

# NEWS 3RD QUARTER 2019 LETTER



## WHAT'S NEW

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## THE HOYI MISSION

The Hopi Opportunity Youth Initiative (HOYI) is a **community wide** collaboration of youth, parents, service providers & community leaders engaged in research & development to **improve** the **educational, career, and cultural attainment** of all Hopi and Tewa youth and young adults.

Our target is to connect the youth whom are not actively engaged in school or in the workforce, between the ages of 14-26. The goal of the Initiative is to **bring together** community members and organizations to build a common understanding around the needs of our youth in order to **promote positive change** and **explore opportunities** to help strengthen support for future generations living on and off the reservation. HOYI also strives to build a safe and supportive space for youth to share their stories, their insight, and voice as we explore new pathways and expand existing programs for their success.



# SUSTAINING THE HOYI TEAM

## ASSIST & SAFETALK



We are thankful for this opportunity & would like to thank our partner, Hopi Behavioral Health Services for keeping us in mind!

This quarter, Program Associate, Aeon Albert and Youth Liaison, Lexie James were invited to take part in the SafeTALK (Suicide Alertness for Everyone) Training. An intense two-day training where Aeon and Lexie were trained in phases of safeTALK, learning as a general participant, moving into becoming trainers that involved role play scenarios and studying their handbooks to become familiar with proper procedures when involved with someone who is at risk and/or contemplating suicide. Aeon and Lexie were joined by eight other participants who received the training. All participants are now able to administer SafeTALK for our people to create suicide-safer communities.

HOYI's goal with this opportunity is to offer the SafeTALK training to those in the community, especially our youth so they can be suicide alert while becoming SafeTALK trainers themselves. Aeon and Lexie have also received training in ASIST (applied suicide intervention skills training).



Shortly after becoming safeTALK trainers, both Lexie & Aeon were crowned as Miss Native American USA & Miss Hopi respectively!

*Congrats!*



# CULTURAL WELL BEING

## SEEKING CULTURAL ADVISORS & YOUTH

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This quarter, the HOYI team has been focusing on a new grant we received from the First Nations Development Institute's Native Youth & Culture Fund. This work will be geared towards retaining our Hopi and Tewa languages.

As we prepare, we have been looking for four cultural advisors who are willing to help identify strategies and teach youth to learn, understand, practice, and retain the Hopi & Tewa languages and cultures. We are also looking for youth, ages 14-26 who are interested in participating in focus groups and ready to voice their ideas when it comes to their cultural well-being.

This project will be a year long endeavor and we are looking forward to all the knowledge that will be shared amongst the group!

## DATA GUIDE TO DECISIONS

### SEEKING CULTURAL ADVISORS & YOUTH

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In the article titled “Preschool Fights to Save Endangered Hopi Language,” the author, Melissa Sevigny, discusses the endangerment of Hopi language to the younger generation and the importance of language to a person’s Hopi identity. Sevigny writes that “for [the] Hopi, language is tied to identity.” It was once Federal Indian Policy to assimilate and erase the identity of the American Indian during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The effects of the policy, which is more commonly known as the Boarding School era, still resonates to this day.

Sevigny refers to a 2005 article published by Mesa Media, Inc. titled “Status of Hopi language.” In “Status,” the results of a language survey conducted in 1998 by the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office (HCPO) indicated the following results taken from 200 respondents:

HOPI LANGUAGE FLUENCY: 1998	
HOPI ELDERS (60+)	100%
HOPI ADULTS (40-59)	84%
HOPI YOUNG ADULTS (20-39)	50%
HOPI CHILDREN (<19)	5%

# DATA GUIDE TO DECISIONS

CONTINUED...

The Hopi Opportunity Youth Initiative is currently conducting a language assessment survey to determine the factors that affect Hopi / Tewa language fluency among Hopi / Tewa youth. We hope that these results can be compared to the 1998 survey conducted by the HCPO. However, there are factors and limitations to consider when comparing the results of these two surveys. For example, methodology, or approach, between the two surveys can vary, which could lead to imprecise comparisons. HOYI's next steps are to examine the original 1998 survey to try to understand their methodology so we can try to get an accurate comparison. In meantime, the survey is now online and the link is as follows:

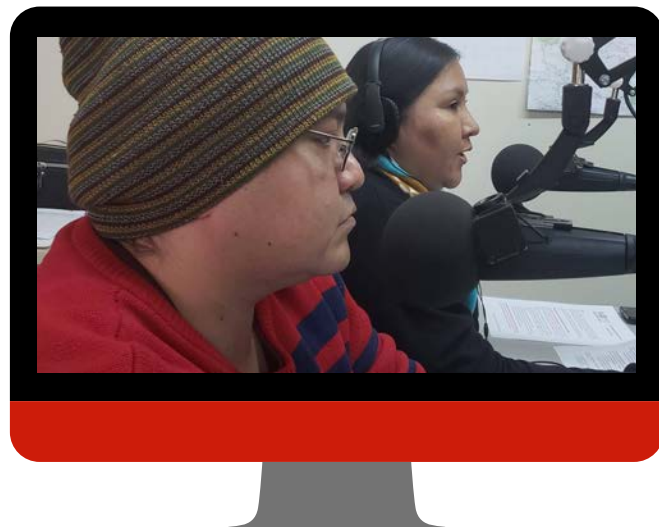
<https://www.surveymoz.com/s3/5083627/HOYI-Language-Assessment>

