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Obama gives Chimney Rock a National Monument designation

By Darryl Fears, Washington Post 9.24.12

A thousand years ago, the ancestors of modern Pueblo Indians were among the ancient people who watched the sky.

They built a village near an extraordinary rock formation in southwest Colorado that captures the rare Lunar Standstill.

Today it is called Chimney Rock, a sprawling archaeological site covering nearly 5,000 acres in San Juan National Forest. President Obama gave it a National Monument designation last week, his third and the nation's 103rd overall.

Chimney Rock is surrounded by the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. Since its construction, Pueblo tribes split into the 19 current groups that are governed by the All Indian Pueblo Council.

Santa Ana, Zuni, Acoma and other tribes spread into New Mexico, Arizona, Texas and other parts of Colorado, abandoning Chimney Rock, but recognizing it as an ancestral place of origin.

“That’s why these sites have a deep significance to native people that you and I may not understand,” said Mark Fiege, an associate professor of history at Colorado State University. “It goes to the core of their being and their identity as a people. Their very sense of themselves is wrapped up in the land.”

While [declaring the designation](#) Friday, Obama said it would ensure that the important and historic site between Pagosa Springs and Durango “will receive the protection it deserves.”

More important to some, a boost in federal financing that the designation provides will lead to an improved experience for tourists at the site, and likely draw more of them.

A [June report](#) by BBC Research and Consulting, prepared for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, estimated that the site’s enhanced profile would double the current economic impact from tourism, \$1.2 million, within five years. The number of jobs at the new monument, about 17, would nearly double.

“Thousands of people come every year to experience the cultural and spiritual significance of Chimney Rock,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, one of three administration officials who visited Chimney Rock for a ceremony Friday.

“With President Obama’s action and the strong support of the Native American community and others throughout the region, this new monument will bring new economic opportunity to Archuleta County and the Four Corners region as more visitors from around the world come to see this national treasure.”

The monument designation was years in the making. According to the report, the national trust got involved with an effort to preserve Chimney Rock in 2007 by providing matching funds under the Save America’s Treasures Grant program.

Two years later, the trust pushed to make it the first U.S. Forest Service monument “primarily for the preservation of cultural resources,” and got bipartisan support from Colorado’s congressional delegation.

In Colorado, Chimney Rock is considered an ancient marvel, where carrying stone and trees and water up steep hills for its [construction](#) seemed impossible when it was accomplished between A.D. 900 and 1150.

Hundreds of historians and scientists visit the site each year to observe the Great House Pueblo in the shadow of the dramatic pillars. University of Colorado archaeologists have studied it for decades.

[According to a history](#) provided by the Chimney Rock Interpretive Program, the prehistoric inhabitants entered the area through the North Piedra River valley, walking past farmers already there.

They did what others did at the time — planted corn and beans, hunted deer and elk, and gathered wild plants for [food](#) and medicine. At some point, the people who became the Pueblos moved up steep hills toward the mesa top.

There, historians believe, inhabitants made a ceremonial center for festivals and rituals, tied to worship of the sun and moon.

The community dates back a thousand years, before the arrival of Spanish explorers, who encountered people there and named them Pueblo Indians. They called the towers “La Piedra Parada,” or “Standing Rock,” and it later became Chimney Rock because it resembled a stone chimney, according to the interpretive program’s history.

“The story of my tribe and our history is intimately connected to Chimney Rock,” said Chandler Sanchez, chairman of the [All Indian Pueblo Council](#).

“This place is still sacred to my people, and we want to see it protected for our children and grandchildren. That’s why the [council] is among so many Americans celebrating President Obama’s decision to preserve Chimney Rock as America’s newest National Monument.”

Forgoing College to Pursue Dreams

By CAITLIN KELLY NYT Published: September 15, 2011

EDEN FULL should be back at Princeton by now. She should be hustling to class, hitting the books, acing tests. In short, she should be climbing that old-school ladder toward a coveted spot among America's future elite. [Enlarge This Image](#)

Eden Full, 20, tested her rotating solar panel in Kenya in 2010. [Enlarge This Image](#)

Laura Deming, left, at age 6 with her grandmother, whose neuromuscular problems have now inspired Laura to work on anti-aging technology. [Enlarge This Image](#)

Christopher Olah, 19, with a 3-D printer and printed objects he designed.

