

## **2025 STRIKING EAGLE NATIVE AMERICAN INVITATION (SENAI) PRESS RELEASE**

### **14<sup>th</sup> Annual Striking Eagle Native American Invitational Coming to Gallup, NM**

**Theme: "Honoring Our Roots: Building Our Future"**

**December 26-27, 2025 - Gallup, NM**

**The SENAI event is sponsored by the University of New Mexico Society of Native American Graduate and Undergraduate Students (SNAGUS), College of Education and Human Sciences, and the SENAI Circle.**

Gallup, N.M. ---The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Striking Eagle Native American Invitational (SENAI) will take place at Miyamura High School and Hozho Academy in Gallup, New Mexico on December 26 and 27, 2025. The first-round playoff games will take place at various school locations in New Mexico on December 22, 2025. The theme for this year is "Honoring Our Roots: Building Our Future,"

The Striking Eagle Tournament began in 2011 and has attracted over 50,000 patrons, 5,000 athletes, and 3000 volunteers. This year's tournament marks the first time it will take place outside of Albuquerque and the city of Gallup as 20 high school and 16 middle school teams will compete in basketball along with opportunities for students to participate in educational workshops that are geared toward spiritual, mental, physical, and social well-being attributes.

Free educational workshops will take place at Hozho Academy and are open to the public, and students along with parents are strongly encouraged to attend. An essay and a poster contest for students will be held; prizes will include a laptop, printer, and plaque. As for elementary students, there will be a basketball clinic that is sponsored by former SENAI players and notable Native American college basketball stars. The SENAI event is sponsored by the University of New Mexico Society of Native American Graduate and Undergraduate Students, College of Education and Human Sciences, and the SENAI Circle.

There will be limited spaces for arts and craft vendors. Ticket prices for adults are \$10.00, and students including elders over 65 years of age are \$5.00. Game re-entry fees are \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students. Proceeds from the SENAI event benefit student scholarships, tournament expenses, and workshop materials.

Volunteer opportunities are also available, and the deadline is December 1, 2025, to request a form. For more information about SENAI, please contact the program director, **Dr. Shawn Secatero** at (505) 277-6018 or [ssecater@unm.edu](mailto:ssecater@unm.edu).