Songs of Life event to start year of celebration for Tohono O’odham Community College’s 20 years

April 6, 2018

By TOCC Himdag Committee

Sells- Starting this month, Tohono O’odham Community College will celebrate its 20th anniversary with a series of cultural and educational events open to the public. The college motto: “Nia, oya g t-taccui am hab e-ju.” Our Dream Fulfilled will be the central and ongoing theme for all events.

The college’s Himdag committee will be spearheading many of the year’s events in conjunction with other college divisions and departments. In particular, the upcoming year will be a tribute to our elders, community members, families, young people, students and teachers who sustain the Tohono O’odham songs, language and traditions. Everyone is invited and welcome to attend any one or all of the events throughout the calendar year.

The first event, “Songs of Life,” will take place throughout the day on Thursday, April 26 at the college’s Main Campus in Schuk Toak District.

Over the past 20 years, many of Nation’s youth have embraced traditional singing and dancing thanks to the efforts of a host of elders and mentors. Songs of Life will be a day-long recognition of spring, life, renewal and continuation through traditional O’odham songs, offered by the Wecij Hemajkam (new generation) of singers. Having youth maintain, learn and teach singing, dancing, and stories is indeed an extension of the “Our Dream Fulfilled” motto envisioned by the founders of the college.

The “Songs of Life” celebration will be as follows:

8:30 a.m. – Songs for the morning and daytime – an opportunity to begin the day of celebration with prayer, reflection, songs of life and appreciation.

12:00 p.m. – Lunch and a Songs of Life Celebration with youth will be a further recognition of life through sharing of food, songs and dancing.

4:00 p.m. – Evening Meal and a winding down of the Songs of Life Celebration, with Basket Dances, Keihina and Give Away with singing and dancing by the youth on behalf of our generations past, present and future.

Twenty years have passed since Tohono O’odham Community College was established by the Tohono O’odham Nation’s Legislative Council through Resolution 98-006, approved on January 13, 1998.

The Songs of Life celebration will be held at TOCC Main Campus, Arizona Highway 86, Milepost 125.5. For more information, call 520-383-8401.