In other survey assessment news, HOYI also has another survey that relates to the Cultural Well-Being Pathway. This pathway aims to provide insights into cultural, emotional, professional, traditional, technical, and / or experiential aspects of Hopi / Tewa culture with an emphasis on language. The term "cultural well-being" refers to promoting a positive cultural identity with the youth as the progress in their lives. The Cultural Well-Being assessment survey is broken up into 5 sections: The Hopi / Pahana World Experience, Emotional / Mental Well-Being, Hopi / Tewa Technical Knowledge, Male / Female Ceremonial Roles, and Gender Cultural Roles. This assessment will help us understand the Hopi / Tewa youth's depth of cultural knowledge. We hope to develop tools based on this information that will deepen the Hopi / Tewa knowledge of the youth and community. The link for the online Cultural Well-Being assessment can be found at the following address:

<https://www.surveymoz.com/s3/5124592/Cultural-Well-Being>

OUR DATA ASSOCIATE CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY IN AUGUST

Happy  
Birthday  
Gene!





# FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

## NEW ROADS AHEAD

After securing the grant from First Nation's Development Institute (FNDI) in July, HOYI is still actively seeking funding to sustain our pathway work. This includes securing funding for our data efforts internally and with partners along with the research and outcomes from the language assessment and action planning after the 1-year grant from FNDI.

To further aide in our search for funding, HOYI will host a strategic planning session in late November of this year to help us understand other priority areas that are in need of funding that align with our mission and that of the Hopi Foundation. We continue to remind ourselves that our work is intended to be shared in order to support tribal partners, schools, and community as they create and/or improve their own programs. HOYI continues to build it's fundraising capacity to be able to leverage local and off reservation donors through newsletter appeals, campaigns, merchandise and local outreach.

We'd like thank all our past and present donors for your support and contributions since our beginning! Askwali/ Kwah-kway/ Thank You!

## We now have stickers for purchase!



Each sticker is \$5.  
Available at The Hopi Foundation office in Kykotsmovi.  
Check, Cash or Card are accepted.

# ADVISORY BOARDS

## WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

### Danielle Albert – Community Advisory Board



Daniell's Hopi name is àaqawsi. She is Parrot & Kachina Clans from the Village of Old Oraibi, currently residing in Tempe. Her parents are Lanell Poseyesva and Dexter Albert. She is a proud alumni of Arizona State University, Class of 2019, with a Bachelors of Arts degree in Special Events Management & Communications. She currently works full time in Tempe, AZ, at The Valley Management Group, as the Marketing and Events Assistant. Her passion for helping Native youth was found during her involvement at ASU through tutoring, meeting Tribal Delegates, and networking with various organizations.

I can't wait to share & move forward with HOYI in being a community leader & role model to the Hopi Youth & open my resources for more opportunities.

### Kerissa Ben – Youth Advisory Board

Kerissa's Hopi name Honanwaynöm. She is Coyote clan from the village of Hotevilla. Her parents are Kathy and Gary Ben. She is 20 years young and currently living in Alaska where she attends Christian College! She is working towards my A.A. degree in Paraprofessional Education.



To me, HOYI is a positive impact that the community needs.

# Welcome to the Team!



# COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

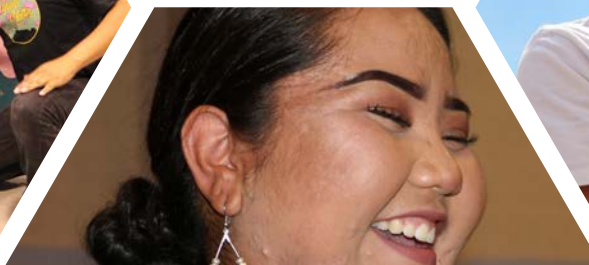
## COMMUNITY LEAD PROJECTS ON THE RISE

HOYI continues to create collaborative partnership among our local programs, community and youth to bring awareness of issues that youth face. This quarter we've partnered with the Hopi Substance Abuse Prevention Center (HSAPC) and Honyouti Ink.

In late July, HSAPC staff hosted a youth campout. The youth and their chaperones were able to participate in the Gathering of Native Americans (GONA) curriculum. Each project of the Hopi Foundation was invited to host a portion of the curriculum. HOYI hosted the portion of "Interdependence". We facilitated two activities with the participants and assisted HSAPC staff throughout the entire camp.

following the Youth Campout, HOYI was invited to participate in the "Youth Matter" event hosted by Honyouti Ink. Honyouti Ink's intentions with this event was to give out free backpacks to youth that were screen-printed with custom designs. Many local Hopi non-profits were in attendance as well as Hopi-owned businesses. With over 200+ backpacks given out, it was deemed a very successful event and HOYI would like to wish Honyouti Ink much success in the future.

WE ARE THANKFUL TO HAVE  
THESE WONDERFUL  
OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTNER  
WITH NON PROFITS &  
NATIVE OWNED  
BUSINESSES!



UP COMING EVENTS  
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



- September - Recovery Awareness Month
- October 4th & 5th - Barbra Chester Award Ceremony, [barbrachesteraward.org](http://barbrachesteraward.org) for more details
- October 19th - Hopi Agricultural & Food Symposium, [natwanicoalition.org](http://natwanicoalition.org) for more details

**UNTIL NEXT QUARTER...**

*That's all Folks!*