



# MASTER OF ARTS IN NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES

The University of  
New Mexico

Gregory A. Cajete, Ph.D. *Santa Clara Pueblo*, Professor  
Tiffany S. Lee, Ph.D. *Diné/Lakota*, Professor  
Lloyd L. Lee, Ph.D. *Diné*, Associate Professor  
Robin Minthorn, Ph.D. *Kiowa Tribe*, Associate Professor  
Wendy S. Greyeyes, Ph.D. *Diné*, Assistant Professor  
Leola Tsinnajinnie, Ph.D. *Diné/Filipina*, Assistant Professor  
Yolanda Teran M., Ph.D. *Kichwa*, Research Scientist  
Catherine N. Montoya, MPA, *Diné*, Student Program  
Specialist  
Delia Halona, *Diné*, Administrative Assistant III

# BACKGROUND



Kyon Benally (Diné)  
NAS Minor, May 2017 B. A.  
Graduate

- Native American population in NM: 219,512 (10.5% of state population)
- 23 Native Nations in NM (19 Pueblo Nations, 3 Apache Nations, & Navajo Nation)
- Critical mass of students (2,100 Native American students enrolled at UNM main campus & additional 2,300 enrolled at branch campuses in Gallup, Los Alamos, Valencia, & Taos)
- Changes in governing/economic situations for Native Nations
- Native Nations increasing control of own affairs

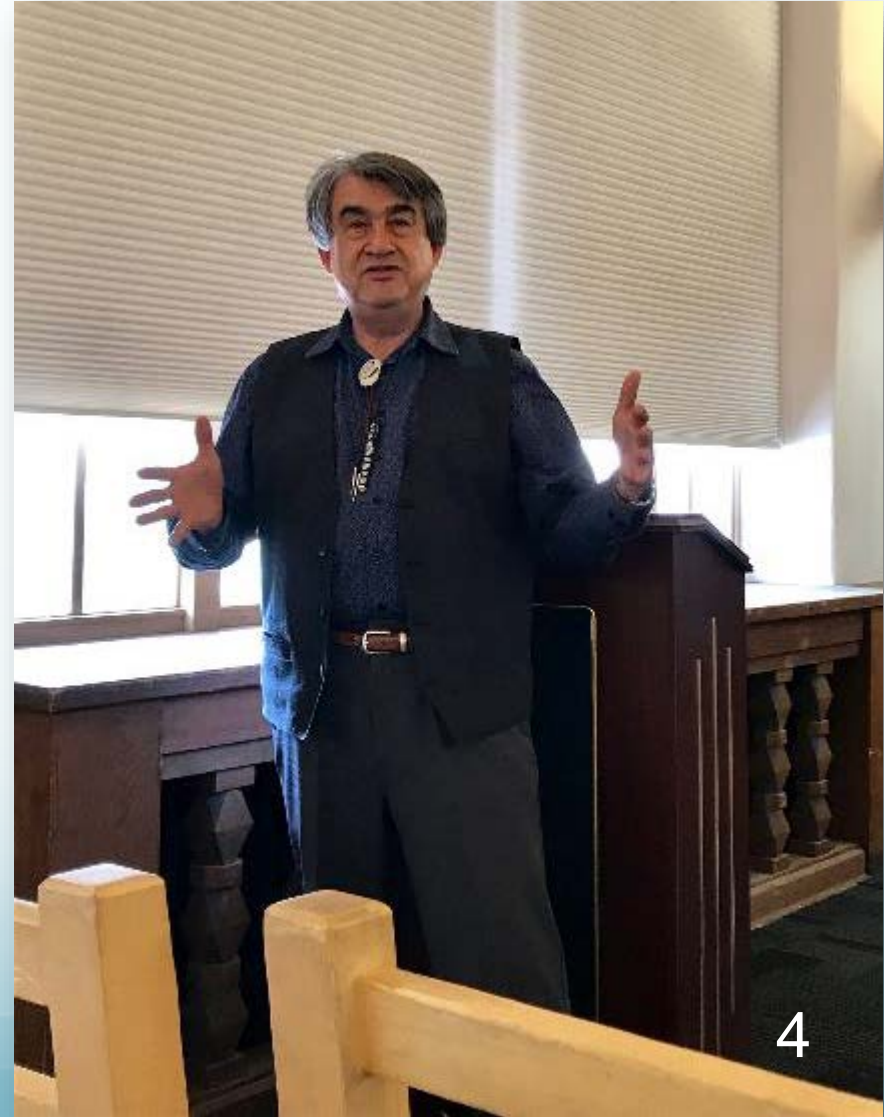
# What is Native American Studies?

