

Journal #4565 from sdc 12.9.19

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[Sacred Dakota peace pipe sells for \\$40,000 — and buyer gives it back to Minnesota tribe](https://www.startribune.com/sacred-dakota-peace-pipe-sells-for-40000-and-buyer-gives-it-back-to-minnesota-tribe/2019/12/09/)

[startribune.com](https://www.startribune.com/)

Free tuition and books offered at the University of Nevada, Reno 'Nevada Guarantee' program ensures income-qualified students receive a four-year degree with little to no student debt

More than 3,000 Nevada students receive free tuition, fees and books at the University of Nevada, Reno each year.

One of the most successful and impactful higher education tuition programs in the state of Nevada is the Nevada Guarantee, a free University of Nevada, Reno tuition program for low-income Nevada residents, which includes the complete cost of tuition, fees and books plus all the academic and social support needed for graduating in four years or less.

“The Nevada Guarantee, formerly known as the Pack Advantage, has been in place for 10 years at the University of Nevada, Reno and we have had around 10,000 students total go through the program, with the opportunity to graduate debt free,” Shannon Ellis, vice president of Student Services at the University, said. “As a land-grant institution, it is our mission to offer a quality, top-tier education to Nevada residents. This program is for all of those students who want a four-year degree. We want them to know, they belong at this University and we are committed to do what it takes to get them here.”

The University’s goal is to offer a counter-narrative to the many reports centered on university and college students graduating with record amounts of debt. In fact, at the University, more than 50% of students graduating leave with no debt and the total amount of scholarships and grants at the University is \$87 million annually. In Fall 2019, 81% of new freshmen received grants or scholarships. The University estimates that approximately 30% of high school students in Nevada currently qualify for the Nevada Guarantee.

“I thought for sure they were going to convince me to take out a student loan,” Yoni Covarrubias, a sophomore criminal justice major at the University of Nevada, Reno, said. “Like many first-generation college students my biggest hesitancy about going to college was money. When I walked out the doors of the University’s financial aid office, I had an entirely different perspective. I knew I was going to be a University student.”

Covarrubias, is one of more than 3,000 students at the University currently benefitting from the Nevada Guarantee, which is open to all majors and available to students for each of their four years at the University.

Offering small, intimate class sizes, the University has put in place a number of different programs and services to ensure students feel welcome and included on campus. As part of the Nevada Guarantee program, students participate in the First in the Pack mentorship program, designed to help first-generation college student retention, academics and professional development. In addition, the University offers more than 300 student clubs and organizations and a number of different student success services from financial counseling to mental health services as well as jobs on campus for low-income students.

Additionally, the University added 32 professional academic advisors in the last seven years, which has helped reduce its student to advisor ratio from 1000-to-one to its goal of 350-to-one,

the nationally recognized standard for effective advising. Strong advising programs help ensure students take the courses needed to graduate on time.

Dayna Torrecillas is a University freshman veterinary sciences major who currently receives over \$26,000 in aid through 10 grants and scholarships including the Nevada Guarantee. She expressed her support for students who want to attend the University but may not know where to start.

“I never knew what a first-generation college student was until I was told that it was someone who was the first in their family to go to college,” Torrecillas said. “I think it’s so important for high school students in Nevada to know that just because their family didn’t go to college, doesn’t mean they should count it out. There are so many different opportunities available and I want to show that a first-generation student is able to get college completely paid for. You just need to put yourself out there.”

Torrecillas credits her high school guidance counselor with connecting her to the resources she needed. In addition to receiving his help and support, she said she also regularly checked the University’s website and did everything she could to put herself out there.

“I was always told that college isn’t for everyone,” Torrecillas said. “It’s for those who are determined to make something out of themselves. I knew that was me. The Nevada Guarantee pays for my tuition and my books. By simply working with your advisors and the people at the University, you can get farther than you might ever think possible.”

Covarrubias echoed Torrecillas’s statement stating he’s been to the financial aid office at least 12 times in the last year and a half.

“You have to take the initiative and reach out to the resources at the University,” he said. “Luckily, with all the help I have, I go to class and sleep well at night knowing that I won’t be in debt when I graduate.”



