SUNNIE R. CLAHCHISCHILIGI

Education

Ph.D., English, The University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, N.M., May 2023
Primary Area: Rhetoric and Composition
Dissertation: *"The Value of Storytelling Through Digital Family Narratives: A Case Study of a Diné Storyteller"*
Dissertation Committee: Tiffany Bourelle (Chair), Bethany Davila, Cristyn Elder, and Tiffany S. Lee

M.A., Rhetoric, Writing, and Digital Media Studies, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Ariz., May 2018
Thesis: "Cultural awareness, culturally appropriate curriculum, and teaching methods for community college teachers teaching Navajo students."

B.A., Print Journalism and Mass Communication, The University of New Mexico Albuquerque, N.M., May 2008

Teaching Experience

Fall 2023 –
Instructor, Full Time, The Writers' Studio, School of Applied Sciences & Arts, Arizona State University, Tempe, Ariz.
ENG 101: First-Year Composition (Online)
Was part of a six-person team of Ph.D. rhetoric faculty at ASU who redesigned the ENG 101 curriculum used to teach asynchronous students worldwide for the 2025-2026 academic school year.

Fall 2019-Spring 2022
Teaching Assistant in English at The University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, N.M.
ENGL 1110: Composition I
ENGL 1110X/Y: Composition I Stretch I and Stretch II
ENGL 1120: Composition II

Fall 2013-Fall 2019
Professional Writing Tutor at Diné College in Shiprock, N.M.

June, 2012-2015
Mentor/Instructor at the Oklahoma Institute for Diversity in Journalism (OIDJ) held at the University of Oklahoma.

July, 2013
Lead high school mentor/instructor for Project Phoenix at the Native American Journalists Association annual convention held in Phoenix, Ariz.

July, 2012
College mentor/instructor at UNITY Journalist of Color convention in Las Vegas, Nev.

August, 2009
Lead college mentor/instructor for Native Voices at the Native American Journalists Association annual convention held in Albuquerque, N.M.

2008-2012
Professional mentor/instructor/editor for Dawn of Nations Today newspaper at The University of New Mexico.

Scholarly Work

Bourelle, Tiffany, Clahchischiligi, Sunnie, and Cyrus Stuvland. "Critical, Culturally Sustaining, and Intentional Pedagogies: Restructuring Composition Practicum Courses." *(Un)Commonplaces in Graduate Teaching Assistantship Training & Experiences* (pub date pending).

Clahchischiligi, Sunnie, Newmark, Julie, and Joseph Bartolotta. "This is a Viral Story about Viral Stories: Image and Graphical Power in COVID Communication in the Navajo Nation." *Global Rhetorics of Science*. SUNY Press, 2023. (6,511)

Clahchischiligi, Sunnie. (2023). *"The Value of Storytelling Through Digital Family Narratives: A Case Study of a Diné Storyteller"* (Doctoral dissertation). The University of New Mexico.

Conference Presentations

"Critical, Culturally Sustaining, and Intentional Pedagogies: Restructuring Composition Practicum Courses." Conference on College Composition & Communication; Chicago, IL. February 15-18, 2023.

Invited Presentations/Workshops

Presenter. Adobe Premiere Suite Workshop. The University of New Mexico. January 13, 2022.
Taught UNM graduate students and teaching assistants how to use Adobe Premiere for multimodal components of their pedagogy.

Presenter. Adobe Premiere Suite Workshop. The University of New Mexico. November 30, 202.
Taught UNM graduate students and teaching assistants how to use Adobe Premiere for multimodal components of their pedagogy.

Presenter. "Interview Techniques & Conduct an Interview." Institute for American Indian Research. The University of New Mexico. March 26, 2021.
Taught UNM graduate students how to conduct interview for a project that focused on

interviewing Indigenous communities impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Curriculum included a focus on trauma-informed reporting for interviewees and interviewers.

Workshops Attended

Preparing to Teach Technical Writing. University of New Mexico. Fall 2022, Spring 2023, with Dr. Julie Newmark.

Remote Teaching. The University of New Mexico. July 31, 2020, with Dr. Tiffany Bourelle.

Academic Awards/Fellowships/Scholarships

Spring 2026

The University of New Mexico Alumni Association Zia Award. The award honors New Mexico residents with a UNM degree who have distinguished themselves in any one or more of the following categories – philanthropic endeavors, public office, service to the University, community, and volunteer activities, and/or business professional fields, or educational fields.

Summer 2025

Association of Teachers of Technical Writing – Best Article Reporting Textual Studies in Technical Communication for "This Is a Viral Story about Viral Stories: Image and Graphical Power in COVID Communication in the Navajo Nation," published in *Global Rhetorics of Science*, SUNY Press, 2023.

