEF

"Cultivating and nurturing the future of our Hopi people through education by growing and safeguarding a perpetual source of funding."

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