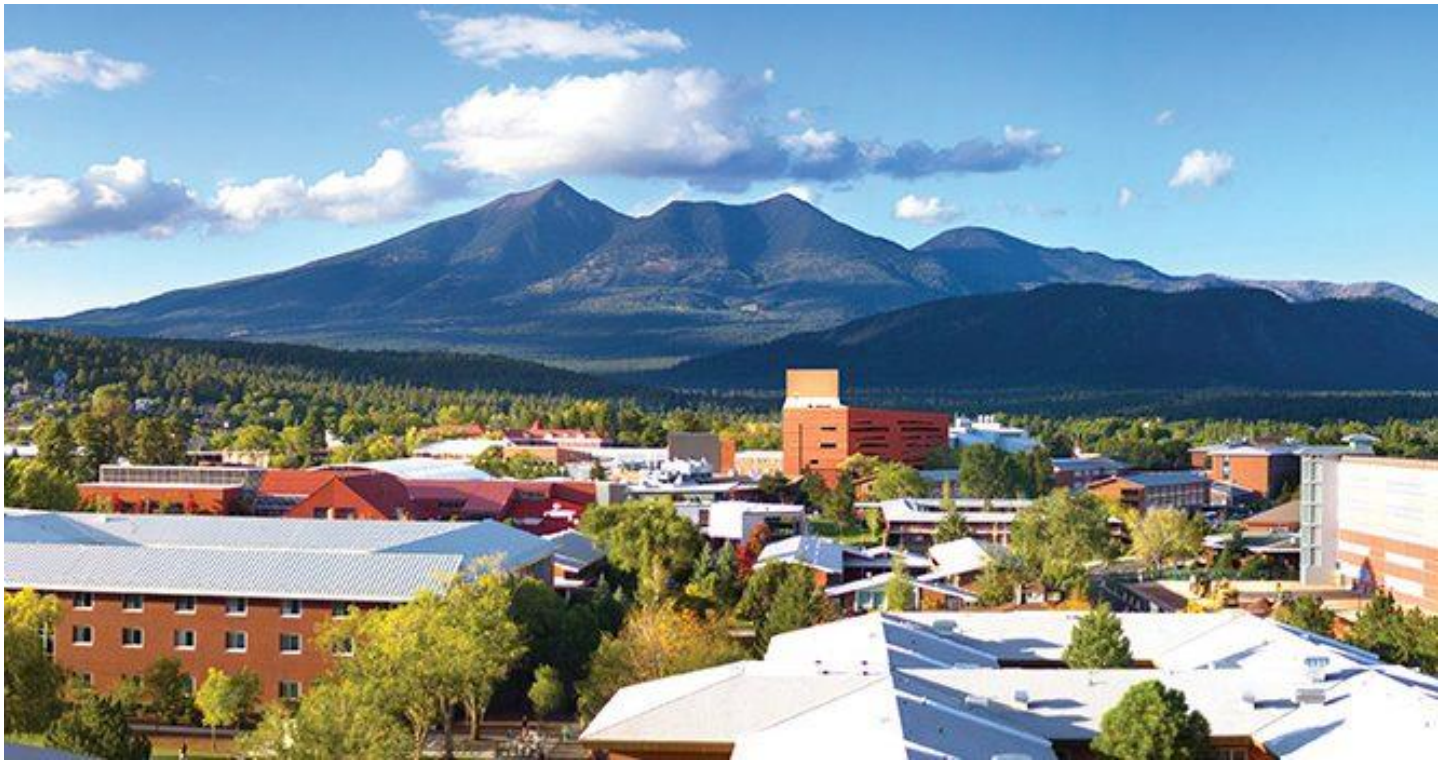
The background of the slide features a blue sky with the silhouettes of several graduates. They are shown from the chest up, holding their black graduation caps and white diplomas high in the air, suggesting a celebratory atmosphere. The text is overlaid on this scene.

**Welcome! To the PITAS and
PITASBridge Presentation
from the College of
Education at NAU**

**The presentation will start at
5:00 PM Arizona Time**



- Northern Arizona University sits at the base of the San Francisco Peaks, on homelands sacred to Native Americans throughout the region. We honor their past, present, and future generations, who have lived here for millennia and will forever call this place home.