She isn't doing any of that. Instead, Ms. Full, as bright and poised and ambitious as the next Ivy Leaguer, has done something extraordinary for a Princetonian: she has dropped out.

It wasn't the exorbitant cost of college. (Princeton, all told, runs nearly \$55,000 a year.) She says she simply received a better offer — and, perhaps, a shot at a better education.

Ms. Full, 20, is part of one of the most unusual experiments in higher education today. It rewards smart young people for *not* going to college and, instead, diving into the real world of science, technology and business.

The idea isn't nuts. After all, Bill Gates and Steve Jobs dropped out, and they did O.K.

Of course, their kind of success is rare, degree or no degree. Mr. Gates and Mr. Jobs changed the world. Ms. Full wants to, as well, and she's in a hurry. She has built a low-cost solar panel and is starting to test it in Africa.

"I was antsy to get out into the world and execute on my ideas," she says.

At a time when the value of a college degree is being called into question, and when job prospects for many new graduates are grimmer than they've been in years, perhaps it's no surprise to see a not-back-to-school movement spring up. What is surprising is where it's springing up, and who's behind it.

The push, which is luring a handful of select students away from the likes of Princeton, Harvard and M.I.T., is the brainchild of Peter H. Thiel, 44, a billionaire and freethinker with a remarkable record in Silicon Valley. Back in 1998, during the dot-com boom, Mr. Thiel gambled on a company that eventually became PayPal, the giant of online payments. More recently, he got in early on a little start-up called Facebook.

Since 2010, he has been bankrolling people under the age of 20 who want to find the next big thing — provided that they don't look for it in a college classroom. His offer is this: \$50,000 a year for two years, few questions asked. Just no college, unless a class is helpful for their Thiel projects.

A cool hundred grand, no strings attached? You won't be shocked to learn that it is harder to get [a Thiel Fellowship](#) than it is to get into Princeton. Mr. Thiel (Stanford '89, Stanford Law '92) has grabbed headlines with his outlandish offer. Less has been said about the handful of plucky people who have actually managed to snag one of his fellowships in hopes of becoming the next Gates or Jobs. The first Thiel fellows are now in their second year of the program. Twenty new ones were selected this summer.

Applications for 2013 are not yet being accepted; the due date will be posted this fall at [ThielFellowship.org](#). Candidates must be under 20 when they apply. The final step is straight out of Silicon Valley: applicants get two and a half minutes to pitch their ideas to would-be mentors, most of them successful entrepreneurs.

A CNBC documentary about the fellowship, "20 Under 20: Transforming Tomorrow," was broadcast this summer, and showed the range of those pitches. One young woman proposed a novel curriculum for students overseas and apologized for being flustered at the podium. Another ignored the instructions and spoke from the middle of the stage, TED-style. Then they and the others waited for would-be mentors in the audience to ask more questions.

Over the last two years, 44 Thiel fellows have been chosen after layers of reviews by 15 to 20 people. They don't exactly represent a cross-section of the nation. Most of these young people are white or Asian, and men. Only four are women. Applications have come in from 42 countries, from Bhutan to Ethiopia to Guatemala, but only six fellows have been selected from outside the United States — four from Canada, one from Britain and one from Russia. A quarter of applicants apply directly from high school or [home schooling](#).

MS. FULL was studying mechanical engineering at Princeton when she applied, hoping to develop a hardy, low-cost solar panel that follows the sun's path. She calls it the SunSaluter. She is starting to test the latest iteration in Kirindi, Uganda, and Karagwe, Tanzania.

She left Princeton after her sophomore year, and she says the learning curve has been steep.

"I spent the first year of the fellowship learning a lot about the solar industry, what it takes to get a product to market, what I'm good at," she says. "The timing was perfect."

