



ASU-Turning Points Magazine [Follow](#)

Turning Points Magazine is the first ever Native college magazine written by Native students for Native students @asu

Feb 22 · 6 min read

## Turning Towards a Purpose— College Dreams

By: Shandiin Gorman

| *Tribal Affiliation: Navajo*

| *Major(s): B.A. Journalism and B.A. American Indian Studies*



Native American students across the country dream of attending college and graduating. The dream of acquiring a college degree is special because it influences, guides, and inspires us toward our purpose in life. ASU is home to thousands of Native American students who have dreamed and never stopped believing (3,034 Native students were enrolled in 2016–17, pg. 5). Each student has their own story and path. In this first edition of Turning Points, a few of our passionate and talented Native Sun Devils share their college dreams.



## Daniell Albert

Daniell Albert is from the Hopi tribe and a junior majoring in interdisciplinary studies with concentrations in special events management and communication. She feels that ASU is the place to follow her dreams because “ASU stays connected to reservations and shows the importance of Native students.” ASU reaches out to Native American youth, including through the Tribal Nations Tour (see pg. 8), which is important to Daniell because she wants Native youth to consider college in their future. She views her purpose is to set an example for the youth on her reservation to further their education.



## Shevaughn Black

Shevaughn Black is Navajo and from a rural town called Tsaile located on the Navajo Nation. He is a sophomore studying psychology and is interested in exploring a career in law and counseling. He decided to attend ASU because of the campus culture and scholarship opportunities. “The amount of students here is astounding, meaning you can make a network with plenty of people here for all types of careers,” he said. “I love that about ASU.” Shevaughn’s purpose is to learn and grow as a person. He feels that ASU is the perfect place to pursue this goal.



## Eric Woody

Eric Woody is a Navajo freshman from Kirtland, New Mexico, studying engineering. Eric was drawn to ASU because it “felt like home because of the Native communities/people are within an arm reaching distance.” Having a connection with other Native students is very important for Eric. A large influence on Eric’s decision to attend ASU was his older sister, Erica Woody. Erica is a senior at ASU and has always been close to her brother. Eric explains, “Seeing her do all these amazing things while attending ASU made me want to choose ASU even more.” Eric plans to continue setting this example as his purpose is to empower young people in his community to attend college.



## Edwardine Thomas

Edwardine Thomas is a member of the Gila River Indian Community/Akimel O’otham tribe and a master’s student in education. She is a grandmother who has returned to school. For the past 25 years, she has worked in the educational field for the Blackwater Community School/FACE Program because she loves working with young children in helping to shape their minds. She also is a lifelong learner, which is why she decided to pursue her educational goals at ASU. She believes her purpose is to bring back everything she has learned to her community, so that her tribe can preserve its language and utilize the knowledge she has gained. She tells her children and community, “You are never too old to learn,” which she hopes will inspire others to never give up on their aspirations.



## **Dominique DDaye Hunter**

Dominique DDaye Hunter is a descendant of many people such as the African, Irish, Polish and Saponi. Born and raised in New Jersey, Dominique now calls Phoenix home as she begins her senior year. A transfer student from Mesa Community College, Dominique is passionate about her involvement with multiple Native American organizations that fight for sovereignty and community. Dominique believes that “community trust, relationship and engagement is key,” which is why she decided to attend ASU so that she can further develop these skills. She aspires to work with nonprofit organizations that empower women and emphasize health and wellness. She believes her purpose in attending ASU is to build a strong foundation in her field.



## Ramon Littleman

Ramon Littleman is a Navajo senior from LeChee, Arizona, majoring in construction management. He is also known as Moonie for his rising popularity as a creator of Native humor videos. He decided to attend ASU because “ASU was the one place that would help me thrive.” While Ramon creates hilarious videos that reach people around the world, he wants to stress that it is possible for a full-time student to continue multiple passions at the same time. One of his passions is to create these videos as an opportunity to connect with not only young people but also with students at ASU. He wants students to know that it is okay to have fun and work hard simultaneously. Ramon points out that students should try to “remind yourself of where you come from” because sometimes we may lose connection with our culture. It is important for Native Americans to remain tied and involved with who we are as a people and where we come from. Ramon’s purpose in attending college is to better himself, which will then reflect and better his community.





## Shandiin Gorman

The reason I am attending ASU is because I want to be a voice for Indigenous communities. I am double majoring in journalism and American Indian studies. I grew up at Hard Rock, Arizona, located on the Navajo Nation and learned that in order to help my community, education is vital. I am pursuing a college degree so that my success will have a larger effect than just on me. ASU strives to welcome and encourage Native American students to succeed in their college path. The opportunities that are made available to learn and grow are endless. The faculty and campus supports Native students to pursue their passions and goals with great respect.

As ASU Native students, we come from different tribes, regions, hometowns, and schools. The purposes behind these dreams are special and inspiring. What is your purpose? What are your dreams? Answers to those questions have the potential to spark motivation and encouragement. Hold tight to them and turn to them; you got this!