A photograph of a smiling female teacher with glasses and a floral lei, holding a student's drawing that says "Uncle Willie, mother, Joe". The background shows a classroom with educational posters on the wall and a bookshelf. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

Pathway to Teacher Certification

Preparing Indigenous Teachers for Arizona Schools (PITAS)

Principal Investigators



Dr. Angelina Castagno



Dr. Ramona Mellott

Cohort 1 Graduated in May 2024

- Funding Source: Arizona Department of Education

Cohort 2 graduating in May of 2025

- Funding Source: Arizona Governor's Office

NAU Spring 2024 Commencement College of Education Only

<i>COE Graduates</i>	<i>GRAD</i>	<i>UGRD</i>	<i>Grand Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>American Indian/Alaska Native</i>	21	30	51	8%
<i>Asian</i>	14	9	23	4%
<i>Black/African American</i>	21	15	36	5%
<i>Hispanic/Latino</i>	60	123	183	28%
<i>Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific</i>	1		1	0%
<i>Not Specified</i>	7	4	11	2%
<i>White</i>	164	188	352	54%
<i>Grand Total</i>	288	369	657	

Introduction of Northern Arizona University Staff



Preparing Indigenous Teachers for Arizona Schools (PITAS) is . . .



PITAS Cohorts 2024

Persons who are already certified teachers are NOT eligible

designed for para-professionals, educational assistants, and others in Native-serving schools across Arizona who want to become certified K-8 teachers.

**Persons who are
already certified
teachers are
NOT eligible**

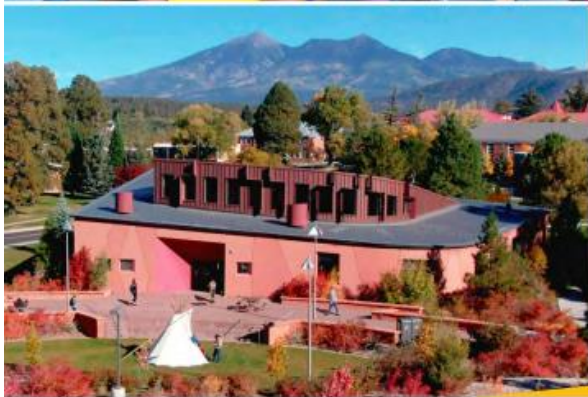


First cohort of Indigenous teacher education program graduates from NAU

ABIGAIL KESSLER Sun Staff Reporter
May 13, 2024



Of cohort 2022 19 (76%) scholars completed their student teaching and graduated on time in May 2024



Strategic Priority

Commitment to Indigenous Peoples

In recognition of the unique sovereign status of Native Nations and the sacred land on which the university was built, NAU will continue its intentional support for Indigenous students, faculty, and staff; develop university-wide culturally responsive educational opportunities and programming; and build mutually beneficial partnerships with Indigenous communities that will position NAU as the nation's leading university serving Indigenous Peoples.

Components

- Through Indigenous Peoples-focused coursework and programming, NAU students and employees will **gain knowledge and understanding of the sovereignty of Indigenous Nations and Indigenous Peoples'** cultures, arts, contributions, self-determination, and traditional ways of knowing.
- NAU's enhanced strategies will **support enrollment, retention, and educational attainment** of Native American and other Indigenous students through community-based pre-college pathways and recruitment, culturally responsive programming and pedagogy, and dedicated campus environments that support the success of Indigenous students.
- NAU will **promote and support Indigenous community-driven research, scholarship, and creative activities** across disciplines.
- NAU will exercise best practices to equitably **recruit, retain, and support Indigenous faculty and staff** throughout the institution.
- In partnership with Native Nations and local communities, NAU will **support mutually beneficial community-driven partnerships, engagement, and service.**

Program Options

PITASBridge

- Leads to admission into the College of Education and the PITAS program for those who need to address deficiencies

BSED Elementary Education

- Leads to K-8 teacher certification, plus a bachelor's degree

MEd Elementary Education

- Leads to K-8 teacher certification, plus a master's degree





PITAS Program Highlights

- NAU courses offered live online via Zoom
- Cohort model
- Class content designed for Native-serving schools
- Convenient, consistent class schedule
- Completed in 2 years
- **Tuitions** and **mandatory fees** can be covered by ATA Scholarship
- \$500 scholarship/stipend per semester (in addition to ATA Scholarship or other financial aid offered) **Must attend weekend and summer residency**

Another Possible Benefit!!