But testing the SunSaluter in Kenya, as she did earlier, offered unexpected lessons. Local children played with it, trying to unscrew the bolts. And Ms. Full, who is Asian-Canadian, was an object of fascination in villages.

"In the real world," she says, "you don't know what's going to happen."

She has had to learn to depend on the cooperation of strangers — no small feat for a woman who is used to talking fast and moving faster.

"One of the most important lessons I've learned is you have to be pretty flexible," she says. "Some days, I just want to go back to college."

Ms. Full is friends with another Thiel fellow, Laura Deming, 18. Ms. Deming is clearly brilliant. When she was 12, her family moved to San Francisco from New Zealand so she could work with Cynthia Kenyon, a molecular biologist who studies aging. When Ms. Deming was 14, the family moved again, this time to the Boston area, so she could study at M.I.T.

“Families of Olympic-caliber athletes make these kinds of sacrifices all the time,” says Tabitha Deming, Laura’s mother. “When we lived nearby in Boston, we were lucky to see her once a month. She never came home for weekends.”

John Deming, Laura’s father, graduated from Brandeis University at the age of 35 but says he disdains formal education at every level. His daughter was home-schooled.

“I can’t think of a worse environment than school if you want your kids to learn how to make decisions, manage risk and take responsibility for their choices,” Mr. Deming, an investor, wrote in an e-mail. “Rather than sending them to school, turn your kids loose on the world. Introduce them to the rigors of reality, the most important of which is earning your own way.” He added, “I detest American so-called ‘education.’ ”

His daughter’s quest to slow aging was spurred by her maternal grandmother, Bertie Deming, 85, who began having neuromuscular problems a decade ago. Laura, a first-year fellow, now spends her days combing medical journals, seeking a handful of researchers worth venture capital funding, which is a continuation of her earlier work.

“I’m looking for therapies that target aging damage and slow or reverse it,” she says. “I’ve already spent six years on this stuff. So far I’ve found only a few companies, two or three I’m really bullish on.”

She, too, has tasted failure. “The venture capitalists I met out here were skeptical at first,” she says. “People say no all the time. I had a lot of bad rejection at the start. It took a couple of months to get them to understand that while early-stage research isn’t profitable, it can be later if you structure the company very well.”

But thanks to the Thiel Fellowship, access to some of the nation’s most successful businesspeople is quick and easy. “I made a list of the 50 people I wanted to meet, and I’ve met almost all of them,” she says. “It’s really the connections you have and the people you know. I’ve had really positive feedback and gotten some really large amounts of money.”

Her father calls her Little Miss Relentless. Not all parents are initially so enthusiastic, however.

Another Thiel fellow, Noor Siddiqui, 18, is the daughter of parents who were born in Pakistan. “This is shocking for my parents,” she says. “It’s not the safest road. I had to apply in secret.” But she has postponed college — she was accepted to Brown University, the University of Chicago and the University of Virginia, among others — to try to help poverty-level workers in developing countries connect with North American businesses. Her parents now know about the fellowship, and are supportive.

Frances Zomer, who runs her own accounting firm in Toronto, wasn't thrilled when her son, Christopher Olah, 19, decided to leave the University of Toronto, a top-ranked Canadian school. He had already spent a year there studying math.

"The hardest part was him not going back to school," Ms. Zomer says. "The door had closed."

Now Mr. Olah divides his time between his mother's home in Toronto and a so-called hacker hostel, for aspiring tech entrepreneurs, in the Bay Area — and Ms. Zomer has changed her mind completely. "This is stuff you don't learn in a classroom. He's blogging, he's teaching, he's writing software," she says. "I think it's brilliant. I know so many people who've gotten a B.A. and have nothing to show for it."

But what if Silicon Valley doesn't work out?

"Failure has crossed my mind," Ms. Zomer acknowledges. "There are three possibilities. He's extremely successful and he stays. He's not successful and he stays. He can always come home. It's his life."

Dylan Field, 20, had already interned for Flipboard, the app for browsing news and social media, when he won a Thiel Fellowship. He left Brown to work on a browser-based photo application — a sort of no-cost, easy-to-use, amateur-friendly competitor to Photoshop, which is designed for, and largely sold to, professional users.

