



**HASKELL INDIAN NATIONS UNIVERSITY • 155 Indian Avenue, Lawrence KS, 66046**

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August 26, 2024

To: The Haskell Community

From: Office of the President, Francis Arpan, Ph.D.

Subject: Welcome to the 2024-25 Academic Year at Haskell Indian Nations University

Dear Haskell Community,

As we begin the Fall 2024 semester, I want to extend a heartfelt welcome back to our students, faculty, and staff. I also want to provide an overview of what is new at Haskell for the 2024-2025 school year.

This year promises to be one of growth, innovation, and opportunity. Haskell Indian Nation University's enrollment of just over 980 students for the Fall 2024 Semester is the largest class in over a decade, a testament to Haskell's standing as a leading institution of academic excellence, cultural and intellectual prominence, and holistic education addressing the needs of Indigenous communities. This historic increase of more than 30% in the last two years has created new challenges and opportunities, and we are working diligently to assist and support students.

We have also increased our staff from 144 to 175 and our full-time faculty from 29 to 39 over the same period. These past few weeks, we welcomed several new leaders to our team, including Melissa Holder as Director of Student Success, Marisa Mendoza as Dean of Students, Kennard Smallcanyon as Vice-President of University Operations, and Dr. Milford Muskett as Vice-President of Academics.

Additionally, Haskell has enhanced its support services with the role of a Campus Advocate Coordinator, established in 2022, to directly serve Haskell students and lead initiatives in investigating and reporting sexual misconduct incidents. This advocate collaborates with experts in campus safety, sexual misconduct response, and law enforcement, as well as local support organizations for victims of assault, ensuring a comprehensive approach to advocacy and support for the Haskell community.

We are committed to fostering a safe and supportive environment for the Haskell community. We have implemented significant policy and procedural reforms related to sexual harassment and discrimination and our code of conduct. These revised policies are based on a thorough analysis of our policies and recommendations from our campus community. Please view the policies on [our website](#) and familiarize yourself with these new policies and procedures. We have also increased safety and security through the expansion of our security camera system, and with live camera feeds to all housing units.

Haskell also recently expanded its [recently rolled-out behavioral health services for students and staff through MorningStar Counseling](#). These include 24-hour access to mental health support and virtual counseling services through the BIE Behavioral Health and Wellness Program (BHWP). Students and staff interested in receiving BIE BHWP services may call 1-844-ASK-BHWP (1-855-275-2497) and select Option 1 for Immediate Individual Crisis Support. Adults ages 18+ may choose Option 2 to schedule virtual counseling sessions with a licensed clinician. BIE BHWP services are free, provided 24 hours per day, seven days per week, confidential, and provided through an Indigenous lens.

These positive changes are part of our ongoing effort to make Haskell a leader in Indigenous higher education. Thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to Haskell. Together, we are creating a brighter and more supportive future for our Indigenous students. Let's make this semester our best one yet!

Sincerely,

Francis (Frank) Arpan, Ph.D.  
President  
Haskell Indian Nations University