



# VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3 CHARTING A COURSE FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

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## A MESSAGE TO SIPI'S 2013 GRADUATES FROM PRESIDENT DR. SHERRY ALLISON AND BOARD OF REGENTS CHAIRWOMAN DARVA RANDOLPH

On behalf of the Board of Regents, faculty, and staff of Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI), it is our distinct honor to offer heartfelt congratulations to you on the completion of your associate's degree and/or certificate. Graduation commemorates a special milestone for you and your family. We are also honoring those who have supported you — family, friends, faculty, staff and loved ones.

Commencement is a special time when we gather to honor our new graduates and their achievements as well as to say thank you to the individuals who supported your success at SIPI. You are a true inspiration to your family, your Tribal community and Nation and especially to the next generation of students. We celebrate your hard work as a student and know it will serve you well as you continue on your path of success. We also appreciate what you, individually, have contributed to

SIPI. Many of you partnered with the SIPI administration and Board of Regents in our never-ending continuous improvement efforts to honor a statement in our mission: "An enduring commitment to student success is the hallmark of SIPI's operation"; a powerful statement that requires daily effort, planning, commitment, passion and belief.

We are confident that as you leave SIPI you will be well prepared for your next step — whether that is starting your career or continuing your studies. Always remember to capitalize on your strengths and high ethical values as you continue to pursue excellence! There is only one you, and, our Indian people need you!

We wish each of you many blessings for a productive, safe and happy future.

Dr. Sherry Allison

Ahe'hee doo Nizhonigo Nani-naa' doo' (Dine': Thank you and May you walk in beauty.)

Darva Randolph

Dawae'e' (Keres: Thank you.)



The SIPI mascot is the American Bald Eagle.

## TAKING STUDENT SUCCESS SERIOUSLY

We are pleased to share this issue of SIPI's newsletter, "Charting a Course for Student Success" with faculty, staff, and stakeholders. The focus of this issue is individual and collective stories of student success.

SIPI President Dr. Sherry Allison has charged the administration, faculty and staff to 'focus programs, services, and resources

on Student Success". So...what role does the college play in student success? How do we as administrators, faculty and staff promote student success? Our role is critical...each administrator, faculty and staff must have an unwavering commitment to enhancing student learning. Each of us must answer this question personally, "What role do I have in ensuring student success?" We

must hold ourselves accountable for providing high quality academic and non-academic experiences; vibrant student support services; safe learning and residential environments where our student can achieve their academic and personal goals.

**SIPI'S AIHEC STUDENT OF THE YEAR**

Randall Sahmie is Hopi from Northern Arizona. He loves fishing, camping, and hiking. He also makes Hopi pottery from time to time, but shares that he has “not yet reached the same level as my father or my aunts”. Randall has a six year old daughter, Traya who is completing first grade. In Randall’s words, “Traya is the best part of me”.

Randall began his academic career at SIPI in January 2012. Leaving Winslow, AZ, he travelled to Albuquerque. Unfortunately, he did not have the required money to pay his housing fees. This did not stop him. The first night found him sleeping under a bridge not far from SIPI. The next morning, he was at class. Fortunately, Randall discovered the Albuquerque Rescue Mission and stayed there during the first part of his first trimester. This meant early rising and long lines to catch a bus to and from the shelter. Midterms arrived and Randall achieved a 3.93 GPA. He completed his first trimester with a 4.0 GPA and was present for all his classes.

Randall is now completing his second trimester with a double major in Business Administration and Accounting. He resides on campus. He is Treasurer of the Student Senate and is a Master Learner for the college’s first Living and Learning Community. After completing his associate degrees, Randall plans to attend the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe. Randall wants to own and operate an American Indian art gallery. He knows that his education at SIPI will prepare him for future challenges.

Congratulations, Randall!

Chef Leonard Bailey and four Culinary Arts students re-

**CULINARY ARTS BRING MEDALS HOME**

cently participated in the American Culinary Federation (ACF) Colorado Chefs’ Association Competition in Denver, Colorado at the International Culinary School on February 24, 2013. The four students were entered in a one hour student (SK1) compulsory event. The Lead judge, who is a certified Master Chef, expressed that, “the SIPI culinary students showed impressive culinary skills”. All four SIPI students earned enough points to medal. The students who competed were Alyssa Thomas (Bronze Medal); David Williams (Bronze Medal); Julian Arellano (Bronze Medal); and Jonathan Boyd (Silver Medal). Chef Bailey also competed in the Professional (K1) event, and earned a silver Medal. This is the first competition that SIPI students have participated in under the direction/ instruction of Chef Bailey.

