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Home Education 2015-16 Miss Native MCC Trim devoted to education

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# 2015-16 Miss Native MCC Trim devoted to education

Nov 22nd, 2015 · by Mesa Independent staff report · 0 Comments



From left, Cara Trim was named the 2015-16 Miss Native MCC and Quimbie Gonnie was named first attendant. (Photo courtesy of Mesa Community College)

Cara Trim was named the 2015-16 Miss Native MCC during a scholarship pageant hosted by the Mesa Community College Inter-tribal Student Organization and the American Indian Institute on Nov. 6. Quimbie Gonnie was named first attendant.

In her capacity as Miss Native MCC, Ms. Trim will serve as an ambassador for the MCC American Indian student body and represent the college at many tribal and cultural events throughout the Valley during her reign.

"Education has always been an important part of my life," Ms. Trim said. "I want to encourage other Native American students to reach out and utilize the resources that are available to them on campus so that they can be successful students and reach their potential."

Clara-Ellen Geromana Puanani Stant-Trim is from Holbrook, Arizona. She is one-quarter Navajo from Greasewood, Arizona, one-quarter Hopi from Hotevilla, Arizona, and half-Hawaiian from Laie, Hawaii. She will be graduating from MCC in May and plans to continue her education to earn a bachelor's degree and a Ph.D. and pursue a career as a school psychologist. She names her 5-year-old daughter as her inspiration for continuing her education.

The pageant contestants Quimbie Gonnie (Navajo), Thomacita Begay (Navajo), and Clara Trim (Navajo, Hopi, Hawaiian) each conducted a traditional and contemporary talent performance and answered a series of questions before a panel of judges.

Contemporary talent featured Ms. Gonnie speaking on the importance of her family as her inspiration as they encouraged her to keep going in whatever she does. Ms. Begay explained the Navajo Nation flag and sang a flag song. Ms. Trim performed a Hawaiian hula dance and explained its importance as a performance and prayer.

For the traditional portion Ms. Gonnie sang two Navajo songs inspired by former Miss Navajo Radmilla Cody, which reminded her of her grandparent's sheep and goats she helped care for as a child. Ms. Begay performed several songs inspired by her belief in the Native American Church. Ms. Trim's traditional performance was another hula but with the more of a traditional and historical explanation.

"A common theme between all three contestants was their reliance on family support and a desire to continue pursuing education beyond MCC to improve their futures," said Sam Stevens, Mesa Community College advisor. "Each one mentioned significant lessons learned from parents, grandparents, and other family members who motivated and encouraged them to not only complete their schooling but also supported their efforts to compete in this year's pageant."

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Editor's note: The above was written by Dawn Zimmer, a coordinator in media relations for Mesa Community College. The website is <https://www.mesacc.edu/>.

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