- NAS is an interdisciplinary academic field that examines political, social, historical, and contemporary experiences, events, and issues among Native populations and communities.
- NAS at UNM centers its curriculum and teaching of these issues on the Native communities of New Mexico, while attending to the interconnections of Indigenous peoples' experiences nationally and internationally.

# NAS PROGRAM HISTORY & MA

- Native American Studies (NAS) founded 1970 as ethnic studies center
- Initially established as a support program for Native American students
  - 1998 NAS interdisciplinary academic program housed in University College
  - 1999 NAS minor degree approved
  - 2004 NAS major degree approved
  - 13 graduating classes
- M.A. will focus on Indigenous Leadership, Self-Determination, & Sustainable Community Building
  - The program will provide students with relevant leadership, research, and training in community building, policy development and education for sustaining Indigenous communities meeting the highest academic and professional standards

Dr. Gregory Cajete (Santa Clara Pueblo)  
NAS Director & Professor, LLSS & NAS



# SERVING NEEDS IN NM

- Graduate students needed for healthier & fully engaged communities economically & socially
- Need to build leaders, skills, & capacity for Native Nations, organizations, and other institutions
- Need to build careers, work force, & intercultural relations
  - (e.g. Public relations specialists, arbitrators, mediators & conciliators, technical writers, education, training & development managers, management analysts)



# CURRICULUM

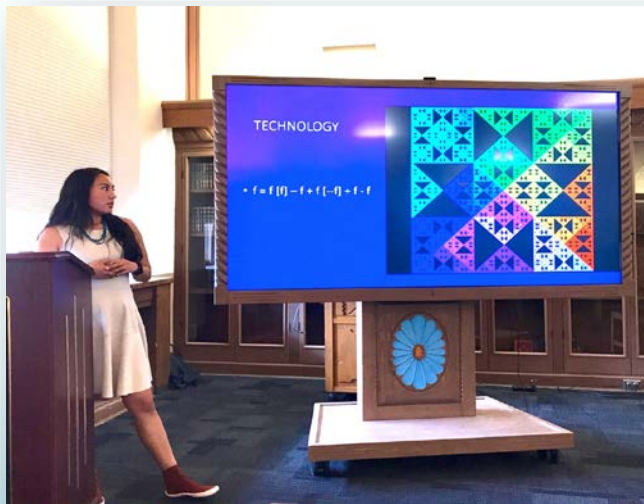
- **OPEN to all B.A./B.S. graduates**
- Multiple-delivery system (Face-to-Face, Online, & Synchronous Online)
- Tailored for mid-career professionals
- B.A./B.S. degree graduates
- M.A. degree in 30 credit hours
- Coursework and Project of Excellence Program

# Indigenous Leadership, Self-Determination, & Sustainable Community Building

CORE COURSES	FOCUS COURSES
TOTAL HOURS = 18	ADDITIONAL 12 HOURS FROM THIS LIST:
NATV <b>550</b> (3) Indigenous Nations & Sustainable Communities Seminar	402/ <b>502</b> (3) Education, Power, & Indigenous Communities
NATV <b>555</b> (3) Native American Policy & Community Building	424/ <b>524</b> (3) Principles of Leadership in Indigenous Context
NATV <b>560</b> (3) Research Method & Practice in Indigenous Scholarship	<b>522</b> (3) Indigenous Community Approaches in Restorative Justice
NATV <b>570</b> (3) Indigenous Thought & Ethics	<b>530</b> (3) Gender & Indigenous Leadership
NATV <b>590</b> (6) Project of Excellence	<b>535</b> (3) Issues in Contemporary Native Leadership
	<b>540</b> (3) Indigenous Economics, Sustainability, and Environmental Protection
* If eligible, may earn credit for these courses	<b>*423</b> (3) Self-Determination & Indigenous Human Rights
	<b>*445</b> (3) Politics of Identity
	** May substitute up to 6 hours from another related program - e.g. LLSS, CRP, LAW, MPA, HIST, ANTH, AMST, etc.