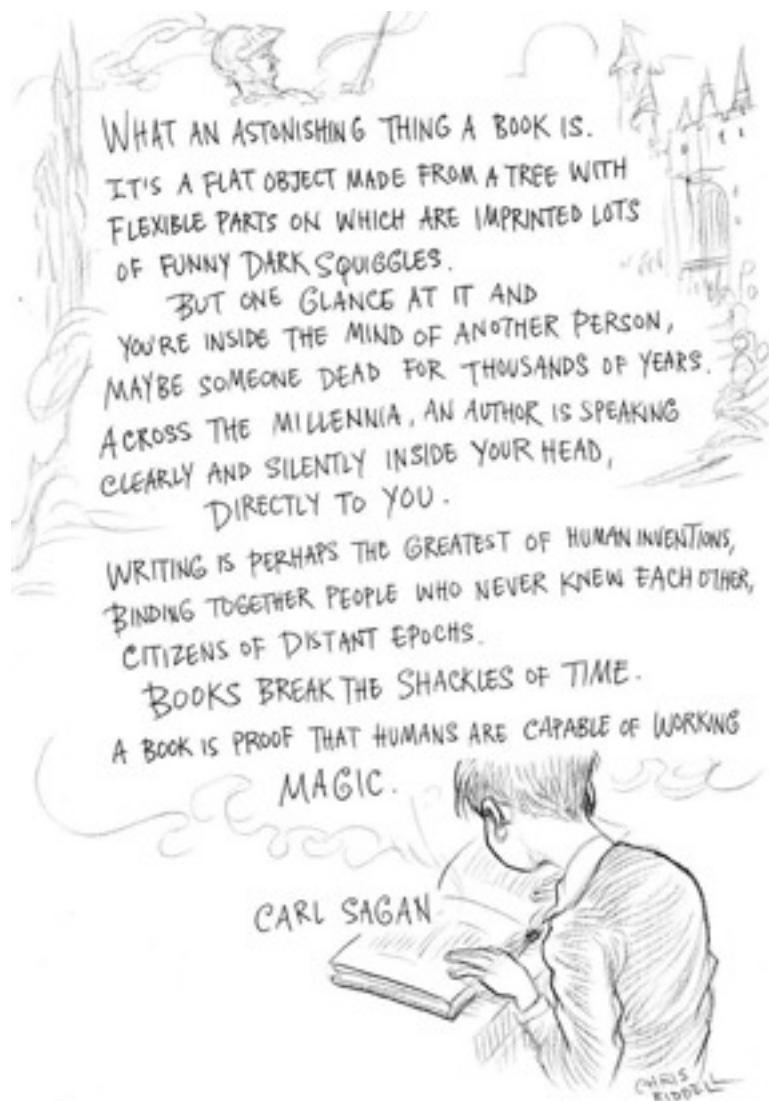
Associate Vice President of Enrollment Services Melissa Choroszy speaking at the Nevada Guarantee press event.

Both students said the University has helped them find their path in life. Torrecillas anticipates switching majors to education stating she wants to give back because of the mentorship and education she received along the way. Covarrubias, who started as a journalism major, now wants to go into law enforcement after finding a passion for criminal justice.

“The cost of a University education can be incredibly daunting and confusing when you’re not sure where to begin,” Ellis said. “We encourage all prospective students to reach out and talk with our financial counselors to see exactly what’s possible. The result just might surprise you.”

This Saturday, Dec. 7, 2019, nearly 250 Nevada Guarantee recipients will be walking across the stage at the University’s two Winter Commencement Ceremonies.

The Nevada Guarantee is open to all eligible Nevada residents. To learn more go to unr.edu/nevada-guarantee. Students who do not qualify for Nevada Guarantee may qualify for additional grants and scholarships and are encouraged to reach out to the University’s Office of Prospective students to learn more, admissions@unr.edu or 775-784-4666.



See the entire Nevada Guarantee press event, which took place Thursday, Dec. 5, on [the University of Nevada, Reno Facebook page](#).