Fall 2024

2025 Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) Technical and Scientific Communication Award in the category of Best Article Reporting Historical Research or Textual Studies in Technical and Scientific Communication for their co authored book chapter, "This Is a Viral Story about Viral Stories: Image and Graphical Power in COVID Communication in the Navajo Nation," published in *Global Rhetorics of Science*, SUNY Press, 2023.

Spring 2023

Russell J. and Dorothy S. Bilinski Fellowship 2022-2023
Navajo Nation Scholarship
Native Forward Scholars Fund
UNM A&S Frances M. Phillips Fund
UNM Department of English Language and Literature Graduate Student Award in Rhetoric and Writing
Cumulative 4.11 GPA

Fall 2022

Russell J. and Dorothy S. Bilinski Fellowship 2022-2023
Navajo Nation Scholarship

Native Forward Scholars Fund
Cumulative 4.11 GPA

Summer 2022

2022 Institute for American Indian Research Summer Research Award
UNM Russell J. and Dorothy S. Bilinski Fellowship 2022-2023

Spring 2022

Navajo Nation Scholarship
American Indian Graduate Center Scholarship
UNM Howard Dean Everett Memorial Scholarship
Russell J. and Dorothy S. Bilinski Fellowship 2022-2023
Completed the semester with a 4.11 GPA

Fall 2021

Navajo Nation Scholarship
American Indian Graduate Center Scholarship
Completed the semester with a 4.33 GPA

Spring 2021

Navajo Nation Scholarship
American Indian Graduate Center Scholarship
Completed the semester with a 4.22 GPA

Fall 2020

Navajo Nation Scholarship
American Indian Education Fund Scholarship
Completed the semester with a 4.22 GPA

Spring 2020

American Indian Graduate Center (AIGC) Scholarship
Navajo Nation Scholarship
Teec Nos Pos Chapter Scholarship
Catching the Dream Scholarship
UNM Howard Dean Everett Memorial Scholarship
Named Outstanding Core Writing Instructor - The University of New Mexico's Department of English Language and Literature for 2019-2020.
Completed the semester with a 4.0 GPA

Fall 2019

American Indian Graduate Center (AIGC) Scholarship
Navajo Nation Scholarship
Teec Nos Pos Chapter Scholarship
Catching the Dream Scholarship
Completed the semester with a 4.0 GPA

May, 2018

Graduated with Distinction – 4.0 GPA
Northern Arizona University

Fall 2017-Spring 2018

Louis H. and Betty J. Quayle Scholarship. Northern Arizona University
American Indian Graduate Center (AIGC) Scholarship
Navajo Nation Scholarship
Teec Nos Pos Chapter Scholarship

Fall 2016-Spring 2017

American Indian Graduate Center (AIGC) Scholarship
Navajo Nation Scholarship

September 2008

UWIRE 100, "which honors the nation's top collegiate journalists."

May, 2008

Graduated Cum Laude. University of New Mexico.
Dean's List-College of Arts & Sciences. University of New Mexico.

August 2007-May 2008

UNM Jim Crow Memorial Scholarship

Summer 2006

Chips Quinn Scholar
Chips Quinn Scholarship

Journalism Experience

August 2023-February 2024

Interim Indigenous Affairs Editor for *High Country News* magazine. Edited stories written by the Indigenous Affairs staff writer, associate editor, intern and freelance writers. Carried out cultural competency reads.

April 2020- Present

Freelance Journalist: *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *Arizona Highways* magazine, *Buzzfeed*, and others.

March 2020-December 2021

Contributing Writer/Investigative Reporter at *SearchlightNM*.

June 2013-August 2019

Sportswriter for *The Navajo Times*.

February 2012-June 2013
Freelance writer for numerous local and national media outlets.

February 2011-February 2012
Sports and features writer for the *Osage News* in Pawhuska, Okla.

September 2008-February 2011
Sportswriter for *The Navajo Times*.

October 2005-September 2008
Reporter for *reznetnews.org*.

May-September 2008
Reporter for *The Salt Lake Tribune* as a Sport Journalism Institute intern.

October 2007-January 2008
Sports Reporter for *Santa Fe New Mexican* as an intern.

June-August 2007
Reporter at *Sports Illustrated* in New York City as an Association for Women in Sports Media and Time Warner intern.

October 28-31, 2006
Reporter at the United Nation Youth Assembly (UNITY: Journalists of Color).

September 2006-May 2007
Reporter at the *Albuquerque Journal* as a UNM C&J intern.

May-August 2006
Reporter at the *St. Cloud (Minn.) Times* as a Chips Quinn Scholars program intern.

June-August 2005
Reporter at the *St. Cloud (Minn.) Times* as an American Indian Journalism Institute intern.