# NATV 590: PROJECT OF EXCELLENCE

- Goal: To demonstrate accumulation of NAS theoretical foundation
- Address a target topic/issue relevant to a Native Nation, community, international audience, or Indigenous group/organization
- Examples: Research paper, Community project



Jessica Benally (Diné)  
Current NAS B.A. Minor



Chad Abeyta (Diné)  
NAS Minor, May 2016 B.A. Graduate

Michelle Paulene Abeyta (Diné)  
NAS Major, May 2016 B.A. Graduate



# UNIVERSITY SUPPORT FOR MA

- Utilizes current UNM resources
- Faculty in Place
  - NAS has 6 current tenure/tenure-track faculty; 1 additional faculty will join department in Fall 2019; Over 30 Native American faculty at UNM
- Student Support in Place for Student Success
  - American Indian Student Services, Indigenous Nations Library Program, Community Engagement Center, El Centro de La Raza
  - Indigenous Design + Planning Institute, Institute for American Indian Research, American Indian Language Policy Research Teacher Training Center, Institute for American Indian Education, Institute for Indigenous Knowledge & Development, Counseling, Assistance, & Referral Services, Graduate Resource Center, Project for New Mexico Graduates of Color
  - Center for Native American Health, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy, NM Indian Education Division, NM Department of Indian Affairs, Diné Policy Institute, Indigenous Leadership Institute at Santa Fe Indian School, Native American Community Academy, & specific tribal entities



Justina Leach (Cherokee/First Nations – Canadian Mohawk)  
NAS Major, May 2017 B.A. Graduate

# NAS STUDENT SUPPORT & OPPORTUNITIES

- **Mentorship** with faculty, supervising each project of excellence, & assisting with career networks
- **Excellent Academic Advisement** to ensure successful completion of coursework & degree plan
- **Partnerships** with campus entities
- **Graduate Assistantships/Teaching Assistantships** funding (internal/external) will be through research grants, initiatives, organizational partnerships, teaching, & tuition revenue
- **Internship Program** funding (internal/external) will be through similar means to support graduate students to work with NM state government, tribal governments, tribal organizations, schools, & community programs



NAS Faculty & Staff: Dr. Lee, Dr. Tsinnajinnie, Dr. Greyeyes, Catherine Montoya, Dr. Lee, Dr. Minthorn, Dr. Cajete

# M.A. Program (Fall 2018/Spring 2019)

- 10 students admitted for Fall 2018 semester (1 student has deferred until fall 2019 semester)
- Courses offered for the Fall 2018 semester
  - NATV 524 Principles of Leadership in Indigenous Contexts (Dr. Robin Minthorn)
  - NATV 540 Indigenous Economics, Sustainability, & Environmental Protection (Dr. Lloyd L. Lee)
  - NATV 550 Indigenous Nations & Sustainable Communities SEMINAR (Dr. Gregory Cajete)
  - NATV 560 Research Method & Practice in Indigenous Scholarship (Dr. Tiffany S. Lee)
- Courses offered for the Spring 2019
  - NATV 502 Education, Power, & Indigenous Communities (Dr. Leola Tsinnajinnie)
  - NATV 530 Gender & Indigenous Leadership (Dr. Robin Minthorn)
  - NATV 555 Native American Policy & Community Building (Dr. Wendy Greyeyes)
  - NATV 570 Indigenous Thought & Ethics (Dr. Lloyd L. Lee)

# Ph.D. (Doctorate) program

- Within the first couple of years of the M.A. program, NAS will submit a Form D (New Graduate Degree form) for the Ph.D. program
- It took 2 years for the M.A. degree to be approved through the UNM and State process
- 3 Ph.D. programs in Canada; 8 in the U.S., only 3 programs are “true” NAS/AIS doctorates (University of California system (Santa Barbara, Davis), University of Arizona, & University of Alaska)



Thank you

Questions?