[Nevada Impact](#) | December 06, 2019
[Nicole Shearer](#)

Indian Country Today: These are the top stories accessed by our readers from the past week

Top 10

1. [‘Baby Yoda is now one of us’](#)
2. [Time for the ‘well-meaning man’ to return spectrum rights to Native American tribes](#)
3. [Thousands of historical seeds preserved by the Onondaga Nation Farm](#)
4. [Christian Allaire: Vogue’s most fashionable Ojibwe](#)
5. [‘There should be no medals for massacres’](#)
6. [Studying 12,000 year old sandals](#)
7. [‘Sovereignty is nonpartisan’](#)
8. [Breaking: ‘No choice but to act’ on impeachment](#)
9. [#NativeNerd movie mini-reviews: 1917, The Irishman, Jojo Rabbit and more](#)
10. [‘Inspired Natives’ promotes Indigenous values and a global reach](#)

Congress considers Lumbee recognition bill

Lumbee Recognition Act Why are we here? In 1885, the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina received state recognition. Three years later, the tribe petitioned Congress for full recognition but the request was referred to the Department of the Interior
Indigenous Oscar consideration: ‘An important step forward’

Earlier in November 2019, Jason Ryle, the Executive Director of imagineNATIVE, announced that his organizations' years of hard work to be recognized was paying off after nearly two decades [Read more](#) newsmaven.io

[Long Sidelined, Native Artists Finally Receive Their Due](#)

[Irish Archive Recreates Documents Lost in in 1922 fire](#)

Four Courts fire at start of Civil War destroyed centuries of historic documents.

[How Charlottesville’s Echoes Forced New Zealand to Confront Its History](#)

A Maori man attacked a statue to raise awareness of his ancestors’ pain. A newspaper covered the story, and a very important reader took action: Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern

[How melting ice could help us fill the gaps in our history books](#)

MIYO MCGINN

[‘Dark Waters’ tells the origin story of a public health nightmare. We’re still living it.](#)

EMILY PONTECORVO

[Trinity River Under Siege](#)

By North Coast Journal, 12/5/19

While local tribes celebrated a federal appellate court ruling last month upholding their senior water rights on the Klamath River, a trio of threats facing the Trinity River combine to paint a foreboding picture for local salmon populations. "Just the status quo is a risk to the river and the fishery," said Thomas Stokely, a retired Trinity County planner who currently co-manages the nonprofit Save California Salmon and has spent more than three decades working on Trinity River water issues.

\$2 Million Resilience Challenge Launches

The Bay Area Council this week launched the official request for proposals (RFP) for the "California Resilience Challenge" — a \$2 million statewide competition to support innovative projects that address climate change-related threats and help safeguard the state against wildfire, drought, flood and extreme heat events. Recipients will receive grant awards of up to \$200,000 for climate adaptation planning projects.

The California Resilience Challenge will provide resources to local communities throughout the state, including cities, counties, California Native American tribes, special districts, and more, that are affected by climate change-related natural disasters. By emphasizing local solutions to the global problem o

[Soil: The Secret Weapon in the Fight Against Climate Change](#)

Claire O'Connor, Natural Resources Defense Council

O'Connor writes: "Agriculture is on the front lines of climate change. Whether it's the a seven-year drought drying up fields in California, the devastating Midwest flooding in 2019, or hurricane after hurricane hitting the Eastern Shore, agriculture and rural communities are already feeling the effects of a changing climate."

[READ MORE](#)

[The Climate Emergency Has Already Begun as Earth Systems Collapse](#)

BRUCE MELTON, TRUTHOUT

More than 11,000 scientists from 153 countries have declared a climate emergency, warning that future reductions or even complete cessations of emissions will not eliminate greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere or the systems collapses they have already triggered. Our survival calls for a large-scale effort to remove carbon dioxide from the air with both nature-based solutions and technology.

[Read the Article →](#)

Yucca Mountain dormant, but definitely not dead

https://www.reviewjournal.com/news/politics-and-government/yucca-mountain-dormant-but-definitely-not-dead-1904669/?g2i_source=newsletter&g2i_campaign=Your%20Weekly%20Dispatch%20from%20our%20Washington%20Bureau&utm_email=052334D8A401B5F9947E54B575&utm_source=listrak&utm_medium=DC-LV&utm_term=Item%20Four,%20zombie%20legislation%20-%20title&utm_campaign=Your%20Weekly%20Dispatch%20from%20our%20Washington%20Bureau

Navajos express mixed opinions on Trump impeachment probe

Chelsea Hofmann Thursday, Dec. 5, 2019 Navajos express mixed opinions on Trump impeachment probe WINDOW ROCK – The Navajo Nation Reservation spans 27,000 square miles across parts of Arizona, Utah and New Mexico. The land, with its deep canyons, towering spires and wide mesas, is just as diverse as the more than 156,000 people who call it home. Life and news here move at a different pace. “There is a digital divide on the Navajo Nation where some people might have access to cable TV, but a lot

Read in Cronkite News: <https://apple.news/AxTH9eddsP8ajLEtwzsV74A>

"In President Donald Trump, the United States once again has a president whose vision, energy and can-do spirit is reminiscent of President Teddy Roosevelt," Pence said in comments reported by *Guardian* correspondent Ben Jacobs.