Congratulations to the students and Chef Bailey!



**Chef Bailey and Culinary Arts Students (David Williams, Alyssa Thomas, and Julian Arellano )**

**CAPITALIZING ON PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

During March 15-17, 2013- Vision Care Technology students and faculty attended the International Vision Expo and Conference in New York City to gain a global understanding of technology, trends, and professional standards in vision care. Thousands of participants represented the field of vision care and opened the eyes of SIPI students to their future profession.

By attending one to two hour session lectures, students/faculty heard firsthand the current needs and demands required to qualify for employment in the Ophthalmic, Opticianry, and industry representation field of vision. Each lecture session enhanced and supported SIPI’s Vision Care Technology Program mission statement: to train and educate students to become well-trained competent professionals while providing professional eye care service to the general public.

In addition to lecture sessions, students participated in hands on lab sessions to learn, practice, and apply skills needed to fabricate and assemble current trends in eye wear. Students also saw the latest in digital scanning laser technology now being used to detect, diagnose, analyze, and document eye conditions through information technology.

The repeated message throughout each conversation within lectures, representative interaction, and other attendees was the constant need for more “well-trained eye care professional” to meet the growing demand across the country.



**Randall Sahmie, SIPI's 2013 AIHEC Student of the Year**

*“The more students are academically and socially engaged with faculty, staff, and peers, especially in classroom activities, the more likely they are to succeed in the classroom.”*

*Vincent Tinto, a noted theorist in the field of higher education, Syracuse University*



**Sheri Red Shirt & Vision Care Students Josette Toya and Natasha Romero**

**SIPI'S PHI THETA KAPPA (PTK) CHAPTER  
INDUCTS 40 NEW MEMBERS**

The Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society (PTK) is an international honor society of two-year colleges founded in 1918. PTK has more than 1250 chapters inducting more than 100,000 members annually. Students must have consistently high academic achievement and need to have attained these grades in rigorous college level coursework. Membership gives students opportunities to participate and develop leadership skills and community service projects at the chapter, regional and even international level. Membership also gives students access to more than \$37 million in scholarships provided exclusively for PTK members.

SIPI's chapter of PTK was chartered as the Beta Beta Iota Chapter on April 5th, 1995 and has operated continuously since then. Membership and activity level fluctuates from year to year strongly influenced by the individual leadership from the club's executive council. Presently, a year of very serious commitment from officers and membership has seen SIPI's Chapter reach a decade high membership. Transition planning, a new candidate notification committee and a recent charter change that opened membership to a wider range of students is contributing to the Chapter's vitality.

This past year's activities have included several fund raising events, bi-weekly meetings, and monthly campus clean-up service projects. One of the annual PTK events is a competition for the most

prestigious two-year college academic award, the Coca Cola Scholarship Competition resulting in the naming of students to the All-USA Academic Team. Each spring, PTK International announces membership in three teams of twenty students named to the Gold, Silver and Bronze All-USA Academic Teams. There are twenty three chapters in the New Mexico PTK Region. Current student, Wendi Cole has been awarded a position on this year's Gold Team.

One of the oldest and most widespread activities in PTK is an induction ceremony of new members designed to celebrate membership in this prestigious international society. SIPI had not held a formal induction ceremony for many years since there have been so few returning members to plan an event for new members, but this year since membership was at an all time high it was decided to hold this ceremony and we anticipate continuing this each trimester. On March 22, 2013 forty new members of the Beta Beta Iota Chapter were inducted at a ceremony in the Hogan. Guest Speakers Val Montoya and Dr. Allison honored the new members before an audience of one hundred including students' family members, SIPI faculty, and staff. Officiated by Chapter officers, the ceremony was adapted beautifully within Native American cultural contexts. Everyone participating shared a sense of hope for the future of these students and a pride of accomplishment that SIPI has shared in the lives of these high achieving students. President Allison's

announcement during the closing included news of one of PTK's new inductees, Wendi Cole. She received national academic recognition which gave all the attendees a very special reason to take pride in SIPI.