Early Certification

- **TIPP:** Teacher Intern Preparation Program and **STIC:** Student Teaching Intern Certificate

PITAS #1	KA graduate	ADE Certified, hired to teach 2nd grade
PITAS #2	SL graduate	ADE Certified, hired to teach 3 rd grade
PITAS #3	JM graduate	ADE Certified hired as FACE Program Parent Trainer
PITAS #4	DH graduate	ADE Certified hired to teach 4th grade
PITAS #5	CH graduate	ADE Certified hired to teach 2 nd grade
PITAS #6	CV graduate	ADE Certified hired to teach 3rd grade
PITAS #7	LW graduate	ADE Certified, hired to teach 3 rd grade
PITAS #8	ET graduate	ADE Certified hired to teach 6th grade
PITAS #9	CG undergraduate	Applying for STIC, offered job as 1 st and 2 nd grade teacher

Program Overview

- Technologically advanced
- Culturally responsive pedagogy
- Student-focused
- Small class sizes
- Individual attention
- CAEP accredited



Professional Education Programs

Admission Requirements for BSED


- Complete 45 transfer credits including the following:

Community College Courses	Required Grade
ENG 101	Combined GPA for ENG 101 and ENG 102 must be at least 3.0
ENG 102	
Introduction to Education	C or better
Principles of Mathematics I	C or better
Principles of Mathematics II	C or better
Lecture + Lab Science	C or better
Lecture + Lab Science	C or better

Professional Education Programs

Admission Requirements for BSED

- Cumulative 2.5 GPA in Liberal Studies courses or all transfer courses
- Copy of **Identity-Verified Print (IVP)**
- **fingerprint clearance card**


 STATE OF ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
Level One Fingerprint Clearance Card

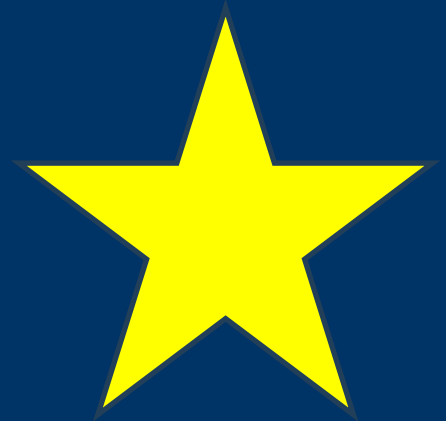
Name: AZTESTEEEEEE A. AZTESTEEEEEE

Birth Date: 11/1/1991 Issue Date: 11/1/2016

M	190	6 00	BLK	GRY
Sex	Weight	Height	Eyes	Hair

Card Number: 4A01780029 Expire Date: 11/1/2022

 IVPE007108



Professional Education Programs

Admission Requirements for MEd

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution including the following:

Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution	GPA of 3.0 = full admittance Below 3.0 undergraduate GPA = petition for conditional admittance with requirement of earning 3.0 in your first semester of the MEd program
Copy of IVP Fingerprint clearance card	



Coursework & Residencies



- **PITAS Graduate scholars are required to maintain a 3.0 GPA and PITAS Undergraduate Scholars are required to maintain a 2.0 GPA to remain funded by the Arizona Teachers Academy. We will support you in your coursework and fieldwork but there are some things that may make it more difficult for you to succeed or to continue in the program, including missing coursework, not attending class or study sessions, and failing to submit assignments.**

Arizona Teachers Academy



- Arizona Teacher's Academy (ATA) grant aid and tuition-based Scholarship/waivers cover any remaining tuition and mandatory student fees after all available grant aid and scholarships have been applied.
- ATA is NOT a need-based scholarship and is open to ALL students who are enrolled in an eligible program and are U.S. citizens or permanent residents; ATA recipients must be able to complete a FAFSA and eligible for federal student aid.
- Program commitment is to teach at an Arizona public school one year for any portion of a year when scholarship funds are awarded.