Mike Pence compared Trump to Theodore Roosevelt today [pic.twitter.com/kl0pWaxpnB](https://twitter.com/kl0pWaxpnB) — Ben Jacobs (@Bencjacobs) [August 17, 2017](#)

"Then, as now, we have a builder of boundless optimism, who seeks to usher in a new era of shared possibility," Pence said, "Then, as now, we have a leader who sees things not just for what they are but for what they could be."

The vice president's decision to compare the president to Roosevelt, whose views on Native American and African people are well documented, comes at a time when Trump himself is facing criticism over his failure to [denounce white supremacists](#) and neo-Nazis.

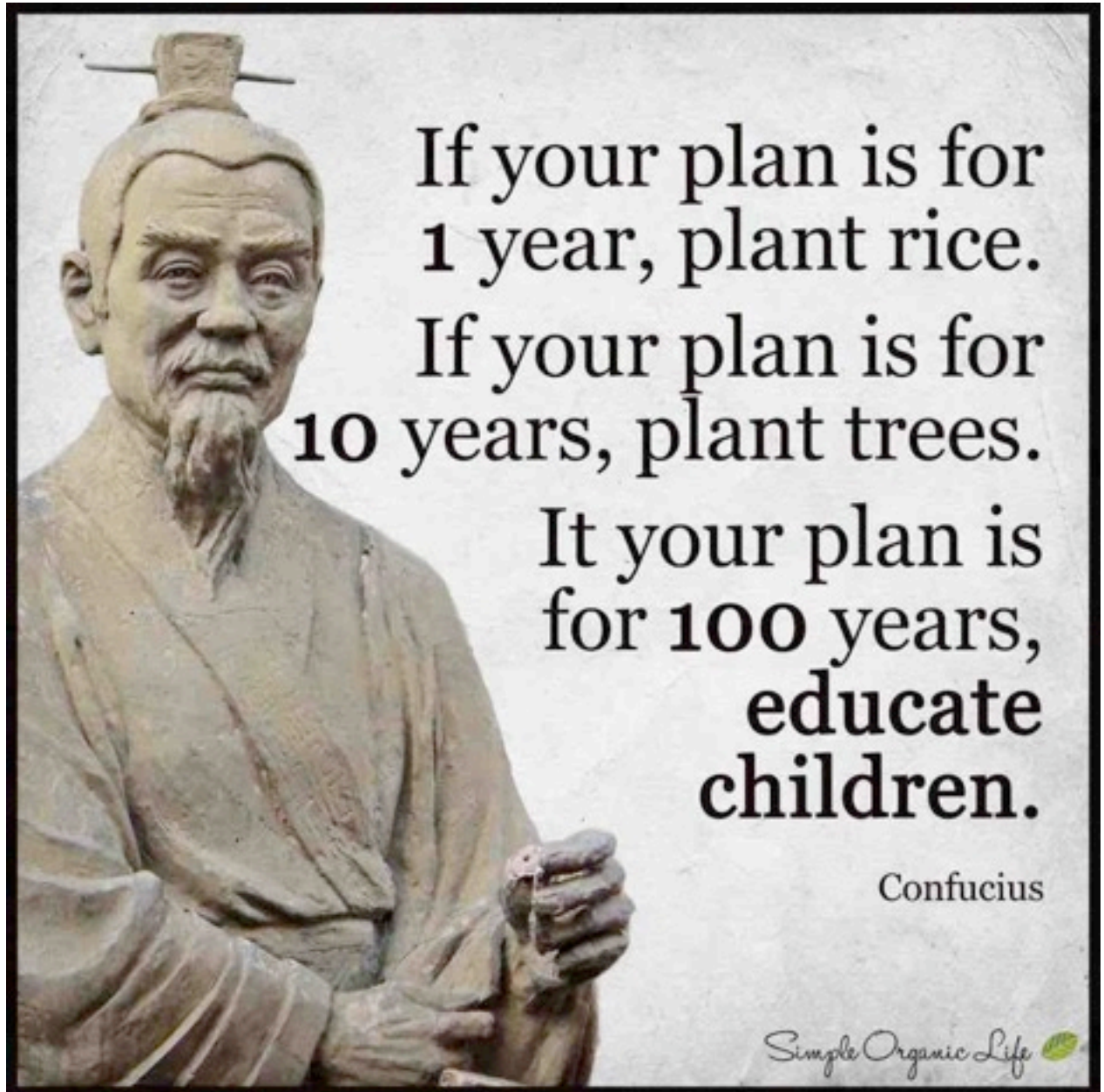
Roosevelt was known for calling white Americans "the forward race" and minorities "the backward race." He said of Native Americans, "I don't go so far as to think that the only good Indians are dead Indians, but I believe nine out of ten are, and I shouldn't like to inquire too closely into the case of the tenth."