Published Journalism Work (non-articles)

Indigenous Journalists Association Board. "Indigenous Identity Reporting Guide." *Indigenous Journalists Association and Global Investigative Journalism Network*. November 2025.

Professional Journalism Awards

2022
First place. Richard LaCourse Award for Investigative Reporting. Native American Journalists Association.
Hall of Fame induction. Inducted into the inaugural class of the North American Indigenous Athletics Hall of Fame in the Media category for sports writing.

Second place. Education Feature. Society of Professional Journalists Colorado Pro Chapter: Top of the Rockies Award.
Second place. Health Feature. Society of Professional Journalists Colorado Pro Chapter: Top of the Rockies Award.

2021
First place. Best Elder Coverage. Native American Journalists Association.
First place. $20,000 Doris O'Donnell Innovations in Investigation Journalism Fellowship from the Center for Media Innovation at Point Park University.
First place. Team series award. COVID-19 Reporting. Society of Professional Journalists 2020 Sigma Delta Chi Awards for excellence in journalism. Hitting Home Series, *SearchlightNM*.

2020
Second place. Best Team, Sports or Sports Beat Coverage. Arizona Newspaper Association.
Third place. Best Sports Story. Native American Journalists Association.

2019
First place. Best sports story. Native American Journalists Association.
First place. Best sports story. Arizona Newspapers Association.

2018
First place. Best community sports investigative reporting. Arizona Press Club.
First place. Best sports story. Native American Journalists Association.

2017
First place. Best sports column. Arizona Newspaper Association.
First place. Best sports story. Native American Journalists Association.

2016
First place. Best sustained coverage or series. Arizona Newspaper Association.
First place. Best sports story. Native American Journalists Association.

2015
First place. Best sports story. Native American Journalists Association.

2014
First place. Best sports story. Native American Journalists Association.

2013
First place. Best feature story. Native American Journalists Association.
First place. Best sports story. Native American Journalists Association
2012
First place. Best feature story. Native American Journalists Association.
First place. Best personal column. Oklahoma Press Association.

2011
First place. Best sports story. Native American Journalists Association.

2010
First place. Best sports story. Native American Journalists Association.

Journalism Presentations/Workshops/Mentorships

Panelist. "Environment, Politics, and the Press; Reporting in Unprecedented Times." Center for Environmental Journalism and the University of Colorado Boulder. Boulder, Colo. March 24-25, 2026.

Track Guide. Society of Environmental Journalists Conference 2026 Chicago. Curated sessions for the conference programming that are inclusive and reflective pressing issues in environmental journalism. Made recommendations for final conference programming.

Panelist. "Unmasking Indigenous Identity Fraud." Global Investigative Journalism Conference. Global Investigative Journalism Network. Kuala Lumpar, Malaysia. Nov. 20-24, 2026

Panelist. "How to write stories rooted in scientific research." Indigenous Media Conference. Indigenous Journalists Association. Albuquerque, N.M. Aug. 13-15, 2025.

Mentor. Renaissance Journalism LaunchPad Fellowship. Served as a mentor to an upcoming journalist while they worked on an investigative journalism project over the course of 11 months. Aug. 2024 – July 2025.

Panelist. "How not to partner on Indigenous coverage." Indigenous Media Conference. Indigenous Journalists Association. Oklahoma City, Okla. July 25-27, 2024

Panelist. "What the Media Got Right and Wrong About Coverage of COVID-19 in Native Nations." National Native Media Conference. Native American Journalists Association. Winnipeg, Canada. Aug. 25-27, 2022.

Panelist. "Data Deserts: How to Close Information Gaps in Minority, Rural, and Tribal Communities." National Freedom of Information Coalition Summit, Fall 2021. National Freedom of Information Coalition. Virtual. Sept. 28, 2021.

Panelist. "Investigative Reporting: Finding the Story, Sources, Documents and Getting Results." Society of Professional Journalists. Virtual. Sept. 4, 2021.

Panelist. "Native American Health and the Pandemic." 2021 Center for Health Journalism Data Fellowship. Virtual. July 23, 2021.

Attendee. Power of Diverse Voices: Writing Workshop for Journalists of Color. Poynter. Virtual. Spring 2021.

Workshop Facilitator. “Interview Techniques & Conduct an Interview.” Institute for American Indian Research. Virtual. March 26, 2021.

Panelist. “How Journalists Can Rebuild Trust.” Society of Professional Journalists. Virtual. August 25, 2020.

Professional Organizations

Board President - Indigenous Journalists Association (formerly Native American Journalists Association).
Lifetime Member – Indigenous Journalists Association (formerly Native American Journalists Association).
Member – National Council of Teachers of English.
Member – Society of Environmental Journalists.
Member – Global Investigative Journalism Network.

Languages

Diné
English