When it comes to regular folks, "most of our creative tools are broken right now," Mr. Field says. "If I have an idea without the tools to bring it to reality, that's a moral wrong. Our tools need to be improved and made accessible. I think that market is huge."

He has become close friends with Mr. Olah, who is writing software to enable three-dimensional printing.

Mr. Olah, who volunteers much of his time when in Toronto, is unusual in this group of innovators, many of whom are intensely driven to market their creations. "I'm not starting a company right now," he says. "I want to make awesome tools available to other people."

Connor Zwick, 19, left Harvard to work a game application for smartphones — he calls it the "coco controller" — that he hopes will "revolutionize mobile gaming." For him, as for several other fellows, the Thiel Fellowship's gifts of time, money and access seem almost an afterthought.

If fellows focus all their energy on the fellowship and not their own work, "you're doing something wrong," he says. "You've lost focus. The benefit is the validation for our ideas. The money is nice, but I already have enough income from my projects that I don't need it."

SOME people question Mr. Thiel's blunt dismissal of the college experience, both inside and outside of the classroom.

Anthony Carnevale, director of the [Center on Education and the Workforce](#) at Georgetown University, says that the fellowships themselves are nice, but that the message is destructive.

“These very unusual and talented kids are in a very high-powered learning environment,” Mr. Carnevale says. “They’re enormously privileged people who’ve been allowed to develop all their horsepower with no constraints. I think it makes you an odd duck.”

A college education remains essential for people from less privileged backgrounds, says Carmen Wong Ulrich, co-founder of [Alta Wealth Management](#), a three-woman investment firm in New York City. “Many African-Americans and Asians can’t even afford to ask the question, ‘Is college worth it?’ ”

Ms. Ulrich, born in Harlem, grew up in a family of six. She and her mother worked as waitresses. Today, she mentors young Latinos.

“We’re not all starting from the same starting line,” she says. “While I certainly support some of Mr. Thiel’s ideas, his kids are miles ahead of too many others. Go to Silicon Valley? Start your own business? Many of us are the first in our family to even attend college.”

Mr. Carnevale says of the program: “It’s a lab experiment. We’ll see.”

Pics: Connor Zwick, 19, saws a profile for his “coco controller,” a game app for smartphones. Thiel fellowships reward young people for forgoing college to dive into practical work on ideas.

How to Succeed as a Young Entrepreneur – Essential Resources

by Caron_Beesley, Community Moderator September 13, 2012

According to [Kauffman Foundation](#), young entrepreneurship in the U.S. is on the rise, with the 20-34 age group comprising 29 percent of the total new entrepreneurship activity in 2011.

Entrepreneurship can be an exciting adventure, and for the young it can be easier than you might think. The barriers – including cost of entry –are low, (working at home, online, etc.), and younger people are often unconstrained by the commitments of family and marriage.

And of course, there are inspiring role models from big [names](#) like Facebook’s Mark Zuckerberg and SBA’s very own [2012 young entrepreneur of the year](#), Mark Masters.

You don’t need a business degree or the backing of an [investor](#) to go into business, you just need an idea. Of course, starting a business has its challenges. This is especially true for young entrepreneurs without business experience. Common questions include:

- How can I be taken seriously?
- Is there a market for my business?
- How much will it cost me to get started?
- How do I get in front of the right people?
- Do I need to incorporate?
- When do I start paying taxes?

If you are interested in starting your own business, take a look at [SBA’s Young Entrepreneur Guide](#), a one-stop resource for any young entrepreneur looking for resources and financial

support to start a business. The site includes free online courses, links to in-community training and support, and other initiatives from across the U.S. government intended to make it easy for our youth to succeed in business. The site is constantly changing to reflect the latest initiatives, but current resources include:

- **Free Online Course – Young Entrepreneurs: An Essential Guide to Starting your Own Business** – This [self-paced online training course](#) walks you through the steps of turning a business idea into a reality and answers many of the questions listed above. It includes tips on doing your research, deciding on a business model, understanding your financing options, as well as six “must-do’s” for getting started and, finally, making the leap.
- **Student Loan Deferment** – If your student loan repayments are preventing you from starting your own business, the [Student Startup Plan](#) (through the [White House-led Startup America initiative](#)) enables college graduates, including those looking to start a business, to lower student loan repayments.

