



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Crystal Littleben Enjoying Miss Navajo Nation Reign *NAU Grad Is Diné College Project Coordinator*

TSAILE, Ariz. — The Navajo Cultural Arts Program (NCAP) Project Coordinator, Crystal Littleben, is fluent in Navajo, butchers sheep, graduated from Northern Arizona University, and can now add Miss Navajo Nation 2017-2018 to her impressive resumé.

Littleben, who is from Tuba City, Ariz., autographed photos Sept. 14 at Navajo Arts and Crafts Enterprise in Window Rock as part of an invitation-only public radio broadcast via KXWR of Diné College.

At the event, L.A. Williams, KXWR program manager, was the first to interview Littleben after her coronation. The radio interview, which was conducted in Navajo and English, included appearances by Navajo Nation Vice President Jonathan Nez, Miss Diné College 2017 Terri Lynnette Yazzie of Nazlini, Ariz., and Miss Indian New Mexico Teen Shenoa Jones of Farmington, N.M.

"It's been a very exciting time and a learning experience," Littleben said between signings. "Everyone has been congratulating me and I am very thankful and respectful at being chosen (Miss Navajo Nation)."

Littleben, 25, was crowned the 71st Miss Navajo Nation on Sept. 9. There were seven other contestants competing for the honor, including Kaylee Begay, 24, of Kayenta, Ariz., an elementary education student at Diné College.

Second Time A Charm

Littleben isn't a stranger to the annual pageant. She ran two years ago and

garnered second place. This time around, Littleben's pageant platform was holistic well-being. Littleben graduated from NAU with a degree in psychology with an emphasis on Native American studies.

Christine Ami, NCAP grant manager, said Littleben's win was particularly gratifying, considering she chose to demonstrate silversmithing as her traditional skill during the pageant. This skill was developed through Littleben's participation with NCAP, learning from master artisans such as Martha Jackson, Wilson Aronilth and Lyndon Tsosie.

"We're ecstatic," Ami said. "(Crystal) is an extremely talented person and a hard worker. She is ready for this position, not only professionally, but also personally."