

# Southwestern Indian Polytechnic wins grand prize at NASA competition

WASHINGTON – A team composed of Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI) students won the grand prize of \$5,000 and the Gold Mars Trophy for the physical competition at the 2017 NASA Swarmathon held at the Kennedy Space Center.

The Swarmathon is a robotics programming challenge administered under a cooperative agreement between the NASA Minority University Research and Education Program and the University of New Mexico. More than 500 students from 40 colleges and 30 high schools participated in the competition held in April.

“Well done to the brilliant students at SIPI. These young people are breaking new ground and making everyone proud,” said Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke. “I look forward to following their budding careers in STEM and expect them all to make an impact.”

This year, Swarmathon teams competing in the physical competition were tasked to develop codes for operating systems that instruct robots to find objects and return them to a designated place without human assistance.

Teams created innovative algorithms that have the potential to be further developed for such tasks as cleaning hazardous waste as well as assisting with rescue missions during catastrophic disasters.

“Placing at the top of the 2017 NASA Swarmathon is an outstanding achievement for the students on the team, the SIPI faculty and students, and the Bureau of Indian Education,” said Acting Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Michael S. Black. “These students exemplify how dedication to studies can translate into real life success.”

“The post-secondary schools under the Bureau of Indian Education offer a great education,” said Bureau of Indian Education Director Tony Dearman. “We at the BIE are enormously proud of the SIPI team for successfully tackling these challenges and showing the excellent education SIPI has to offer the students of Indian Country.”

The 2017 Swarmathon SIPI team consisted of Schulte Cooke (Navajo), who is studying geospatial information technology; Emery Sutherland (Navajo), who is studying computer aided drafting and design; Christian Martinez (Pueblo of Laguna), who is studying network management; Ty Shurley (Navajo), who is studying engineering and computer aided drafting and design; and Professor Nader Vadiee and Dr. Jonathan West, the team’s faculty advisors.

Vadiee is the lead faculty/coordinator of the Engineering and Engineering Technology Programs and the director of the Intelligent Cooperative Multi-Agent Robotic System at SIPI.

SIPI has a history of success at the Swarmathon, placing third in last year’s physical competition. Established in 1971, SIPI is an accredited National Indian Community College and Land Grant institution located in Albuquerque, N.M. It is one of two post-secondary institutions overseen by the Bureau of Indian Education.



Courtesy photo from NASA Kennedy Space Center

The winning team from Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute

**For more information about the Siletz Tribe, please visit [ctsi.nsn.us](http://ctsi.nsn.us).**

**Tribal members can enjoy free golf, discounts**

Siletz Tribal members can play golf at Chinook Winds Golf Resort at no charge. Golf cart fees are \$10 per seat for 9 holes and \$15 per seat for 18 holes. Tribal members also receive a 50 percent discount on lessons from golf pro Larry Dealy and a 20 percent discount on merchandise (certain restrictions apply). Please call Chinook Winds Golf Resort at 541-994-8442 for tee times or to schedule a golf lesson.



**UNITED INDIANS OF ALL TRIBES FOUNDATION**

# GOURD DANCE

**MASTER OF CEREMONY:** GRANT TIMENTWA (COLVILLE)

**HEAD SINGER:** PAUL BEMORE (OSAGE)

**HEAD GOURD DANCER:** CHRIS SEGURA (SAN CARLOS APACHE)

**HOST GOURD DANCE ASSOCIATION:** NEZ PERCE WARRIORS GOURD DANCE SOCIETY, LAPWAI, IDAHO

**WATERBOYS:** JASON STACONA (WARM SPRINGS) & ERIC PEBEAHSY (COMANCHE-YAKAMA)

**SCHEDULE:**

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM **COMMUNITY POTLUCK**

12:00 PM – 7:00 PM **GOURD DANCE (SPECIALS)**

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2017

11:00 AM – 7:00 PM

**DAYBREAK STAR CULTURAL CENTER**

5011 BERNIE WHITEBEAR WAY  
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**FREE & OPEN to the Public**

**INDIGENOUS**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
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EMAIL | CORNELP@PDX.EDU

## Tribal members can take Chinuk Wawa at Lane Community College

The class (CW101) will take place Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-6 p.m. in the Longhouse at Lane Community College in Eugene, Ore., starting the last week of September 2017.

Siletz Tribal members are entitled to take this class (the first in a year-long sequence) as a credit class or as a continuing education class.

Continuing education students enrolled in this class will determine their own level of engagement in terms of attendance, test taking, assignments, etc.

Tuition runs roughly \$400-\$505 per term for this four-credit class. Continuing education students, however, pay only a one-time fee of about \$10.

LCC students can now enroll for fall term classes online at [lanecc.edu](http://lanecc.edu). The CRN for CW101 is 22576.

Enrolling in the class as a University of Oregon student is easy through the dual enrollment program. Contact your academic advisor for more information.

Enrollment as a continuing education student is possible by calling 541-463-5419 and asking for Candice Johnson. To find out more about this Chinuk Wawa program, contact Drew Viles at [vilesa@lanecc.edu](mailto:vilesa@lanecc.edu) or 541-463-5480.

### Siletz News Letters Policy

*Siletz News*, a publication of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, is published once a month. Our editorial policy encourages input from readers about stories printed in *Siletz News* and other Tribal issues.

All letters must include the author’s signature, address, and phone number in order to be considered for publication. *Siletz News* reserves the right to edit any letter for clarity and length, and to refuse publication of any letter or any part of a letter that may contain profane language, libelous statements, personal attacks or unsubstantiated statements.

Not all letters are guaranteed publication upon submission. Published letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of *Siletz News*, Tribal employees, or Tribal Council.

Please type or write legibly. Letters longer than 450 words may be edited for length as approved by Tribal Council Resolution #96-142.

Please note: The general manager of the Siletz Tribe is the editor-in-chief  
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