Useful Blogs

The SBA Community also features regular blogs with tips and resources for young entrepreneurs. Here are just a few:

- [Young Entrepreneurs Can Lower Student Loan Payments to Start a Business or Join a Startup](#)
- [6 Tips for Avoiding the Common Financial Pitfalls of Being a Young Entrepreneur](#)
- [6 Tips for Borrowing Startup Funds from Friends or Family](#)
- [Preparing for Entrepreneurship; 3 Educational Programs that Help Teens Get into Business](#)

MOST POPULAR

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[Cobell Lawyer Serving as Democratic National Convention Party Leader](#)

[Pe’ Sla Purchase: Not Out of the Woods Yet](#)

[Underdogs, Daniel LaRusso, and Democrats: Denise Juneau Rocked the House](#)

[American Indian Delegates Swarm Democratic National Convention](#)

Video

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[Video: A Moving Maori War Cry Farewell at Soldiers’ Funeral in New Zealand Goes Viral](#)

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[Video Spotlight: The Importance of Language](#)

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- [Nihewan Scholarship](#)
- [QuestBridge](#)
- [U.S. Department of Education Indian Fellowship Program](#)
- [Coca-Cola Scholars Program](#)

- [Rodney T. Mathews Jr. Scholarship](#)
- [Philip R. Lee Scholarship Program](#)
- [The Udall Scholarship Program](#)
- [American Indian Library Association](#)
- [Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowship Programs](#)
- [American Indian Science and Engineering Society](#)

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- [Chinle Summer Science Academy Molds Navajo and NASA Astronomical Knowledge](#)
- [Video Spotlight: U.S-Dakota War of 1862](#)
- [Notes From a Single Mom: Divorce and Remarriage Blends Families and Produces 'Bonus Siblings'](#)
- [First Nations' Bear-Hunt Ban Pits Aboriginals Against British Columbia Government](#)

NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES

- [St. Lawrence University](#)
- [East Central University](#)
- [Montana State University](#)
- [Five Colleges Inc.](#)
- [Black Hills State University](#)
- [State University of New York at Buffalo](#)
- [University of Wisconsin – Madison](#)
- [University of Idaho](#)
- [University of Texas at Austin](#)
- [Missouri State University](#)

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- [Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College](#)
- [Dine College](#)
- [Oglala Lakota College](#)
- [Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe Community College](#)
- [Fort Berthold Community College](#)
- [Chief Dull Knife College](#)
- [Blackfeet Community College](#)
- [Salish Kootenai College](#)

POWWOW OPPORTUNITIES

For further information on any listed events, visit <http://www.powwows.com/>

September 28-30th Powwows
Auburn Senior H.S. Gymnasium

Rainbow of Ribbons Powwow
800 Fourth St. Auburn, WA 98002

<http://thenativecircle.org/2012/06/rainbow-of-ribbons-powwow-2012-2/>

**SBA Honors Chloeta Fire CEO as National Young Entrepreneur of the Year
By ICTMN Staff May 23, 2012**

Today the U. S. Small [Business](#) Administration named Mark Masters, the chief executive officer of [Chloeta Fire, LLC](#), as its National Young Entrepreneur of the Year—one of its nine champions of small business in 2012.

An enrolled member of the [Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma](#), Masters launched Chloeta Fire in 2009 from his home with [employees](#) in a dirt-floor barn in Jay, Oklahoma, where he stored the company’s equipment, states a Chloeta press release. In May 2010, Chloeta Fire expanded, opening its field operations center in a business incubator in the Oklahoma City area.

Chloeta Fire provides emergency response services, natural resources and vegetation management, and fire management planning and consulting for tribal and all governmental entities, and private and corporate landowners.

Masters earned his bachelor’s degree in wildlife and fisheries ecology from Oklahoma State University, and is now pursuing a master of business administration degree from Cameron University.

