The Legacy of Chief Manuelito

The Navajo Nation established the Chief Manuelito Scholarship program in 1980 to recognize high achieving high school graduates. The scholarship honors Chief Manuelito, Hastin Chihajine, (1818-1893), who encouraged the Navajo people to seek education and protect and preserve Navajo tradition and culture. Since the inception of the scholarship, numerous recipients have fulfilled Chief Manuelito's legacy by earning advanced college degrees and assuming positions of leadership within their fields.

Recipients of the scholarship are awarded $7,000 per academic year to cover direct educational expenses associated with attending a post-secondary institution. Students seeking eligibility for the scholarship must be admitted to a post-secondary institution and have a minimum ACT score of anywhere between 21 to 36 in combination with a commensurate cumulative grade point average.

In addition, students are required to complete courses in Navajo Language (1 unit high school credit or 1+ college credit) and Navajo Government (5 unit high school credit or 1+ college credit) prior to high school graduation. Recipients must earn a 3.0 GPA and earn 12 or more semester credit hours for each academic term to maintain eligibility. More information may be found at: https://onnfa.org/chief-manuelito.