

AUTUMN M. POWELL

AFRO-DINÉ

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P.O. Box 3712
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. University of Kansas, Geography and Atmospheric Sciences

MS University of Maryland-Baltimore County, Geography and Environmental Systems
May 2024

BS Haskell Indian Nations University, Environmental Science May 2021

AS Haskell Indian Nations University, Fitness and Recreation May 2018

RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

Sloan Foundation Scholar

University of Kansas

Dr. Melinda Adams

Geography and Atmospheric Sciences

Dissertation: *How Roads is A Tangible Form of Colonization of Bordering Natural Landscapes of the Haskell Wetlands*

2024-ongoing

Institute for Tribal Environment Professionals (ITEP)

Northern Arizona University

ITEP Supervisor: Kim Shaw

Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources (NNDWR) Supervisor: Ryan Barton

San Juan River Crop Inventory

June 17, 2024-August 16, 2024

NFS Interdisciplinary Consortium of Applied Research in the Environment (ICARE) 2022-2024

University of Maryland-Baltimore County (UMBC)

Academic Advisor: Dr. Margaret (Maggie) Holland, Associate Professor, Geography and Environmental Systems (GES)

Partner Mentor: Dr. Ashley Minner-Jones, Smithsonian National Museum of American Indian

Community Mentor: Maria Day and Megan Craynon, Maryland State Archives: Special Collections, Indigenous Peoples' Program

Thesis Topic: A STATE THAT LEAVES NO ONE BEHIND? ERASURE OF NATIVE PEOPLES IN MARYLAND & HOW THIS LIMITS INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL & CLIMATE ACTION

My thesis project amplifies the voices of Maryland's Eastern Shore and Woodlands Tribal Peoples about their issues and priorities in the social and environmental sector. Neocolonialism has created Indigenous erasure in Maryland's Tribal Nations, where everyone assumes no tribes exist, leading to inequitable access to their waterways and access to their lands. My thesis is to confront the European legacy of erasure affecting Tribal Nations and for institutions to be held accountable for their unconscious bias and erasure of Maryland's Tribal Nations.

Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) 2023-2024

Northern Arizona University (NAU)

ITEP NAU Supervisor: Kim Shaw

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Supervisors: Celene Hawkins and Lanier Nabahe
Intern

TNC is creating scenario planning for the San Juan River Basin, taking into account residents, Tribal, agricultural, and institute communities relying on the water source. This is carefully planned through my supervisors, including other organizations, to ensure water usage is equitable from other perspectives. As an intern, I'm observing the Tribal engagement in scenario planning to make sure it aligns with their priorities.

**Colorado River Water Users Association (CRUWA) Conference
December 13-15, 2023**

Las Vegas, NV

Indigenous Women's Leadership Network (IWLN) Scholarship Recipient
Supervisor: Lorelei Cloud, Mira Barney, & Tahila Bear

IWLN presented an opportunity for Native students to attend the CRUWA 2023 Conference in Las Vegas to witness the functions and processes of how each organization, state, and Tribal rights to the Colorado River Basin. The current water policies will soon expire, and this conference was held to update new policies for 2026. This was a unique conference I attended because it was an actual planning scenario discussion I witnessed.

**Maryland State Archives Special Collections: Indigenous Peoples Program
June 2023**

Annapolis, MD

Supervisor: Maria Day

Co-Supervisor: Megan Craynon

Intern

Worked with historical records dating from 1600-1800 regarding Maryland's Indigenous People: Eastern Shore & Woodland Tribal Peoples. Contributed my work and input on updating the Mayis Indigenous Records website for the public to use it better. Attended teachers' conferences and workshops on incorporating Indigenous Peoples in the curricula.

American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) Canada National Gathering Conference

2023

Vancouver, CA

Conference attendee

NIH Postbaccalaureate Research Education Program (PREP)

2021-2022

University of Kansas

Research advisor: Dr. Kelly Kindscher, Kansas Biological Survey

Omaha (Umó'hoⁿ) Ethnobotany Project: working with the Umó'hoⁿ tribe to reconnect culturally important plant knowledge that is researched and documented for educators and tribal members to utilize, with the Tribal citizen's permission for the knowledge to be publicized.

Haskell Environmental Research Studies (HERS) Summer Internship

2021

Haskell Indian Nations University, University of Kansas

Undergraduate Research I (ENVS 480),

2021

Haskell Indian Nations University

Students are given a topic of choice; my research focused on Ecotourism and how large populations in nature reserve parks impact the frail environment.

American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) National Conference

2018

Conference Attendee

Haskell Environmental Research Studies (HERS) Summer Internship

2018

Haskell Indian Nations University, University of Kansas

PRESENTATIONS

Powell, A. 2021. *Tó éí 'Íiná dóó éí Diné Bikéyah Bikáa'gí (Water is Life on the Navajo Nation)*. Haskell Environmental Research Studies (HERS) Poster Symposium. Poster presentation

Powell, A. 2018. *Climate Change, Cottonwoods, and Navajo Nation*

LANGUAGES

Navajo: Intermediate Speaker and Listener

English: Second Language and expert

OTHER

Treasurer of Diné Club

Co-coach of Barbellas (all women powerlifting group)

TRIO participant

TRIO grantee

Haskell Scholar

Native Medicinal Plant Program

ICARE Cohort Program

Sloan Scholar

Graduate Geography and Environmental Systems Club

REFERENCES

Kathy Denning [PREP Advisor]
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