He is no stranger to wildland and fire management. For eight years, Masters works as a federal employee, spending a great portion of that time in the northern Rockies and Pacific Northwest, where he often rappelled 250 feet down a rope from a hovering helicopter to quell difficult-to-access forest fires. In his final two years working in the public sector, Masters served as a U.S. Department of Interior-Bureau of Indian Affairs employee for the National Interagency Fire Center.

Masters wears numerous hats. Among them: contributing editor at International Association of Wildland Fire, instructor at Eastern Oklahoma County Technology Center, and adjunct professor at Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

The Champion Awards were presented in Washington, D.C. on May 22, as part of the annual observance of National Small Business Week, May 20-26.

“The SBA is proud to honor these men and women as champions of small business. Their tireless efforts have supported small businesses, local communities, and America’s economic recovery efforts,” said SBA Administrator Karen G. Mills in a statement. “They provide the counseling, advocacy, advice and support that small business owners need, and foster an environment where the spirit of entrepreneurship can flourish, resulting in economic growth and job creation.”

Read more:<http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2012/05/23/sba-honors-chloeta-fire-ceo-as-national-young-entrepreneur-of-the-year-114356> <http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2012/05/23/sba-honors-chloeta-fire-ceo-as-national-young-entrepreneur-of-the-year-114356#ixzz26e0VwLcg>

Washington Internship for Native Students

Location: Harvard Medical School

The American University's Washington Internships for Native Students (WINS) Program is an exciting opportunity for American Indian/Alaskan Native/Native Hawaiian (AI/AN/NH) students to intern and study in Washington, DC, for the semester or the summer. Students intern 35-40 hours a week in a federal agency, or private organization, which sponsors AI/AN/NH students from across the country in a Washington, DC, internship. WINS student interns take three courses in the fall or spring term, earning 12 credit hours or 2 courses in the summer, earning 6 credit hours.

Through the WINS sponsorship program interns receive:

- transportation to and from DC
- tuition & books
- stipend for incidentals
- housing at American University's Tenley Campus dormitories
- meal plan
- social and cultural activities.

Eligibility: You are eligible if you are currently enrolled in an academic program (or have completed your degree within 6 months), will have a minimum of 45 credits earned by program start date and maintain at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA.

Deadline: Varies depending on semester. Spring semester due October 1, 2012!

Contact: PH: 202-895-4900 F: 202-895-4882 E: wins@american.edu

For more information, see <http://www.american.edu/spexs/wins/index.cfm>

About applying, see <http://www.american.edu/spexs/wins/How-to-Apply.cfm>

Employer: Peace Corps **Position:** Field-Based Regional Recruiter

Application Deadline: October 2, 2012

Job description:

Provides recruitment and placement advisory services on staffing policies, procedures, guidelines, and automated systems.

-Participates in marketing campaigns.

-Performs surveys, studies, and evaluations to measure and improve program operations and results.

-Establishes and maintains relationships with the general public, the news and information media, key officials, agency stakeholders, industry representatives, and/or community groups in order to communicate and disseminate program information which results in an understanding of the agency's mission and activities.

-Performs work related to developing and maintaining relationships with stakeholders in various levels of government, private industry, and/or academic institutions to communicate and disseminate information about program mission and activities.

Requirements:

-Interpersonal skills necessary to develop professional relationships with academic officials, the

media, and community representatives.

-Ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing.

-Ability to develop and disseminate program information.

-Ability to develop and implement recruitment and placement plans and strategies.

-Knowledge of international volunteer organizations, preferably Peace Corps.

-Ability to develop relationships and assess applicants through articulate and persuasive communication.

-Knowledge of the principles, practices, and techniques of recruitment, examination, selection, and/or placement.

-Knowledge of marketing principles and techniques for creating, producing, and distributing informational and promotional materials.

Application:

If you are interested in applying please visit the Avue Central website at <https://www.avuedigitalservices.com/casting/aiportal/control/toVacancy?referenceCode=PYZIU&sourceCode=UHNKYRZYSC>