[How indigenous Bolivians lost faith in Evo Morales after the Amazon blaze](#)

RACHEL RAMIREZ

A Brief History of the Crock Pot | Innovation | Smithsonianhttps://www.smithsonianmag.com/innovation/brief-history-crock-pot-180973643/?utm_source=smithsoniandaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20191126-daily-responsive&spMailingID=41204319&spUserID=OTYyNTc5MzkyMTQyS0&spJobID=1642423317&spReportId=MTY0MjQyMzIxNwS2

“The mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be kindled.” – Plutarch



[How busyness leads to bad decisions: When we're under pressure our mental bandwidth narrows – and that means we focus on the wrong tasks. So what's the remedy for unproductive 'tunnelling'?](#) (BBC) Being busy does not mean being productive.

“I insist on a lot of time being spent, almost every day, to just sit and think. That is very uncommon in American business. I read and think. So I do more reading and thinking, and make less impulse decisions than most people in business. I do it because I like this kind of life.” – Warren Buffett

[Rising e-book costs a strain on libraries](#) (Arkansas Democrat)

- [E-Books Strain Relations Between Libraries, Publishing Houses](#) (NPR)
- [Why Libraries Are Eliminating Late Fees for Overdue Books](#) (CityLab)

North Carolina Digital Library

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Indian time

1976-2017 · North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs, Department of Administration Vol. 1 no. 1 (July 1976)-; Electronic holdings begin in 2002.

[View Full Item](#) in North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

Indian nabob

1904-10-02 · unknown

This photograph is on Album page 11 with the heading "Annual Association of the Eastern Band of Cherokees, Birdtown on Ocona Lufty, Oct. 2, 1904." The location of photograph on the page was deduced fr... [View Full Item](#) in Western Carolina University

Craftsman's Fair, 1953: Watty Chiltoskie

1953-07-20 · DuPuy, Edward L. Shown here is Cherokee woodcarver Wahdih "Watty" Chiltoskie (1897-1973), whose last name is also sometimes spelled Chiltoskey or Chiltosky, and an unidentified child. Chiltoskie was a carver who lived...

[View Full Item](#) in Western Carolina University

Governor Arthur Dobbs: Loudoun to Dobbs, February 13, 1758

1758-02-13 · Loudoun, John Campbell, Earl of, 1705-1782.

Arthur Dobbs (1689-1765) arrived at his post as royal governor with the colonies on the brink of war and brought with him the instructions, money and supplies to get North Carolina involved in any con...

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Katie Murray Papers

10/6/2010 · Z. Smith Reynolds Library Special Collections and Archives

Katie Murray was a native of Rose Hill, Duplin county, North Carolina. She was a graduate of Meredith College, Raleigh, North Carolina, and the Woman's Missionary Training School, Louisville, Kentucky...

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Letter: Zebulon B. Vance to David L. Swain, April 16, 1860

1860-04-16 · Vance, Zebulon Baird, 1830-1894.

A letter from Zebulon Baird Vance asking for guidance on claim of N. C. Cherokees

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The Quaker, 1950

1950 · Guilford College

Throughout the 1950 Guilford College yearbook, The Quaker, there are photos of Japanese, Hawaiian, and American Indian women of color. These individual and club photos and their descriptions reflect t...

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Unto These Hills letter

19491029

Letter to Harry Buchanan, president of the Cherokee Historical Society, during planning stages of Unto These Hills. It discusses several people that would be involved, their possible roles in the prod...

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