Congratulations to the following PTK members and recent inductees!

- Rutherford Ashley
- Eugena Baldwin
- Waylon Ballew
- David Benalli
- Brooke Bitsui
- Mindy Burnette
- Deborah Charley-Natonabah
- Donna Chavez-Fragua
- Kevin Chee
- Wendi Cole
- Wallace Dale
- Nina Devore
- Audrey Gachupin
- Wilson Gover
- Willow Iron-Cloud
- Debra Jiron
- Tiffani Jojola
- Lisa Jones
- Leonordo Kinlicheeney
- Christine Lucero
- Gail Madalena
- Sheila Pope
- Tucker Randall
- Brandon Ray
- Juana Ray
- Linda Rosetta
- Randall Sahmie
- Leon Sandoval
- Marty Seaton
- Demetria Simms
- Lacey Smith
- Ian Soce
- Jessica Tenorio
- Michael Wabaunsee
- Cherylene Washburn
- Vincent Watkins
- Nicholson Whitey



**WENDI COLE,  
ALL USA  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE  
ACADEMIC TEAM**

Wendi Cole lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico where she attends SIPI. She is in her second year as a double major in Pre-Engineering and Computer Aided Drafting. She is from Yankton, South Dakota and is a member of the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe. After completing her associate's and bachelor's degree she plans on seeking a master's degree in engineering, studying minerals and electronics. She has served as chapter president of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) and has attended AISES leadership conferences and has been involved in community education projects on renewable energy and fundraising. Academically, Wendi is in the top of her class, a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society, Wendi serves as a student representative for the SIPI Pre-Engineering Advisory Committee and is peer mentor for engineering majors and a math and science tutor. Wendi is also a dedicated mother. Her eleven year old son has been a big inspiration in her pursuit in the field of science and technology. As a full time care taker for a majority of his eleven years, Wendi and her son have dealt with autism by being involved in their own research, experiments and exploration at home.



**Wendi Cole**

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SIPI is located in the heart of Indian Country, in the center of New Mexico's high-tech corridor. The College was established by a consortium of tribes including the All-Indian Pueblo Council (19 New Mexico tribes), the Navajo Nation, the Jicarilla Apache Nation, the Mescalero Apache Tribe, the Southern Ute Tribes and other southwestern tribes. On September 16, 1971, SIPI officially opened its doors for classes. Today, the College as a federally-operated institution offers advanced technical education and a university transfer degree to students who are members of federally recognized tribes.



## **Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute**

A NATIONAL INDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE THAT  
PREPARES NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENTS TO BE  
PRODUCTIVE LIFE-LONG LEARNERS, AS TRIBAL  
MEMBERS, IN AN EVER-CHANGING GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT.

### **STAFF AND FACULTY WISHES TO 2013 GRADUATES**

Congratulations from the ABE Staff, especially those who started out with classes in our Department. You are an excellent example to our students. May your journey continue on the road to a Prosperous and Successful Future. Best wishes from the Department of Adult and Developmental Education.

**Gloria Mariano, SIPI Staff**

It makes me proud to see that the future for Indian Country is so bright! Congratulations! Make the most of the opportunities that come your way!

**Danielle Lansing, SIPI Faculty**

Good luck SIPI Graduates! As you move to the next chapter of your life, find your passion and pursue it relentlessly. The value of your education will impact you in ways you never imagined.

**Jeff Wilkins, SIPI Faculty**

Graduation is a time to celebrate your achievements, prepare for a future of opportunities and embrace a world of infinite possibilities. All of your hard work, dedication and discipline have paid off. Congratulations 2013 SIPI Graduates! Your reward lies ahead. Have a successful future.

**Jameson Castillo, SIPI Staff**

2013 Graduates...You have already made the SIPI community proud. Now, continue to strive to be the best student, friend, daughter/son, mother/father, and SIPI Alumni by working hard, following your dreams and give back to your community. I wish you nothing but the best.

**Melynda (Mely) Mitchell, SIPI Staff**

Congratulations 2013 SIPI Graduates! Keep on!

**Verbie James, SIPI Staff**

**Thank you to these  
Newsletter  
Contributors!**

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