Dear Nizhoni Academy students and guardians,

We hope that you are all doing well, staying healthy and practicing “physical distancing”. We wanted to reach out to all of you with updates regarding COVID-19 (coronavirus) from Northern Arizona University (NAU) and the summer Nizhoni Academy 2020.

It is with great deliberation and sadness that the Nizhoni Academy 2020 will be cancelled. Our program staff has worked closely with NAU leadership the past few weeks amidst the current health concerns and we feel that this is the best decision with the health and safety of participants, their families and Native communities in mind.

We understand that you may be feeling frustrated and let down, those feelings are valid and our program staff are with you. The importance of have a pre-college enrichment program that is housed at NAU has shown to be very effective in helping students in being comfortable and to thrive in a college going culture. The residential portion of the program has enabled our students to build skills to be successful in applying, attending, and matriculating to graduation in college.

What happens now?

- Participants and Alternates will be fully refunded the $150.00 application fee through NAU Business Services. *If a third party, like a school or other relative paid, the person whose information was on the money order/cashier’s check will be refunded (NAU Policy).* Please be patient with refunds as it will take some time to process.
- Freshman and Sophomores who were returning or new students will be considered as the highest priority applicant for next summer 2021.
- For Juniors in which summer 2020 would have been their last year with NZ, will be reached out to by Program Coordinator for additional support in their senior year.

Please know this was not a decision taken lightly. We are saddened by the missed opportunities, student growth, mentorship opportunities and the amount of fun we have each summer with the students. Each summer always ends with such happiness and renewed goals for college and success.

Nizhoni Academy program staff wish you all health and safety as we go through this time together. If you have any additional questions please do not hesitate to reach out to the program via email is best, Nizhoni@nau.edu.

Sincerely,

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