The Hopi Leadership Program (HLP) was off to a great start in the new year 2023. The HLP staff kickstarted the new year with a trip to Phoenix, AZ to attend the Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day alongside Hopi Foundation (HF) Executive Director Monica Nuvamsa, and HF Operations Director Hannah Honani. HF staff set up an information booth to promote the work of The Hopi Foundation and all of its programs. This was a great opportunity to connect with nonprofits and other organizations who work with Native communities in Arizona. Before our departure, HLP staff was able to meet with AZ Humanities staff in-person after months of contact via e-mail and teleconference. It was a great experience to meet our HLP funding partners in-person and express our gratitude for the grant awards that sustain the Hopi Leadership Program’s unique work for the benefit of the Hopi/Tewa community.

Another highlight from the month of January was completing the first stage of the HLP strategic planning session that will carry the program over the next 3 years. Consultants of the planning session were Jim Anderson and Alice Ferris of GoalBusters Consulting LLC. GoalBusters Consulting LLC provides solutions for nonprofit organizations, including outsourced and interim development management, strategic and development planning and staff and board training. The HLP strategic plan had not been updated since 2016 and this updated strategic plan will provide the program an opportunity to make enhancements to the leadership curriculum and leverage the services afforded to the Hopi/Tewa community.
During the month of February, the Hopi Leadership Program closed-out the AZ Humanities ARP grant and submitted its final report. The Hopi Leadership Program was initially awarded $15,000 in ARP - Humanities Relief Grant funds on September 26, 2021 with an additional $5,000 awarded on October 6, 2021. The total award of $20,000 was budgeted for use in 2022 by the Hopi Leadership Program before the grant’s project end date.

March 14, 2023 marked the start of early giving for Arizona Gives Day 2023. The Arizona Gives Day program is run by the Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits + Arizona Grantmakers Forum. The event was started in 2013 to connect people with causes they believe in and build a lasting, stronger spirit of philanthropy. Since its inception, Arizona Gives Day has raised nearly $36.4 million for nonprofits statewide.

On March 6th and 7th, the Hopi Leadership Program staff attended the TOPS Facilitation Methods training by Indigenous Collaboration, P.B.C. sponsored by the Hopi Tewa Women’s Coalition to End Abuse in collaboration with The Hopi Foundation. The topics of this training were Introduction to Focused Conversation & Consensus Workshop Methods. Both days gave staff the opportunity to learn, engage, and apply these methods in a group setting.

On March 20, 2023 the final stages to complete the HLP strategic plan were conducted alongside the Hopi Foundation administration team at the Moenkopi Legacy Inn. The HLP staff mapped out the coming months of 2023 and is prepared to address components that will enhance programming for the start of the next incoming leadership cohort.
The Hopi Youth Leadership Program had a successful spring session despite many unexpected challenges that were presented during the time frame of the program. A letter of agreement was signed between the Hopi Jr/Sr High School and the Hopi Leadership Program for the HLP to host a one week cultural well-being session in the winter of 2022 and a two week spring session focusing on Cultural Well-being and Mentoring during spring 2023. HLP staff spent 2 days out of the week prior to the program start dates to host a recruitment booth during the high school lunch hour. Students enjoyed playing a trivia game to learn about the leadership program and answer HYLP curriculum related questions to win snacks and prizes. HLP staff was able to share information about the program and provide students with an opportunity to pick up an application to join the Hopi Youth Leadership Program.

Despite competing with other afterschool programs, HYL was able to engage 3 students, Alyssia Sakeva, Abram Sehongva, and Keandrea Mase as participants. On the first day students provided self-introductions and were introduced to the program and staff. Everyone got an opportunity to introduce themselves and share who they are and what village they are from. Snacks were enjoyed by the students at each after-school session. Unfortunately the HYLP was only able to be held on the first day of the program in week one. Reports of the school receiving threats posted on social media caused the school to cancel classes for the remainder of that week. Classes resumed the following week and the HYLP was able to continue the after-school program.

The schedule was from April 24th - May 4th Monday - Thursday 3:30pm - 4:45pm and hosted in the HJSHS library. The learning objective of week one involved Cultural Well-being, Identity and introducing the concepts of colonization and decolonization. Week two was directed towards Mentoring and Service Learning. Using a method called True Colors, students were provided an opportunity to become more familiar with their individual personality traits and also explore ideas about what job fields and careers they could possibly excel in based on these personality traits.
On Friday June 9, 2023 the Hopi Leadership Program organized a highway clean up that is done annually based on the adoption of a highway with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). The HLP has adopted a portion of highway 264 adjacent to the village of Old Oraibi. This portion of adopted highway is dedicated to the Hopi Leadership Program and its Alumni. Due to the pandemic, restrictions of gathering in large groups had not allowed there to be a clean up for the past 3 years. The leadership program was grateful for the turnout of alumni and volunteers who filled over 15 bags of trash. The clean up lasted from 7:00am - 10:30am. Recognizing how the roadside clean-up is a great help to the local community overall, community members passing by in their cars would honk and express thank you in Hopi to members of our clean-up group. The Hopi Fire Rescue team also joined the clean-up and helped to maintain the passing traffic to ensure the safety of the Alumni and volunteers. After completing the clean-up, Hopi Foundation staff prepared and served a Hopi Taco lunch for everyone who participated in the HLP highway clean-up.

The Hopi Leadership Program is currently focusing on preparations for the upcoming 2024 HLP cohort. The HLP staff is working on incorporating objectives that resulted from completion of our strategic plan. This includes revising our program’s curriculum that will focus on topics that are relevant to the Hopi community in areas of cultural and professional development. HLP staff is also currently working toward hosting an outdoor cultural field trip for the Hopi Youth Leadership Program.
CONSIDER CONTRIBUTING TO THE EFFORTS OF THE HOPI LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

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KWAKWAH! / THANK YOU!