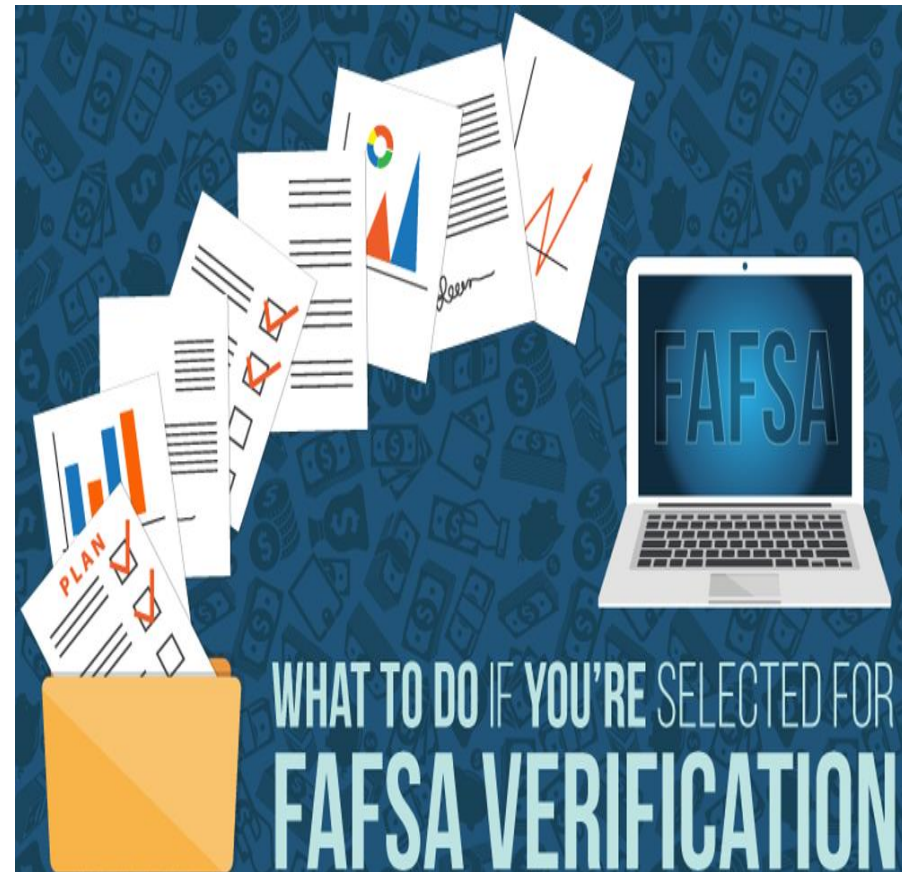
Additional ATA Benefits



- Coverage of licensure exam costs.
- Additional professional development experiences during your program.
- Coverage of teaching certification costs upon graduation.
- Mentoring and induction support provided to NAU graduates by the [Arizona K-12 Center](#) during your first year of teaching in Arizona.

FAFSA verification? You might be chosen

Verification is the process your school uses to confirm that the data reported on your FAFSA form is accurate. If you're selected for verification, your school will request additional documentation that supports the information you reported. **Don't assume you're being accused of doing anything wrong; however, the process can take several weeks!**



Join us in PITAS!

Important next steps and reminders

- Contact **Micaela Merryman** to discuss your application and transcripts
- Complete the **current FAFSA** Here is a “how to” video on the FAFSA:
https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-e&q=how+to+complete+the+fafsa#kpvalbx=_puL_YqO6BoLckPIP2s6P2AE19
- Be sure to check your **NAU email** daily and follow up!

