

Tribal Court Advocacy provides NPC students more knowledge about their Native culture, history and Tribal court system

The Tribal Court Advocacy Program at Northland Pioneer College (NPC) is designed to provide students with the practical skills essential to entry-level advocacy positions within the Tribal Court system.

Upon successful completion of the program, graduates will be able to represent clients in tribal court for criminal and civil matters. The intent of the program is to give students a realistic view of the tribal court system and the role played by the Tribal Court Advocate.

Myrtle Dayzie-Grey is a graduate of the Tribal Court Advocacy Program and is currently an academic advisor and a member of the library staff, at NPC's Kayenta Center.

Dayzie-Grey became interested in the program, being a Native American, about two and half years into her employment with NPC.

"The need to be knowledgeable in the area of my own culture, history, and philosophy coincide with the Tribal Court Advocacy Program," she said. "There is a need for this training whether a person is a tribal member or a citizen in Arizona or across the United States. Knowing as much as possible about the legal system is very important, therefore the Tribal Court Advocacy Program is a good tool and experience to acquire."

The program involves a lot of work on the part of the students, as the aim of the program is to prepare them to write, speak and carry out the duties of an advocate in tribal courts. Ms. Dayzie-Grey's experiences with the Tribal Court Advocacy Program involved countless

hours of researching and reading trial cases to understand different legal situations and how they relate to cases at hand.

"I would definitely recommend this program to anyone who is serious about pursuing a law degree who intends on working at the tribal, state, or federal level. The program was definitely worthwhile for me because I feel it broadens one's awareness and knowledge as a tribal member and even as a citizen. The program is excellent for Native Americans whether they live on or off their reservations."

NPC was the first community college in Arizona to offer training for Tribal Court Advocates. Course content is still being adjusted to better serve prepare graduates for this exciting new career opportunity.

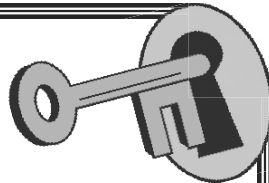
A regionally-accredited comprehensive community college, NPC operates four campuses and six educational centers that serve Northeastern Arizona, including the Navajo, Hopi, and White Mountain Apache Nations.

For more information about Northland Pioneer College, contact the Admissions Office, toll-free 1-800-266-7845 or visit < www.NPC.edu >. ♦

Wisdom comes only when you stop looking for it and start living the life the Creator intended for you.

– Native American proverb (Hopi)

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