Steps for acceptance to PITAS:

1. Acceptance to NAU (sent via email, **you must “accept”**) this may take up to a week to process.
2. Acceptance to the Professional Education Programs (PEP) (**sent to NAU email**)
3. Acceptance to PITAS (**sent via NAU email**)

	1. Contact Micaela Merryman for Information	
Undergraduate		Graduate
If you need assistance Contact Molly Jisa	2. Apply to NAU <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unofficial transcript • Submit FAFSA to NAU 	If you need assistance Contact Amy Faull
	Keep checking your NAU email Wait for your admission's letter	
Laverne Kescoli reviews applications	3. Once admitted, Apply to PEP (Professional Educators Programs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IVP Card Required • Submit ATA agreement form 	Amy Faull reviews applications
If you DO NOT Qualify for PITAS Consider Applying to PITASBridge	4. Apply to PITAS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official Transcript • Letter of Interest • Letter of Support (supervisor) 	If not Accepted to PITAS speak to your advisor regarding your options
	Final Interview with Dr. Boloz Accepted to PITAS	

School letter head

Sample Supervisor Letter

Dear PITAS Program Staff:

I support the application of _____ to the Preparing Indigenous Teachers for Arizona Schools (PITAS) program at Northern Arizona University. I believe that this employee would be a great fit for this program and with working with children.

I realize that the PITAS program is:

- a two-year program where most of the coursework will be completed through online, evening coursework that begin at 5:00 PM twice weekly.
- a program that will require PITAS Scholars to be on the NAU campus for one weekend each semester; and
- a program that will require this employee to attend a two-week, summer residency in July.

Therefore, I am committed to supporting this scholar by providing reasonable accommodations to allow her/him to be on time to attend evening classes; to provide this employee release time on one Friday to attend a once-a-semester PITAS weekend, and release time, if appropriate, to attend the two-week-summer on-campus residency.

Signed,

(Supervisor)

Northern Arizona
University
Public University



Northern Arizona University is a public research university based in Flagstaff, Arizona. Founded in 1899, it was the final public university established in the Arizona Territory, 13 years before Arizona was admitted as the 48th state. [Wiki](#)

Founded: September 11, 1899

Location: 1900 S. Knoles Dr, Babbitt Administrative Center, Room 200, Flagstaff, AZ 86011

Tuition: \$11,896 (2019)

Acceptance Rate: 84.89% (2019)

Total Enrollment: 28,090

Tuition for 2 years	24,000
Stipends	3,200
Computer	500
Related Costs	2,300
TOTAL COST	\$30,000

Get Started Now



Micaela Merryman

PITAS Program Coordinator

NAU Mountain Campus



Micaela.Merryman@nau.edu



Available On Campus Mondays through Wednesdays 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Get Started Now



Dr. Sigmund A. Boloz

Associate Teaching Professor and

PITAS Anchor Faculty

College of Education

✉ sig.boloz@nau.edu

PREPARING INDIGENOUS TEACHERS FOR ARIZONA SCHOOLS
PRESENTS

MONTHLY INFORMATION SESSIONS

Join us on Zoom to learn how you can become a certified teacher in 2 years while staying in your home community with the PITAS program. All courses are online with Monday/Wednesday evenings on Zoom. Program includes culturally responsive classes, one in person weekend per semester, and a two-week summer residency in Flagstaff. **We're looking for 20 participants and will accept applications on a rolling basis until June 30th or until we reach capacity, so register for a session today.**

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER FOR A SESSION!

January 28th, 2025
5:30 - 6:30 PM AZ time

February 25th, 2025
5:30-6:30 PM AZ time

March 25th, 2025
5:30 - 6:30 PM AZ time

April 29th, 2025
5:30 - 6:30 PM AZ time

May 27th, 2025
5:30 - 6:30 PM AZ time



Target End Date for Applications

June 28, 2024



Waiting List

We are looking for 20 scholars and we are looking for a diverse representation in PITAS and 10 scholars for the PITASBridge program

	1. Contact Micaela Merryman for Information	
Undergraduate		Graduate
If you need assistance Contact Molly Jisa	2. Apply to NAU <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unofficial transcript • Submit FAFSA to NAU 	If you need assistance Contact Amy Faull
	Keep checking your NAU email Wait for your admission's letter	
Laverne Kescoli reviews applications	3. Once admitted, Apply to PEP (Professional Educators Programs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IVP Card Required • Submit ATA agreement form 	Amy Faull reviews applications
If you DO NOT Qualify for PITAS Consider Applying to PITASBridge	4. Apply to PITAS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official Transcript • Letter of Interest • Letter of Support (supervisor) 	If not Accepted to PITAS speak to your advisor regarding your options
	Final Interview with Dr. Boloz Accepted to PITAS	